

Caravan appeal

SOMETIMES we all want to have a break and get away from the rigours of our daily existence, writes Stuart Johnstone. For people who are suffering from long-term and serious illnesses however, the need to escape can be even greater.

To that end, Tayside Kidney Patients Association purchased a caravan seven years ago. It's in the picturesque Tummel Valley near Pitlochry. The caravan is available to people suffering from kidney problems and who need a break away from dialysis, which is a crucial, but demanding and traumatic part of their daily life.

In recent years the caravan has begun to look its age and is getting a little on the shabby side, to use the words of the association.

Additionally, the caravan is only single glazed, which means it is not as comfortable to live in when cold.

Moves are now being made to buy a new caravan, which will cost more than £24,000.

Tayside Kidney Patients Association, which was formed 22 years ago and serves several hundred people across the region, have been engaged in fund-raising activities for some time now and

have so far managed to gather around £9000.

The new caravan is eight-berth, with three bedrooms, fitted kitchen and bathroom. It will offer real comfort for the kidney patients who make use of it.

Jinty Martin, treasurer of TPKA explained, "We are working hard to raise the cash, but we still have some way to go.

"We are working against the clock and only have a year at the most to raise the funds.

"If we manage to purchase the new caravan, we will be able to locate it in the same plot in the caravan park that we have now. It is a really beautiful location and the peaceful atmosphere really helps people to relax.

"Dialysis is a tough process and many of our patients need it up to three times a week to survive. The caravan gives them a chance to get away from it all and wind down in pleasant surroundings. It really is essential.

"We have a number of fund-raising activities planned and have already completed several events. We are determined to get the money we need and we welcome every donation, no matter what size it is."

Time running out to...



TIME is running out to join the many groups, schools, organisations and individuals who have already made bids for their share of the £10,000 we have up for grabs to benefit communities in Dundee, Angus, Perthshire and Fife. But it's still not too late to get your application off by the closing date of September 30.

For example, it might be £40 to take children on an outing; or £2000 to decorate a pensioners' club. The money might cover the whole project or just part of it.

We want to know about your plans and projects to see if we can help **Make It Happen**. To enter, tell us how much you would need and on what you would spend it.

All entries must include a name, address and a daytime telephone number. A panel of judges will choose the deserving causes. The organisers will then be invited to a special award

ceremony later this year. All entrants must agree to take part in any publicity.

Suggestions should be submitted by post to: Make It Happen, Evening Telegraph, 80 Kingsway East, Dundee DD4 8SL; or by email to:

makeithappen@eveningtelegraph.co.uk

You can also visit our website at:

www.eveningtelegraph.co.uk

and click on the Make It Happen logo. If you have any queries, or want to know if you could qualify for a share of the cash, you should phone 01382 575231 between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday; or email makeithappen@eveningtelegraph.co.uk.

Our Make It Happen award scheme is sponsored by Combined Insurance, which has five offices in the UK and offers accident and health care insurance to more than 600,000 policy-holders.