Thirty Irish charities received donations from The Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) at a special reception hosted at University College Cork on Thursday, 21 November 2019. In total, €140,000 was donated to the charities at the event, which was hosted by UCC in the Aula Maxima in the presence of the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Des Cahill, and special guest, former Ireland and Munster Rugby International, Marcus Horan.

Mr Horan was attending the event as supporter of The Irish Men’s Sheds Association and the donation from HSF to this charity will support their volunteer network with the aim of all men having the opportunity to maintain and improve their well-being on their own terms within their own communities.

Among other beneficiaries was Cork University Foundation, which received a grant towards supporting the University’s medical electives programme. Some of the other organisations receiving grants were Cork Life Centre who are using their grant to upgrade health and safety aspects at the centre. Down Syndrome Cork towards their Little Explorers Early Intervention Programme, and the Waterford Healing Arts Trust for an art project for people living with dementia. Rebel Wheelers Multi Sports Group will be using their grant towards basketball wheelchairs and the grant for Bantry Hospice Project will ensure that the hospice can support a seven day palliative care service in West Cork.

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.”

The reception also celebrated HSF health plan 70th Anniversary of working in Ireland. Mr Jackson commented, “It is reassuring to know that since 1949 we have been helping families and individuals in Ireland with the cost of their everyday medical bills. Our wide range of benefits are valued by our policyholders and their dependents, with some people using our benefits in conjunction with their Private Medical Insurance, whilst others use HSF health plan as a stand-alone product. Regardless of what cover people have, we offer outstanding value for money”.

“With all of our profits going to our parent charity, The Hospital Saturday Fund, which then makes donations to medical charities, hospitals and hospices, everyone who takes out a policy with us is really helping to make a difference to their local community. We are thrilled to announce that our grant making for 2020 will be €2 million throughout Ireland and the UK.”
Irish Dogs for the Disabled

In our May newsletter, Irish Dogs for the Disabled were awarded a grant for €12,000 to enable them to upgrade their van.

Dogs for the Disabled is a unique charity, the only one of its kind in Europe, and it has been providing dogs to children and adults with physical disabilities for over a decade. Incredibly, despite a decade of excellence in the area of disability and with over 200 dogs working nationwide, Dogs for the Disabled receives no government funding, relying completely on the generosity of sponsorship, donations and fundraising, and the dogs are partnered at no cost to the recipient.

HSF were pleased to see that the upgraded van is now on the road and is displaying the HSF logo as can be seen in the photo on the right.

Trinity College School of Medicine

Carol Murphy, HSF Grant Making Committee and Paul Jackson, HSF CEO, visited Trinity College School of Medicine on 7th October 2019, to present a cheque for €13,500 to help with funding their Medical Student’s Elective Programme.

Trinity College Dublin Medical School is a unique institution, which celebrated its Tercentenary in 2011. The School incorporates the disciplines of Medicine, Radiation Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy, and offers six-degree programmes to a cohort of, approximately, 1,400 students.

Carol and Paul met Professor Michael Gill, Head of School of Medicine, Professor Martina Hennessy, Director of Internship and Associate Professor of Medical Education, Professor Joe Harbison, Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning, Aine Wade, Programme Manager and Rita Keane, International Programmes Coordinator at Trinity College School of Medicine.

They also met students who had benefited from the last HSF Medical Elective grant to Trinity. In the past, the students had been to countries as diverse as Tanzania, Zambia and Japan! They were impressed with the student presentations, which clearly showed the benefit they had received from HSF’s grant.

The Medical School is also in favour of the Responsible Elective Programme that HSF supports.

The HSF funding enables the School to provide financial assistance to a broader cross section of the student population particularly students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to undertake an elective.

Students are also required to consider the potential benefits of the specific elective placement in advance and to reflect on their personal experience on completion of the elective. The HSF ethos by it’s very nature encourages engagement with the community.

Mater Foundation

Cathal Nolan, HSF Grant Making Committee member, presented a grant cheque of €7,000 to Mater Foundation towards transforming care for patients with dementia.

The Mater Hospital is a National Public Hospital that receives over 400,000 patient visits annually. A quarter of all patients who attend the Mater with an acute illness or injury have dementia.

For many patients hospital is challenging due to the busy, unfamiliar, and stressful nature of the environment. Due to cognitive impairment of people with dementia the hospital experience can be a frightening, distressing, and disorientating place. Because of the lack of familiarity and the constant movement & noise patients can experience a sensory overload.

The Tovertafel table will give patients who would ordinarily not be able to join in activities/socialising with other patients/their family the chance to do so in a safe environment benefitting their mental and physical wellbeing.

Wicklow Hospice

Earlier this year, Wicklow Hospice were awarded €3,000 by HSF towards the building of the new hospice. After 10 years of fundraising they will open their doors to a 15 bed hospice with a palliative care team attached by the end of 2019.
St John of God Foundation

Saint John of God Foundation (SJOG) was founded in 1960 to raise much needed funds for the Community Services provided by Saint John of God. The services provide day, residential and respite for children and adults with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities all over Ireland. Mental Health services are also provided through their mental health clinics for children and adults.

Each day across Ireland 8,000 people access Saint John of God community services. Their work supports children and young people facing mental health difficulties as well as children and adults living with intellectual disabilities.

Temple Street Children’s Hospital

The Temple Street Foundation was founded in 2001 to support the life-saving work of Temple Street Children’s University Hospital by supporting through 4 core funding pillars: life-saving equipment, ward redevelopment, patient and family support services, and specialist medical research.

The hospital sees 148,000 patients every year and the Foundation is focused on supporting these patients.

The ear, nose and throat surgeons, ENT, applied for a grant towards a new light source for surgery. They explained that the surgeons were given a new specialist light source to trial, Hatteras LED light source, and they were extremely impressed with it. They described the difference as going from “darkens in to light” when compared to the XEON light source currently in use. LED light sources have been found to be more reliable and much longer lasting and can run for 10,000 hours at full capacity compared a Xeon light bulb which must be replaced after every 500 hours. It also has a fail-safe feature which allows it to continue to work in the event of a power outage. The light source will make a huge difference to the lives of their patients and the surgeons will benefit from a more reliable, longer-lasting light source making surgery easier to perform. The children will benefit form a faster, more efficient and safer surgical procedures.

At HSF’s May Grant Making Committee meeting they were awarded €8,425 for the replacement light source and Carol Murphy of HSF’s Grant Making Committee visited the hospital to present the cheque.

In August they were awarded €13,000 towards the SAS (Secret Agent Society) programme to 65 children between 8 - 12 years old who are really struggling to cope with anger or anxiety, those at risk of losing their school placement (due to mental health issues) and others expressing suicidal thoughts. Not only do the children benefit but their parents, siblings, teachers and friends.
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 2019 The Hospital Saturday Fund will give €1.7 million in donations and grants to medical charities, hospices and hospitals across Ireland and the UK. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose

**Grant Information**

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

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

For how to apply see the HSF website for criteria and link to the online application form: [www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org](http://www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org)

**Applications for Organisations:**
The Grant Making Committee (GMC) meets quarterly. Applications should be submitted online by close of business on the deadline date. Here are the dates for 2020:

- **GMC 27 January 2020**
  - Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 3 January 2020
  - Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – 1 December 2019
- **GMC 19 May 2020**
  - Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 21 April 2020
  - Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 24 March 2020
- **GMC 10 August 2020**
  - Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 13 July 2020
  - Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 15 June 2020
- **GMC 2 November 2020**
  - Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 5 October 2020
  - Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 7 September 2020
- **GMC January 2021 (dates for 2021 to be confirmed in December 2020)**
  - Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 4 January 2021
  - Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 1 December 2020

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

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