

HELPING  
YOUR  
COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1873

IN 2022, THE  
HOSPITAL  
SATURDAY FUND  
WILL GIVE:

**€2.3 MILLION**

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

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



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## Cork Reception



25 charities receiving grants from The Hospital Saturday Fund at a reception hosted at University College Cork in November 2022. €122,000 was awarded with the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Damian Boylan.

On Thursday, 17 November 2022 The Hospital Saturday Fund hosted a special reception hosted at University College Cork. Among the beneficiaries at the reception were Diabetes Ireland, who received a grant towards the purchase of medical equipment. Marymount University Hospital and Hospice will put the grant towards occupational therapy equipment. Our Lady of Good Counsel School will buy interactive whiteboards, Rainbow Club Cork's grant will be used for the soft play area for a young and complex needs room and Down Syndrome Cork will provide fully inclusive music classes.

A medical elective grant was made to the University College Cork towards the undergraduate medical electives at the School of Medicine. Speaking at the event, Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Damian Boylan paid tribute to all the charities.

Paul Jackson, Group CEO, HSF said: "We are delighted to continue the tradition of supporting many wide-ranging charities in Ireland, many of which are smaller and sometimes struggle for funding. We're honoured to support the efforts of such deserving charities and help in some way towards the exceptional, tireless work that they do. I am very proud that over the last

12 months HSF has given a total of €2.3 million to 570 charities. In fact, we have donated over €122,000 to some very deserving Munster charities. In response to the Ukraine crisis we have made a donation of €25,000 to support the health and wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees coming to Ireland."

The reception also celebrated HSF health plan, a type of medical insurance product, and 70 years of assisting people in need 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 costs. With all profits going to our parent charity, The Hospital Saturday Fund is able to make 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.

In 2023, the Hospital Saturday Fund will give €2.5 million in donations and grants to medical charities for care and research, hospices and hospitals across Ireland, the UK, and Malta. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties – and we look forward to awarding many more grants next year.

# Charity Update



The Hospital Saturday Fund

## Crann Centre



The completed Crann Centre playground and Sanctuary Area.

Last Year, the Hospital Saturday Fund funded Crann towards playground equipment for Ireland's first inclusive playground for children, adults and families living with a neuro-physical disabilities. This includes disabilities like Spina Bifida, Hydrocephalus, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, Childhood stroke and Spinal Injuries.

The Crann Centre have almost completed the ¼ Acre project which opened last summer, however they were looking for extra funding towards the final aspects of finishing the sanctuary area. This is a space for quiet relaxation with gentle sensory engagement. In a quiet corner of the playground, the walled garden will be filled with edible plants and vibrant fragrances for those who want to take a step back from the excitement of the main play area. It will be a space of reflection, calm and sounds of nature with bird boxes and a soft flowing water feature. Further funding would cover the costs of landscaping the area and the purchase of items like; plants, herbs, seeds, trees, flowers, planter boxes, gardening tools and a water feature.

In May, Evelyn Power, Fundraising Manager explained the playground would really have a significant impact on the quality of life of children and adults with a disability. It would allow children and adults who currently have little or no access to an inclusive

play and leisure space, to experience the joy of play, movement, and enhanced mobility in a nurturing environment. Crann will also be collaborating with local partners to deliver innovative therapies on site.

In July 2022, Cal Healy, Trustee, The Hospital Saturday Fund, visited the Crann Centre in Cork for the official opening of their new playground. This was the outcome of years of consultation with families with neuro-physical disabilities, with experts in the field of inclusive play and months of expert construction.

Speeches were made from Crann's Founder Kate Jarvey and An Taoiseach Micheál Martin, who was joined by Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Anne Rabbitte TD.

Cal spoke with An Taoiseach, he had not heard of the Hospital Saturday Fund and was keen to learn all about us, it was a great opportunity to brief him on the good work of the Fund.

## Dyspraxia DCD Ireland



Cathal Nolan, GMC Member, HSF, presenting a cheque for €13,500 to Dyspraxia DCD Ireland, Ann Marie Galvin (Chairperson) and Sheelagh Carroll, towards their Partnering for Occupational Therapy Telehealth Services Programme.

Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD), commonly known as Dyspraxia, is a complex neurological condition affecting fine and/or gross motor skills, motor planning and coordination in children

and adults. The charity was formed in 1995 and they work to; raise awareness of the condition, advocate for resources and support, partner with education, training and employment services, lobby for improved diagnostic and intervention services, and organise events for those with the condition and their families.

They have embarked on the POTS (Partnering for Occupational Therapy Telehealth Services) Programme to address the shortage of occupational therapy services for impacted individuals nationwide. This is a collaboration with the Occupational Therapy team in the School of Allied Health in the University of Limerick. It evolved during the Covid-19 pandemic in response to disruption in occupational health clinical placement and challenges making access available to associated vital services for children and adults impacted by Dyspraxia.

They are utilising occupational therapy students from the University of Limerick to deliver both 1:1 and

group therapy interventions to children and youths who would otherwise not have access to such a service.

With a Hospital Saturday Fund grant, they hope to expand this service to adult waiting lists and to mainstream the model within other services and agencies nationally.

The course is delivered online, and sessions can be recorded to reinforce learnings. Some examples include helping individuals with the condition to cook and carry out day to day tasks (e.g. Shaving or tying shoelaces). The benefits include self confidence, self reliance and employment retention.

There is a need for occupational therapy designed for people with Dyspraxia which is not adequately fulfilled today. The grant they have been awarded will enable the service to be rolled out to those who would not otherwise have access to it, and benefit those without access to full time employment.

### Heart of Variety Ireland



Margaret Rogers, GMC Committee Member, The Hospital Saturday Fund, presenting a €9,000 grant to Kevin O'Brien, Operations Manager at Heart of Variety.

Heart of Variety, the children's charity of Ireland, is a voluntarily run group who help young people with disabilities across the entire disability spectrum. Their core focus: to supply items and services that directly help children, families, schools and communities.

Specialised tools (like mobility aids, educational devices and well-being services), are designed to educate and promote inclusion, equality and equal access to children living with disabilities in Ireland.

Every child and teenager should have the right to feel a sense of normality and inclusion in family life. At present, Variety have 80 children on a waiting list for special mobility

trikes (otherwise known as tricycles). With the purchase of 6 bikes, children who have been waiting for over 18 months will get their trike. A parent said:

"It is difficult to put in words the impact of having a tricycle has on my daughter's life. She cannot walk independently but has cycled up to 40km in one day. The tricycle gives her independence she would not otherwise have."

The Hospital Saturday Fund gave Heart of Variety a grant of €9,000 to contribute to their trike project. Just one of the children who benefited from the scheme, Maddix, was delighted with her mobility trike.

See her reaction [here](#).

### Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland

Established in 2021, Autism Assistance Dogs is a small, but dedicated team, supported by over 50 volunteers. They have one goal: to change the world for children with autism.

The charitable group work to train highly skilled assistance dogs to keep autistic children safe in public spaces. The dogs are often a lifeline for those who are suffering from debilitating symptoms autism often brings. Having an assistance dog enables children and their families to go out and about with



(L) to (R) Ciara Fleming, AADI Apprentice Training Instructor, Amber, AADI Assistance Dog Trainee, Nuala Geraghty, CEO AADI and Cal Healy, Trustee, The Hospital Saturday Fund.

reduced feelings of anxiety. The charity also works hard to provide companion dogs - a welcome friend to someone who normally struggles to form relationships with their peers. Within the safety of their home, children can connect with their companion, develop a healthy exercise routine, and be accountable for taking care of the dog.

The charity's next step is to fit out their premises on Little Island. The area that dogs are homed for the day is not fit for purpose and requires new kennels.

In order to provide the dogs with the comfortable, fit-for-purpose kennels they deserve, the Hospital Saturday Fund awarded a grant of €12,780.74.

### Individual Grant Updates



Dogs for the Disabled supported an individual grant for a young boy who due to illness, struggled to walk.

The application was towards physiotherapy in order for him to achieve his goal of walking with his assistance dog. He was awarded €2,000 to help his dream come true. His father recently wrote 'Thank you and all involved for this. He will benefit greatly from it.'

Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland supported an application for funding for a specialised hand trike for a 6-year-old girl with a diagnosis of Spina Bifida (Myelomeningocele) and who is a full-time wheelchair user. She is a pleasant, friendly, happy and outgoing little girl who has a great enthusiasm in all outdoor activities and really enjoys

interacting and engaging with peers and family. Due to her needs, she requires a specialised hand trike. This specialised hand trike will meet her needs for many years to come, this will also promote her developmental and social needs. She was awarded €1,831.47 towards the specialised hand trike.



# Charity Update



The Hospital Saturday Fund

## THE CHARITY TEAM

**Paul Jackson**  
Group CEO

**Dee Wright**  
Charity and  
Events Manager

**Ana Vega**  
EA to the  
Group CEO

**Joanna Moore**  
Boards Administrator

**Baldeep Thind**  
Charity Coordinator

**Jenny Summerfield**  
Charity Administrator

**Maddy Qureshi**  
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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 2022 The Hospital Saturday Fund will give €2.3 million in donations and grants to medical charities, hospices and hospitals across Ireland, Malta and the UK. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

## 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, Malta 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:

#### GMC 26 January 2023

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 4 January 2023

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 1 December 2022

#### GMC 12 May 2023

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 20 April 2023

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 22 March 2023

#### GMC 8 August 2023

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 13 July 2023

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 15 June 2023

#### GMC 2 November 2023

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 6 October 2023

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 8 September 2023

#### GMC January 2024 (all dates for 2024 meetings to be confirmed in December 2023)

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 4 January 2024

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 1 December 2023



Contact us today and find out how we can help your company

[www.hsf.ie](http://www.hsf.ie) 0818 451 451

## Helping your employees with everyday health cost

With HSF health plan your employee can get affordable cover which includes HSF Assist, our Employee Assistance Programme, and covers their family at no extra cost.



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