

HELPING
YOUR
COMMUNITY
SINCE 1873



The Hospital Saturday Fund Charity Update

Issue 4 Ireland

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In 2017 the Hospital Saturday Fund gave:

€1.3 million

in donations and grants to medical charities for care and research, hospices and hospitals across the UK and Ireland.

Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties

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Cork Charity Reception

Twenty-six Irish charities received donations from the Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) at a special reception hosted at University College Cork (UCC) on Monday 20 November 2017. In total, €115,000 was donated to the charities at the event, which was hosted by UCC in the Aula Maxima in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Cork and with special guest Dick Spring in attendance.

Among the beneficiaries was Cork University Foundation, which received a donation towards supporting technological advancements in the treatment of oesophageal cancer.

Cork Life Centre received a grant towards their project to make the centre a safer and more open space to talk about mental health. Cork Counselling Services's grant will be used to continue to provide counselling and psychotherapy to all members of society.

Some of the other organisations receiving grants were Cork ARC Cancer Support House to enable them to provide breast cancer support group programmes, and Irish Dogs for the Disabled who will use their grant to provide training for child partnerships to allow children the gift of walking. A grant was made to Rebel Wheelers Multi Sports Group to provide sports chairs for their junior basketball team and the Diabetes Ireland donation will be used to provide support for the National Diabetes Cup for children with type 1 diabetes. Cork Association for Autism will be using their grant towards providing a ground floor bedroom in their respite facility and Marymount University Hospital and Hospice will use their donation to support their palliative care programme.

Speaking at the reception, Dick Spring celebrated the extraordinary work of all the charities receiving donations from the Hospital Saturday Fund. Mr Spring was attending the event as Patron of Recovery Haven Cancer Support House, and the donation from HSF to Recovery Haven will support their continued provision of free cancer support services to patients.



Above: presenting a cheque to Spinal Injuries Ireland

Paul Jackson, Chief Executive of the Hospital Saturday Fund said: "We are delighted to continue the tradition of supporting many wide-ranging charities in Munster, many of which are less well-known. The Hospital Saturday Fund is honoured to support the efforts of such deserving charities and help in some way towards the exceptional, tireless work that they do in making such a huge and positive difference to people's lives." Cal Healy, Secretary of Cork University Foundation said: "UCC, is delighted to have the opportunity to host the Hospital Saturday Fund for this very special event."



Disability Federation of Ireland

Paul Jackson was delighted to present a cheque of €13,500 towards funding the FACS Forum Awareness Campaign. Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI), the national support organisation for voluntary disability organisations in Ireland which provide services to people with disabilities and disabling conditions. DFI works to ensure that Irish society is fully inclusive of people with disabilities and disabling conditions so that they can exercise fully their civil, social and human rights.



The Forum estimates that 900 women may have taken Epilim during pregnancy since it was licenced in 1983 leading to over 400 children with FACS (Fetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome) in Ireland including 270 to 360 children with developmental problems caused by valproate including delayed walking and talking, memory problems, difficulty with speech and language and lower intellectual ability. It is also estimated that over 100 children have been born with malformations at birth, such as neural tube defects and cleft palate.

Karen Keely administers the Forum on a voluntary basis. She is epileptic and has three sons aged 30, 22 and 18 who have FACS. Karen told Paul that sodium valproate is still being prescribed to pregnant women in the UK and Ireland. Unfortunately, the drug is a very common and an affective medication for epilepsy. Karen presented a powerful case for the FACS Forum.

Clare Pelham, the Chief Executive of the Epilepsy Society, confirmed that in the UK a court case was pending about this issue. The feeling is that this will be a similar situation to Thalidomide. The French Government is already paying compensation to victims.



Suzanne House

Paul Jackson visited Suzanne House in Tallaght Dublin to present a cheque for €9,472 for a medical bed.

The Saint John of God Order was founded in 1882 and it provides community services in Ireland, UK and Malawi. The Charity's aim is to develop, strengthen and sustain improved services for children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities; people with mental health problems and older people living with dementia.

The Saint John of God Order helps to fund Suzanne House. This hospice provides specialised individual respite care for children with a life-limiting condition in a small homelike environment. Suzanne House was opened in June 1986, and is named after a girl who passed away at the age of 13 years from a long illness with SPHE (a rare measles related virus).

The Charity takes an holistic view of care where the child and their family are viewed as one unit. Most children with high medical needs will have these needs met by their family supported by locally provided services. Suzanne House provides a specialist service which encompasses nursing care and social support for these children. This service allows families to have a well-deserved break, happy in the knowledge that their child is being cared for in a respite service that is a home away from home and provides the highest standard of care and support from a dedicated nurse led-team.



Paul Jackson presenting the grant cheque to Sarah Donohue of The Saint John of God Order



Suzanne House
The next best thing to being at home

Cork Life Centre

Paul Jackson and Louise Kent were delighted to visit the centre in advance of their grant for €6,000.

Cork Life Centre is a voluntary organisation offering an alternative learning environment to young people who find themselves outside the mainstream education system. The Charity caters for children between the ages of 12-18 years, who for various reasons have not thrived or coped in a mainstream educational setting. The

reasons for this include children suffering from mental illness, learning difficulties, autism and poverty. A number of the students studying at the Centre were also homeless.

Paul and Louise met Don O' Leary, Director and Rachel Lucey, Deputy Director. Don gave a tour of the Centre, which was a very large house full of young people carrying out different types of activities. Some children were even working on a large motorbike which had been used to ride around the world and had been donated to the Centre.

Don explained that there were currently 52 children studying at the Centre and he had a further 160 on a waiting list. He also explained that the majority of children had mental illness issues due to their living/home circumstances.

Don feels that the struggle these children have in mainstream education is not due to lack of intellect, but that it is the welfare issues that the children face which causes educational problems.

Photo right: Louise Kent and Rachel Lucey at the Centre's famous red door



Helium Arts

Paul Jackson was delighted to present a cheque for €2,700 towards funding the Fireflies Project.

Helium Arts is the national children's arts and health organisation. They bring art, creativity and play to children and teenagers in hospitals and healthcare settings across Ireland. In Ireland, there are 160,000 children and teenagers living every day with the long-term effects of illness. Helium Arts provides positivity in these children's lives through award-winning, participatory arts programmes. The Charity's creative projects take place in hospital, health and community settings around Ireland, transforming the healthcare experience of young people and those who care for them through art, imagination and play.

Helium Arts collaborates with professional artists to research, develop and pioneer arts practice in partnership with healthcare professionals. Helium Arts is a leading contributor to arts and health policymaking in Ireland and are committed to mentoring artists and healthcare providers through professional development programmes.

Fireflies is a three year artist-in-residence project (2015-2018) for teenagers in hospital which investigates how the arts can support transition to adult care by promoting independence, decision making skills, communication skills and improved self-esteem.

The Hospital Saturday Fund has successfully supported similar projects in UK.



Paul Jackson presenting the grant cheque to Anna MacCarthy of Helium Arts

Carmichael Centre, Dublin



Paul Jackson and Louise Kent visited the Carmichael Centre in Dublin to present cheques for €2,700 each to six charities based at the Centre. These were the Carmichael Centre, Looking Good Feeling Better, Canteen Ireland, Smashing Times Theatre Group, the Dyspraxia Association and the Parkinson's Disease Association. HSF Trustee Margaret Rogers, who is based at the Carmichael Centre, kindly helped to present the donations.

The Carmichael Centre is home to 48 charities and provides them with shared services and targeted support. Each year these 48 resident charities assist 40,000 people and indirectly another 100,000 people from all over Ireland.

About The Hospital Saturday Fund



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The Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) is a UK charity that was founded in 1873 by pioneers in social and philanthropic work to help people to afford medical care. In recent times, the Fund has 'tailored' its benefits and these are now offered through HSF health plan, one of the leading health cash plans in the UK and Ireland. Profits from the trading company, HSF health plan, are channelled into the 'parent' charity, The Hospital Saturday Fund, to enable charity donations to be made. In 2017 the Hospital Saturday Fund will give €1,300,000 in donations and grants to medical charities, hospices and hospitals across Ireland and the UK. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

Dear Reader,

As you are aware by supporting The Hospital Saturday Fund you contribute to some of the most exciting health and wellbeing projects across the UK and Ireland. With your continuous support our work has grown substantially with annual grant totals growing from €260,000 to €1,300,000 over the last 10 years. Your support has also allowed us to increase the number of grants given annually from 170 to 270 thus reaching even more worthwhile causes and positively impacting more people's lives year on year. Whilst this is incredible, especially as our cover also supports major medical charities in the UK and Ireland, numerous smaller charities and individuals with exceptional specific needs, we want to do more!!! We would like to give to more than 30% of those who apply today. We would truly like to give to 100% of applicants including both big & small groups, UK & Irish charities, individuals, research and medical electives.

Please help by donating or partnering with us today! You can do so through our website, our Facebook page or by calling the Charity Team who will be delighted to share ideas with you.



HOW TO APPLY FOR GRANTS (via www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org)

Applications from Organisations

The Grant Making Committee (GMC) meets quarterly. Applications should be submitted online by close of business on the following dates:

GMC 29 January 2018

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €2,700 – deadline 5 January 2018

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 1 December 2017

GMC 21 May 2018

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €2,700 – deadline 23 April 2018

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 26 March 2018

GMC 13 August 2018

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €2,700 – deadline 16 July 2018

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 18 June 2018

GMC 5 November 2018

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €2,700 – deadline 8 October 2018

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 10 September 2018

Applications from Individuals

Individual applications are accepted throughout the year on a rolling basis. See the guidelines on our website for further information.

**For information on
HSF health plan
please contact:**

1890 451 451

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HSF Health Plan is regulated by the Health Insurance Authority. Terms and Conditions apply.