

## Willy Goldschmidt

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Friends of St Cross, Rugby



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When Willy took an offer of early retirement in 2012 he knew that he wanted to remain active. Wanting to use his professional management experience to give back to society, Willy aimed to volunteer as a trustee of a local charity.

Warwickshire CAVA's Rugby Volunteering Coordinator was able to introduce Willy to the Friends of St Cross, who were looking for trustees at that time. This charity supports the hospital and community and mental health services in Rugby. As it happened, Willy's wife had recently been a patient of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Service at St Cross and had become a volunteer with that team, so there was a perfect fit.

The Friends of St Cross has some 200 volunteers and donates an average of £100,000 in equipment and support for projects that improve service users' experience of the Hospital of St Cross and the local community and mental health services.

After attending a couple of the charity's board meetings, it was mutually agreed that Willy should become a trustee. He acted as the charity's Communications Lead, taking responsibility for press releases. Despite not having had any previous hands-on experience in IT, Willy stepped up to the challenge of developing a new website and expanded the charity's social media presence. "It's been great to be able to develop new skills in my retirement and put them towards a really worthwhile cause", said Willy, who was elected as Chair of the Board of Trustees in 2016.

"Working with the team of volunteers, my fellow trustees and the wonderful staff at St Cross is tremendously rewarding", continued Willy. "Being a Trustee of the charity carries with it some serious responsibility and accountability but we have a great bunch of people to share this with and so we also have fun which after all is what voluntary work should be about. As a result of the work I do, I now feel more closely connected to the town than I was when I was working!"

<http://fsx.org.uk/>

Photo details: Willy with St Cross hospital staff celebrating the delivery of new equipment donated by the Friends of St Cross.