



The Hospital  
Saturday Fund®

## Charity Newsletter

ISSUE 17- REPUBLIC OF IRELAND  
DECEMBER 2024



# Helping Your Community Since 1873

**€2.4 Million Donated in 2024**

In donations and grants to medical charities for care and research, hospices and hospitals across the UK, Republic of Ireland, and Malta. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

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28 Irish charities receiving grants from The Hospital Saturday Fund at a reception hosted at University College Cork in November 2024 over €131,000 was awarded with our Patron Lesley Garrett and Cllr. Terry Coleman, Deputising for the Lord Mayor of Cork.

## Cork Reception

On Thursday, 21 November 2024, The Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) awarded donations to twenty-eight Irish charities during a special reception at University College Cork (UCC). The event, held in the Aula Maxima and attended by Cllr. Terry Coleman, deputising for the Lord Mayor of Cork, saw over €131,000 donated to charities supporting health and wellbeing across Ireland.

Among this year's beneficiaries are: Cork Stroke Support, receiving funds for its Living Well After a Stroke project. The Lantern Community Project, will use its grant for occupational therapy equipment. Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland, which will put the grant toward essential equipment upgrades. Rainbow Club Cork, supporting their Art Therapy Programme. Bantry Hospice, to help achieve 24-hour palliative care. CUH Charity, contributing toward the expansion of children's services. Additionally, a medical elective grant was awarded to University College Cork to support undergraduate medical electives at its School of Medicine.

Lesley Garrett, Patron of The Hospital Saturday Fund, paid tribute to all the charities attending and extended her appreciation for their invaluable contributions, wishing them continued success in their important work.

Paul Jackson, Group Chief Executive of The Hospital Saturday Fund, stated, "We are thrilled to uphold our tradition of supporting a diverse range of charities across Ireland, particularly those that may not be as widely recognised. The Hospital Saturday Fund is proud to contribute to the remarkable and tireless efforts of these organisations, which have a profound impact on people's lives. In the past 12 months, HSF has donated a total of €2.25 million to over 900 charities in Ireland, the UK, and Malta. This evening, we are especially pleased to have contributed over €131,000 to deserving charities in Munster.

The reception also marked HSF Health Plan's 75th anniversary in Ireland. Mr Jackson highlighted this milestone, by saying "Since 1949, we have proudly supported families and individuals in Ireland with their everyday medical costs. Our wide range of benefits provides excellent value for money, whether used alongside Private Medical Insurance or as a standalone product. All of our profits go to The Hospital Saturday Fund, which then supports medical charities, hospitals, and hospices. This means everyone who takes out a policy with us is helping to make a meaningful difference in their local community."

Looking ahead, The Hospital Saturday Fund plans to donate €2.5 million in 2025 to medical charities across Ireland, the UK, and Malta, supporting care, research, and hospices. Assistance will also be provided to individuals facing financial hardship due to illness or disability.

# Aoibheann's Pink Tie

Aoibheann's Pink Tie is a National Children's Cancer Charity established in 2010 by Mick Rochford and Jimmy Norman after the tragic death of Jimmy's daughter Aoibheann from a rare type of cancer at just 8 years old. At Aoibheann's funeral, men wore pink ties, inspiring the charity's name. APT was created to address the lack of support for other families on the ward battling cancer and they have supported over 300-350 families annually.

The Hospital Saturday Fund awarded a grant of €13,500 towards funding Comfort Care Bundles, comprising three key components these Bundles will help ease the burden and improve the wellbeing of both child and parents.

- Emergency Packs: Containing essential toiletries
- Chemo Ducks: These are soft, plush duck toys provided to children undergoing chemotherapy.
- Chemo Ducks offer emotional support and comfort, helping to alleviate stress and anxiety. They also serve as a teaching aid to help children understand and cope with their treatment process.



Paul Clare, Managing Director, HSF Health Plan, presented €13,500 to Mick Nochford, CEO, Aoibheann's Pink Tie. The grant will help fund Comfort Care Bundles: the provision of crucial, practical items for families battling childhood cancer.

To find out more visit their website: [www.aoibheannspinktie.ie](http://www.aoibheannspinktie.ie)



# Ronald McDonald House Charities Ireland



Margaret Rogers, Association Member, Louise Quail, Head of Development and Joanne Pretsell, Community Fundraising Manager, Ronald McDonald House Charities.

To find out more visit their website: [www.rmhc.ie](http://www.rmhc.ie)



Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Ireland's Keeping Families Together Programme is a lifeline for families spread across all 32 counties of Ireland, where access to specialised paediatric care may be limited. By providing accommodation, meals, and a supportive environment, RMHC Ireland ensures that families can remain together, united in their journey.

Keeping Families Close Programme is defined as a critical service in the medical care continuum of services. The RMHC Ireland House allows families to access specialised paediatric medical treatment by providing a place to stay, a retreat, and a place they can call home for as long as needed. The house offers fully stocked kitchens, common areas, work desks, Wi-Fi, outdoor play spaces and most importantly communal family spaces where families can spend quality time together.

The Charity received a grant of €13,500 towards the RMHC Keeping Families Together Programme.

# Embrace FARM

Embrace FARM is a farm accident support network founded in 2014 by Brian and Norma Rohan in response to the tragic death of Brian's father, Liam, in a farm accident. The lack of support for grieving farm families inspired the family to host a national remembrance service which received an overwhelmingly positive response and was attended by over 600 people.

They are dedicated to offering a caring, supportive, and non-judgmental community for those affected by sudden farm deaths and injuries in Ireland. As the only charity of its kind in the country, Embrace FARM's vision is to grow and sustain a support network for farm families affected by sudden farm deaths and injuries including those affected by suspected suicides, sudden illness, and injury.

Embrace FARM received a grant of €13,500 towards their Minding Me Project, the funding will ensure that children in rural areas, which are hard to reach and affected by farm-related tragedies, can receive essential counselling and peer support. The grant will cover the cost of counselling services and/or peer engagement during family bereavement in areas with the greatest need.



*Craig Broome, HSF Health Plan, presenting €13,500 grant to Norma Rohan, General Manager, Embrace FARM, the grant will go towards their Minding Me project.*

To find out more visit their website: [www.embracefarm.com](http://www.embracefarm.com)



## Community First Responders



*Cal Healy, Vice Chair GMC, The Hospital Saturday Fund, presenting a grant to Kevin O'Riordan, Treasurer, and Elaine Walsh, Chairperson, Donoughmore Community First Responders Group.*

To find out more visit their website:

[www.donoughmorecfrdotcom.wordpress.com](http://www.donoughmorecfrdotcom.wordpress.com)



**DONOUGHMORE CFR**

Community First Responders (CFR) based in Donoughmore, Co. Cork are volunteers who are trained to attend certain types of emergency calls in the area where they live or work. Their aim is to reach a potential life-threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives. They help to stabilise the patient and provide the appropriate care including defibrillation until the more highly skilled ambulance crew arrives on scene to take over the treatment. They are linked to the NAS National Emergency Operations Centre, who alert them to an emergency in their area. As they are community-based, they can provide medical assistance within minutes of a 112/999 call being received.

The grant awarded will go towards the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for volunteers to use if needed at an emergency call.

# Individual Grants

*Emer is a 56-year-old with Spinal Cord Injury who received a €2,795 grant towards a foldable mobility scooter.*

*“My name is Emer and as of 2018 I have had numerous spinal operations which has left me from being a very active individual, who worked full time to someone who has severe mobility issues. Although I can drive, with hand controls and use crutches, I can’t walk far with them.*

*I can now meet my friends around my town without having to worry about parking, I can go out to different places and go for ‘walks’ with my dog. I can also go to the shops or supermarket without having to struggle with crutches and a trolley for a few items. The idea of just taking the scooter out of my car and using the remote key to automatically assemble it is nothing short of life changing to me on a day to day basis.*

*I can’t thank you enough for giving me my foldable mobility scooter you have no idea the difference it has made to me.*



*Emer is using her new mobility scooter to meet her friends and go out to different places.*



*Ms A is now able to reconnect with her local community, particularly her church.*

Ms A has a medical history that includes asthma, osteoarthritis, a previous stroke, a heart murmur, a leak in her heart valve, and fibromyalgia.

These conditions contribute to significant mobility challenges, leading to feelings of isolation. However, with the addition of a new mobility scooter, Ms A has regained much-needed independence.

The scooter has enabled her to reconnect with her local community, particularly her church, which she had been unable to attend due to her mobility issues.

*“This is amazing news!! Thank you so much! My client is over the moon. This will make such a difference to her life. Thank you for everything you do. I’m so happy with this result!”*

Supporter – Vineyard Compassion

## About Us

The Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) is a UK charity that was founded in 1873 by pioneers in social and philanthropic work to help people 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 Republic of 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 2024 The Hospital Saturday Fund will give €2.4 million in donations and grants to medical charities, hospices and hospitals across the UK, Republic of Ireland and Malta. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

## Meet The Charity Team

**Paul Jackson**  
Group  
Chief Executive

**Dee Wright**  
Charity &  
Events Manager

**Ana Vega**  
EA to the Group  
Chief Executive

**Michelle Fletcher**  
Charity  
Coordinator

**Baldeep Thind**  
Charity  
Coordinator

**Jenny Summerfield**  
Charity  
Administrator

**Joanna Moore**  
Boards  
Administrator



## 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, Republic of Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Malta;
- 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 Hospital Saturday Fund's website for criteria and link to the online application form:

[www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org](http://www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org)

### Applications for Organisations:

#### GMC 21 January 2025

**Standard Grants** of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 3 January 2025

**Large Grants** of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 2 December 2024

#### GMC 7 May 2025

**Standard Grants** of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 9 April 2025

**Large Grants** of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 12 March 2025

#### GMC 5 August 2025

**Standard Grants** of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 9 July 2025

**Large Grants** of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 11 June 2025

#### GMC 11 November 2025

**Standard Grants** of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 14 October 2025

**Large Grants** of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 16 September 2025

#### GMC January 2026 (all dates for 2026 meetings TBC in December 2025)

**Standard Grants** of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 5 January 2026

**Large Grants** of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 2 December 2025