



The Hospital Saturday Fund

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€106,500 donated at HSF's Charity Reception

In February 2016 twenty-four Irish charities received grants from the Hospital Saturday Fund at a special reception hosted at the Mansion House in Dublin.

In total, €106,500 was donated to the medical charities and organisations at the event, which was hosted by Ardmhéara/Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Críona Ní Dhálaigh.

Beneficiaries included: Trinity College Dublin to help support vital training by funding student Medical Electives; Barnardos Ireland towards their special needs service; Children with Tumours Ireland for a genetic counsellor in the Neurofibromatosis Clinic in Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin; The Coeliac Society of Ireland to enable them to advance their information and support services; LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice, to support their vital work

providing palliative care and support for children with life-limiting conditions and their families; and Heart Children Ireland for a Coagu-check programme supporting young adults with congenital heart defects.

Speaking at the reception, the Lord Mayor celebrated the extraordinary work of all the charities receiving donations from the Hospital Saturday Fund. The Lord Mayor had nominated Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services Harold's Cross as her chosen charity, who would benefit from funding for a special rise-recline chair.

Paul Jackson, Chief Executive of The Hospital Saturday Fund said: "We are delighted to continue the tradition of supporting many charities in Ireland, many of which are less well-known. The Hospital Saturday Fund is honoured to support the efforts of such



The Lord Mayor of Dublin with Paul Jackson, Chief Executive of the Hospital Saturday Fund

deserving charities and help in some way towards the exceptional, tireless work that they do."

Supporting doctors of the future

The Chief Executive of the Hospital Saturday Fund was delighted to present a cheque for €12,000 to University College Cork in January 2016 towards the School of Medicine's Medical Elective Programme.

Early patient contact and excellent bedside teaching by experienced clinicians is central

to student doctors' training. Brookfield Health Sciences Complex is a modern purpose-built facility, which includes a recently opened high-fidelity simulated ward environment which creates a realistic working ward complete with simulated patients.

This type of ward, which

includes a video recording facility to assist in training and practical teaching, is unique to University College Cork and, as well as a valuable teaching aid, also supports a study which was piloted to improve patient safety.



Early days support for those with spinal cord injuries

Spinal Injuries Ireland has benefited from a grant for €13,500 from the Hospital Saturday Fund for their Early Days support service.

This service helps people who have recently sustained a life-changing spinal cord injury.

The charity's Community Outreach Officer visits such individuals in the acute hospital, whilst in rehabilitation or when discharged home, and provides intensive support to

the family, explaining medical terminology and how the hospital system works.

One-to-one support is given to assist with adjusting to life with a spinal cord injury.

A spinal cord injury can be devastating but following rehabilitation intervention and with the relevant support, such an injury is not only survivable but an individual can continue to lead the life that they had envisaged prior to injury.

Spinal Injuries Ireland is the only support and service agency in Ireland for people who have sustained a spinal cord injury and their families.

Its mission is to address barriers to full participation in society faced by those with spinal cord injuries and to empower members to work towards achieving personal, social and vocational goals.

“It is hoped the hospice will be complete and open for the first patients in late 2017”

New Hospice for Co Wicklow

Co Wicklow will benefit from its first hospice thanks to charitable grants from organisations including the Hospital Saturday Fund.

The facility is desperately needed in Co Wicklow and North Wexford to alleviate the suffering of patients with a terminal illness.

The Wicklow Hospice Foundation is hoping to

have the facility complete and open for the first patients in late 2017.

The team have consulted widely with other hospices on design best-practice to ensure a state-of-the-art facility.

Planning permission has been received for a fifteen-bed hospice at Magheramore, overlooking the sea near

Brittas Bay, just outside Wicklow town.

The site has been donated by the Columbian Sisters.



Hospital Saturday Fund Trustee, Margaret Rogers, presents the grant

Grant for the Prader Willi Association of Ireland

The Hospital Saturday Fund made a grant to the Prader Willi Association of Ireland in September 2015.

The grant will support family learning weekends away for those living with this very rare disease.

Prader Willi Syndrome is a genetic condition that causes a wide range of problems that may include restricted growth, reduced muscle tone, behavioural problems and

learning difficulties.

The family learning weekends backed by the Hospital Saturday Fund will provide much needed respite in a learning environment.

The Prader Willi Association of Ireland aims to provide support for people with Prader Willi Syndrome, their families and carers, by promoting awareness of the syndrome, providing information services including

seminars and conferences, and by promoting best practice standards of care for individuals with Prader Willi Syndrome.

Funding for specialist Motor Neurone Disease nurses

The Hospital Saturday Fund has donated €6,000 towards specialist Motor Neurone Disease nurses to work across Ireland. The nurses deliver ten hours of specialist care to Motor Neurone Disease sufferers per week.

Motor Neurone Disease is a progressive neurological condition that attacks the motor neurones, or nerves, in the brain and spinal cord. This means messages gradually stop reaching the muscles, which leads to weakness and wasting. It can affect how a

person walks, talks, eats, drinks and breathes. Motor Neurone Disease strikes people of all ages and currently there is no cure, however symptoms can be managed to help the person achieve the best possible quality of life.

The Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association (IMNDA) is the only organisation of its kind in Ireland providing care and support to people with Motor Neurone Disease, their families, friends and carers.

IMNDA's services include home visiting by a Motor Neurone Disease nurse, financial assistance, the provision of specialist medical equipment, publications, and home visits and support from an Association Visitor.

They also support research into the causes and treatment of the disease by providing grants towards scientific and medical research of the highest quality, specific to Motor Neurone.



Paul Clare of HSF health plan presents a cheque for €6,000 to the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association

Grant to help survivors of institutional abuse

The Hospital Saturday Fund was pleased to support Mind Yourself, a charity dedicated to improving the physical and mental wellbeing of Irish communities living in London.

HSF's recent grant will allow Mind Yourself to provide the survivors of childhood institutional abuse with therapeutic art workshops and one-to-one support.

Many of the interventions provided for survivors of

abuse are focused on their past traumatic experience but helping people get beyond trauma and experience joy will be at the centre of the project.

HSF collaborated with fellow funder London Catalyst to make a combined donation of nearly €9,000 to Mind Yourself as part of the 'Partners for Health' project which provides financial assistance for mental health and addiction projects.

Mind Yourself strives to understand the wide diversity of their clients' experience and this understanding enables them to openly address some of the root issues that can lead to poor health or sense of self.

They offer health related one-one support (information, advice and advocacy), accompaniment to health related appointments, and group activities.

“Helping people get beyond trauma and experience joy will be at the centre of the project.”

Improving care for Alzheimer's sufferers

A €4,000 grant from the Hospital Saturday Fund will allow The Alzheimer Society of Ireland to purchase hoists and hospital beds for the Orchard Day and Respite Centre.

The dementia-specific respite centre offers bedrooms for eleven clients at any one time. Based in Dublin, it is open to people with dementia anywhere in Ireland.

The award-winning design of

the centre enables the person living with dementia to find their way around and function independently in their new environment.

As the major dementia-specific service provider in Ireland, The Alzheimer Society's network includes over 120 dementia-specific services such as day care centres, home care services, carer support groups, social clubs, Alzheimer cafés and two respite centres.



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About The Hospital Saturday Fund

When the Fund was founded in 1873 there was little co-ordination of health services and these were mainly performed by the existing hospitals, all of which were voluntary - except the workhouse infirmaries. Lack of nutrition, over-crowding, poverty and ill-health were very prevalent. The twelfth Earl of Meath, Reginald Brabazon, a Victorian social reformer, the principal founder of the Fund and other pioneers did their utmost to bring these appalling conditions to the notice of the nation.

At a meeting held in Hyde Park, London, in 1873, they made an appeal for the inauguration of a Fund to which all in employment would pay a regular weekly amount which would help to meet the cost of hospital maintenance. In those days Saturday was pay-day and so the title HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND was chosen.

Since the advent of the National Health Service the Hospital Saturday Fund has 'tailored' its benefits to suit modern needs. Its trading company HSF health plan is one of the leading health cash plans in the UK and Ireland and provides a wide range of health benefits to help people cover the cost of their everyday health care. In 2016 the Hospital Saturday Fund will give €1,200,000 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.

Grants for Organisations and Individuals

The Hospital Saturday Fund is a registered charity whose aims are to provide assistance through its charitable funds for:

- **Registered health charities such as hospitals, hospices and medical organisations which are in need of grants for medical projects, care, research or in support of medical training within the Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom, Isle of Man and Channel Islands;**
- **Individuals with a medical condition or disability who would benefit from assistance with the purchase of specialised equipment or from particular forms of treatment.**

Visit the Hospital Saturday Fund website for full details of the criteria and to access the online application process:
www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org

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