

HELPING
YOUR
COMMUNITY
SINCE 1873



The Hospital Saturday Fund Charity Update

In 2021
The Hospital Saturday
Fund will give:

€2.2 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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Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Irish Guide Dogs is Ireland's national charity dedicated to helping people who are vision impaired, and families of children with autism, to achieve improved mobility and independence. They have come from humble beginnings; the charity started in a small farmhouse in Co Cork in 1976, and in 1980 the first Guide Dog partnership was established. For over 40 years the Charity has provided life-changing services and support to people across Ireland with sight loss. In 2005, they were the first organisation in Europe to provide Assistance Dogs for families of children with autism. Their National Headquarters and Training Centre are located on the Model Farm Road, two miles outside Cork City. All training programmes are run at this location. Some of their courses last up to three weeks, with clients staying at the Centre for the duration of their training. Full aftercare is provided for all clients in their homes and communities. The charity has a long waiting list at present, as it can take up to two years to provide a person with the right guide dog. People who have lost their sight first need to be trained by the charity to use a long white cane. Then the correct dog needs to be trained for each person. This process takes into consideration where the person lives, his or her lifestyle, how confident they are and whether the person intends to keep their dog once it retires. HSF's Grant Making Committee awarded a grant of €13,000 to enable their dog breeding programme to continue to help those in need. As a ges-

ture of thanks, we were given the special opportunity to name a puppy, and have selected the name Uhtred for a pup from the U litter that was born in the last weekend of November. Meaning "Son of Thor", and inspired by Bernard Cornwall's Last Kingdom books, Uhtred will hopefully become a Guide or Assistance Dog! We have been keeping up to date with Uhtred, who emails when he can!



"For the first 6 weeks I spent time with my mam and siblings, then lodged in a stop gap real world family home before heading to the big smoke at 8 weeks old to meet my new Puppy Raisers (PRs), Paul Mc and Hil. The lovely Frances from the Guide Dogs drove two of my siblings and I for the hand over, and to be honest it was scary monsters' time. To be fair, the PR's had nice little bed, toy and blanket and kept me snug all the way to my new home

I'm 15 weeks old now and in the intervening 7 weeks we have been getting to know each other. I was apparently given the red card last week as the Hil person had a freak out over some misunderstanding to do with spring bulbs and me taking them out of pots. Talk of returning me to the rebel county on the train! Thank God the Paul person weighed in and brought some calmness.

There is an ongoing battle with what I can and can't eat. I'm of the opinion that everything is mine until persuaded otherwise. The real food that I am allowed to eat is weighed out and the pair that feed me are as mean..it's no wonder I have to have the odd slipper, sock, leg of chair etc. The vet says I'm a fine fellow and my weight has increased from 4kilos to 12kilos – and

am what is known as a bruiser. I'm not afraid of the hoover anymore, which is a good thing because it never appears to be off. They say I have the house destroyed.

In general the PRs are happy with the very low levels of "accidents" ..and I usually only make a mess, when I'm tired and forget (that is my excuse), otherwise I respond to the "command".

Night-time I stay in my new bed which his housed in my big crate in the kitchen and I'm told I'm a great chap for not roaring the house down. Day time beds are where I hide my contraband of stones and sticks swiped from the garden and it's also the place I nap during the day.

My teeth are killing me and I'm going through the raw hide bones like butter. On the plus side, I'm getting better at the biting of humans and just about taking a second to think about tearing furry soft things asunder, like slippers, pyjamas and dressing gowns with belts – God I love them.

I'm a social dude and should be out there strutting my stuff but because of Covid-19 it's a little restricting. I have been visiting the older folk in the bubbles that the PRs look after and was watched like a hawk to ensure I did not trip them up and send them flying.

Apparently, I'm ruined with the lovely gifts I got on arrival. I have a fab long mat from the RR's pal that I keep my new toys, also presents, from family and neighbour on it and am "supposed" to hang out there a bit. The Hil person was trying to teach me to wipe my paws – oh how I laughed. Love Uhtred.



Uhtred and Paul Mc

Heart Children Ireland

Heart Children Ireland was founded in 1990 by a group of parents who met at the Children's Heart Centre in Dublin. The Charity is a support group for parents and families of children with a Congenital Heart Disorder (CHD). CHD is the most common of all birth defects affecting one in every one hundred children born at present and around half of all babies born with CHD will require heart operations. Heart Children Ireland provides a range of services to support children who suffer from congenital heart defects and their parents and families.

The Charity also tries to support bereaved families whose children have died from CHD. The Psychology Support Service carries out over 600 sessions yearly and assists over 1,300 family members nationwide, including Northern Ireland. It prepares a child for surgery resulting in less trauma for both the child and the entire family and offers support post surgery which

provides a safety net. Due to the pandemic, Heart Children Ireland's are currently running their service via scheduled phone appointments. The charity rely solely on fundraising to cover the €70,000 annual cost of running the Psychological Support Service.

They were awarded a grant of €11,000 at our November GMC, to continue this vital work.

Margaret Rogers, CEO. Heart Children explained that "we are forever grateful to you all. I would like to leave you with this quote from one of our families. I think this says more than I ever could about the importance of this service and what this grant means;

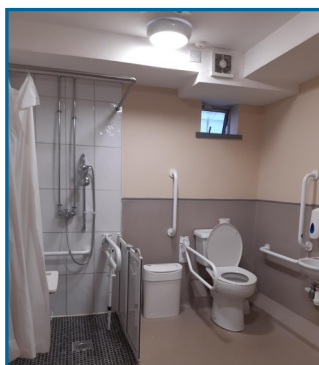
"Having used the psychology service I have the tools to help the children and husband get through the days and nights. I have a life raft when I feel I am drowning in the weight of sickness, worry and fear."

Heart Children Ireland celebrated 30 years in 2020 and although they had such plans to celebrate their 30th birthday with all of their members, families and friends. COVID-19 halted all their exciting plans.



Merchants Quay Ireland

We were delighted to receive an update from Merchant Quay who received a grant in 2020 towards upgrading shower facilities for rough sleepers in line with Covid-19 protocols. Between each use they have to be thoroughly disinfected for the next client. This is a huge relief for them to have such comfort and dignity.



Blood Bikes Leinster

In 2020 Blood Bikes Leinster were awarded €2,000 towards upgrading their vehicle. Their biggest challenge was getting the necessary work done, when all best plans did not work out; the pandemic hit all countries and Ireland was no different. As they sent the vehicle to be kitted out, the Country went into lock down and the vehicle became a casualty of this. The vehicle was locked in a building which they could not access and the livery for the vehicle could not be ordered as the UK was also in lock down.

As the days became weeks slowly things started to happen, they were able to get the livery from the UK to get the first phase of the upgrade. As time progressed, the vehicle was completed and on the road.

This vehicle has been invaluable to them since it has been placed into service, as we are still in pandemic they have seen a 150% increase on demand for their services. They have been able to continue their regular calls but also take on extra transports in the knowledge the vehicle would not let them down. They are currently delivering and collecting COVID-19 swab serial test kits for the HSE to nursing and care homes, mental health facilities, hospitals, test centres and from the Ambulance service. Fergus

Lennon, Chairperson for Blood Bikes said "they were so delighted to have been given this grant and hopefully the new replacement vehicle will give us many years of service. The vehicle is worth its weight in gold to our service, thank you Hospital Saturday Fund."



ChildVision, National Education Centre for Blind Children

ChildVision formerly known as St. Joseph's Centre for the Visually Impaired, have been providing support to families across Ireland since their education service began in the 1950s.

The charity is the only place in Ireland totally dedicated to the education and therapy needs of blind and multi-disabled children. They look after children from all over Ireland ranging in age from birth to 23 years of age. Diagnosis given to young parents regarding their child can be devastating and daunting, leaving them feeling lost and helpless. They offer baby and parent classes aimed at helping parents understand how to help their child and develop what sight their child does have. The staff work together to realise the unique potential



within each boy and girl no matter how severe the disability. The team includes speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, teachers, nurses, braille specialists, social care workers, pet and equine therapists as well a team of maintenance and

household staff who work across the campus.

They were awarded €13,500 at the January GMC towards medical and COVID response equipment. The difference the grant will make is summed up in their thank you *"Many of our children have significant medical requirements and Covid-19 has made our clinical care even more crucial to their attendance at our campus. Your funding will allow us to purchase the medical equipment needed to allow these bright energetic children continue to attend safely and with the true enjoyment for life they exhibit each day. We intend to use this donation to enhance our children's safety by expanding the amount of protective screens we have within our vehicles, and enhancing our sanitation and medical equipment."*

Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland

In 1968, a small group of parents whose children had Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus established a voluntary organisation which would highlight awareness of these two conditions and support families, individuals, and carers who were affected. This resulted in the establishment of The Irish Association for Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus (IASBAH). The association was formed by parents who were committed to taking action to improve the prospects of people who were living with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus in Ireland. In April 2008, the National Association of Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland Ltd was formed, and trades as Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland (SBHI). The Charity aims to

foster an environment in which every person affected by Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus can lead a fulfilled life. SBHI provides essential information, support and advice to everyone living with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus. They believe in, and seek to realise, a socially inclusive and equal society for all people living with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus. The Charity enables its members to get the very best from health, education, and social services and it lobbies the Government to significantly improve services and all necessary access for people living with disabilities. SBHI had moved a number of its services online. People with Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus have, in particular, been detrimentally affected by Covid and the resulting lockdowns. They are seeing a huge increase in isolation and resulting mental illness

amongst the beneficiaries. They had also seen considerable anxiety around catching Covid-19 amongst its service users. This is because people with Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus tend to have obesity problems due to being wheelchair-bound, and other health conditions such as kidney disease, which makes them very susceptible to Covid-19. At the January GMC they were awarded €13,500 which will enable service users nationwide to access their services



Individual Application Update

We were delighted to award €1,912 towards a Quest Unicorn Therapy Tricycle to a determined four-and-a-half year old girl. She attends the Mid Kildare NDT for Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language support around her diagnosis of Spina Bifida. Her parents have recently secured more suitable ground floor accommodation with access to a suitable garden for their daughter. She walks indoors mainly and has developed her independence skills with support from her parents. She has learned to use a self-propel wheelchair for out-

door, long distance use and attends a mainstream preschool with minimal support in her local community. She is very physically motivated and loves being on the move, her ability to ride a tricycle has previously been blocked as she had no access to a suitably supportive tricycle. They have trialed the Quest Unicorn tricycle which meets her physical needs. This tricycle would be of great benefit to her gross motor skill development, coordination development and independence. This will also allow for further participation in her own local community.



Quest Unicorn Tricycle



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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 2021 The Hospital Saturday Fund will give €2.2 million 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.

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

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 2021:

GMC 26 January 2021

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

GMC 18 May 2021

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 20 April 2021
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 23 March 2021

GMC 10 August 2021

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 13 July 2021
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 15 June 2021

GMC 4 November 2021

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 7 October 2021
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 9 September 2021

GMC January 2022 (all dates for 2022 meetings to be confirmed in December 2021)

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 4 January 2022
Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 1 December 2021

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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