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The Rank Group Plc launches first Cross Brand charity of the year partnership with Marie Curie Cancer Care

Employees and customers set to raise £200,000 and fund 10,000 hours of nursing time

The Rank Group Plc has launched its first ever national charity partnerships across several of its gaming businesses, which will help fund Marie Curie Nurses, who care for terminally ill people in their own homes.

The company, which owns Mecca Bingo, G Casinos, and Rank Interactive, has set a fundraising target of £200,000 – which would help to fund 10,000 hours of nursing care at home.

More than 8,000 team members at Rank's support offices, 103 Mecca Bingo clubs, and 10 G Casinos across the UK will be taking part in all kinds of fundraising activities over the year ahead. They will be holding events and volunteering as collectors for Marie Curie Cancer Care's Great Daffodil Appeal in March, and taking part in the charity's Blooming Great Tea Party campaign in June and July, as well organising their own challenges - from running marathons to waxing their legs.

Ian Burke, Chief Executive of the Rank Group, said: "It's very important to us to ensure that we make a positive contribution to the communities in which we operate. Marie Curie is a fantastic cause and I'm very much looking forward to working with them over the coming year. Our employees and customers have set a great example through the work they have undertaken with Whizz-Kidz in 2008/9 and I have every confidence that we will exceed our 2010 fundraising target for Marie Curie."

Tom Hughes-Hallett, Chief Executive of Marie Curie Cancer Care, said: "We are really looking forward to working with the whole of the team at the Rank Group over the coming year.

"I'm confident that the group's employees and customers alike will rise to this wonderful challenge for 2010, and get their friends and families involved, knowing that their efforts will help terminally ill people spend their final days in the familiar surroundings of their own homes."