



The Hospital
Saturday Fund®

Charity Newsletter

ISSUE 18 – REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
MAY 2025



Helping Your Community Since 1873

€2.4 Million Donated in 2024

In donations and grants to medically-associated 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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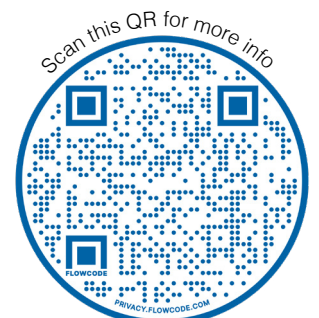
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Paul Jackson, Group Chief Executive, was joined by our Patron, Lord Meath, with Lady Meath, and 26 grant recipients at The Mansion House, Dublin.

Dublin Charity Reception

The Hospital Saturday Fund awarded over €122,000 in grants to 26 Irish charities at a charity reception held at the Mansion House, Dublin. The event was hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Emma Blain, and attended by Lord Meath, Patron of The Hospital Saturday Fund, along with Lady Meath.

Among the beneficiaries, Spinal Injuries Ireland received funding towards their Peer Support Programme, while the Alzheimer Society of Ireland was awarded a grant to support dementia-specific services for families across the country. Fighting Blindness will use its funding to provide clinical and genetic diagnoses for individuals and families affected by inherited retinal degeneration. Other recipients included Irish Therapy Dogs, which received a grant to support its therapy dog services in care centres, and Blood Bike Leinster, which will use the funding to upgrade a response vehicle. Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and LauraLynn – Ireland’s Children’s Hospice also received grants to support their important work.

During the reception, the Lord Mayor commended the outstanding contributions of all the charities supported by The Hospital Saturday Fund. She also highlighted the significance of a donation to CanTeen Ireland, her chosen charity for the event. This funding will cover the cost of a residential weekend away for 25 young

people who have or have had cancer. Paul Jackson, Group Chief Executive of The Hospital Saturday Fund, expressed his enthusiasm for continuing the organisation’s support: *“We are delighted to uphold our tradition of assisting a wide range of charities across Ireland, including many that may not receive widespread recognition. The Hospital Saturday Fund is honoured to contribute to the crucial work of these incredible organisations, whose dedication has a profound and positive impact on so many lives.”* The reception also celebrated HSF Health Plan, a medical insurance provider marking 75 years in Ireland. Mr Jackson commented, *“Since 1949, we have been proud to support individuals and families in Ireland by helping with the cost of everyday medical expenses. Our wide range of benefits is highly valued by our policyholders and their dependents. Some use HSF Health Plans alongside Private Medical Insurance, while others rely on it as a stand-alone solution. Whatever their needs, we are committed to offering exceptional value for money. With all of our profits going to our parent charity, The Hospital Saturday Fund, which in turn donates to medically-associated charities, hospitals, and hospices, every policyholder is making a real difference in their local community.”* Looking ahead to 2025, The Hospital Saturday Fund will give €2.5 million in donations and grants to medically-associated charities for care and research, hospices, and hospitals across Ireland, the UK, and Malta. The Fund will also provide financial assistance to individuals facing hardship due to illness or disability.

Dillon Quirke Foundation

Dillon Quirke was only 24 when he collapsed during a hurling match and died of Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SADS), in August 2022. His untimely death inspired his family to set up the Dillon Quirke Foundation to help raise awareness about SADS, which often strikes without warning, especially amongst those who play sports who have previously not shown any underlying health issues. The statistics for SADS are alarming, with over 100 young lives lost annually in Ireland.

The €13,500 grant will go towards funding much-needed research into Sudden Adult Death Syndrome, the in-depth research will provide essential data from parents of children participating in the screening and will include medical outcomes, follow-up care, and overall health of the individual. The research will be completed by a skilled Ethnographic Researcher, who will ensure that the data is professionally analysed and statistically validated to produce actionable insight.



Laura Long, National Sales Manager IE, HSF Health Plan, with Dan Quirke, Company Secretary & Director, Dillon Quirke Foundation at The Rock of Cashel.

To find out more visit their website:
www.dillonquirkefoundation.com



Gay Project



Carol Murphy, GMC Member, The Hospital Saturday Fund, with Konrad Im, Manager at Gay Project.

To find out more visit their website: www.gayproject.ie



The first national gay conference took place in Cork in 1981, and in 2000, the Cork Gay Community Development Company was formed. In 2019, this became the Gay Project. The project was based in several rented premises in the city centre over the years, and after 40 years, they were recently delighted to announce the successful purchase of a new community centre in Douglas, Cork, marking a significant milestone for the local LGBTI+ community.

The €13,000 grant received will go towards The Pride in Health – LGBTI+ Allyship Training Programme, which aims to enhance the quality of healthcare services for the LGBTI+ Community in Cork and Munster. The Gay Project had applied for funding to extend the provision of comprehensive training to healthcare and medical staff, which includes:

- GPs
- Doctors and nurses
- Administrative healthcare staff
- Allied health professionals
- Medical and nursing students

The training is helping to promote an inclusive and supportive environment for all patients. The funding will support the continued development, implementation, and evaluation of this essential training.

Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland

Autism Assistance Dogs was established in 2010. Since their establishment, they have placed 39 fully trained assistance dogs and over 60 companion dogs. In 2019, they began to develop and implement a 5-year growth strategy and now have more puppies than ever before in their training programme (over 30 at present). Each of the assistance and companion dogs they have placed has had a huge impact on the children they have helped to support. Not only are these dogs supporting their child partner, they are also benefiting the lives of the whole family. Every autism assistance dog also helps raise autism awareness and educate their local community. Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland works closely with families throughout the working life of the dog placed with them.

The €4,000 grant will go towards essential equipment upgrades at their headquarters in Little Island, Cork. This upgrade includes the purchase of four Lenovo IdeaPad 3 laptops and one pre-owned iPhone 11. These items are crucial for enhancing our administrative efficiency and communication capabilities, which are vital to supporting our core mission of providing life-changing assistance dogs to children with autism.



Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland provides enormous support to their child partners and raises awareness about autism within the local community.

To find out more visit their website:

www.autismassistancedogsireland.ie



Autism
Assistance
Dogs
Ireland

Aiséirí Cahir



Dave Thomas, Trustee, The Hospital Saturday Fund, with Noreen Condon, Engagement, Learning & Development, and Noelle Ryan, Clinical Nurse Manager at Aiséirí Cahir.

To find out more visit their website: www.aiseiri.ie



Aiséirí Cahir was founded in 1983 to provide comprehensive addiction treatment and support services. Originally based in County Tipperary, the organisation now operates four centres across Ireland, including in Kilkenny, Wexford, and Waterford. Aiséirí offers a broad spectrum of services, from medically supervised detoxification to secondary treatment and long-term support for education, employment, and social reintegration.

The organisation focuses on individuals aged 15 and older who are dealing with addiction, often compounded by complex issues such as co-occurring mental health disorders, traumatic childhood experiences, criminal histories, and socio-economic challenges. They are committed to providing evidence-based, holistic care tailored to the unique needs of each client.

Aiséirí received a grant of €13,500 to enhance its addiction treatment services through two research initiatives: improving internal data collection and analysis to track client complexity, and investigating the efficacy of a codeine-based opioid detox method. These efforts aim to refine treatment approaches, align with global best practices, and improve client outcomes.

Individual Grant Updates

Living with cerebral palsy, quadriplegia, and epilepsy presents significant challenges to independence, particularly as a full-time wheelchair user. These conditions can affect mobility, coordination, and safety, making everyday tasks more complex and support more essential for maintaining quality of life and independence.

It was with great pleasure that a €3,000 grant was awarded towards the installation of automated doors, providing independent access between the bedroom, ensuite, and the rest of the home. As the individual uses a powered wheelchair, these automated doors will reduce reliance on carers and offer a greater sense of freedom and confidence when moving around her home.

“Please find a photo of the funded accessible door. Many thanks to The Hospital Saturday Fund for providing the funds to install this door. It has made a significant difference to the person’s independence in her own home.”



Purchased installation of automated doors, providing independent access between the bedroom, ensuite, and the rest of the home.



The robot vacuum cleaner significantly reduces the time and effort spent on cleaning, helping conserve energy for other tasks.

Following a sailing accident in 2022, the individual sustained a C6 incomplete spinal cord injury, resulting in left-sided paralysis and the need to use a powered wheelchair. He applied for a robotic vacuum cleaner to help manage household cleaning, as the repetitive shoulder movements required for tasks like sweeping and vacuuming worsen his injury, triggering spasms and ongoing pain.

“As a paraplegic, I face daily challenges when it comes to tasks like cleaning. Traditional vacuum cleaners require physical mobility, which I don’t have, making it difficult to keep my home clean. For a long time, I felt embarrassed to ask for help with something as basic as vacuuming. I struggled with not having the strength to do it myself, and it left me feeling frustrated and dependent.

Having the robot vacuum cleaner has been a huge time-saver and has allowed me to conserve my energy for other things. I’m also no longer embarrassed if a visitor or community nurse calls. It’s one less thing I need to worry about, and it has significantly improved my day-to-day life. It’s made a massive improvement to the way I view myself, too. I no longer feel ashamed of having a dirty floor and not being able to do anything about it.”

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 2025 The Hospital Saturday Fund will give €2.5 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



Grant Information

Application Deadlines and Grant Amounts

The Hospital Saturday Fund has two grant categories:

- Standard grants of up to £2,000 or €3,000 or
- Large grants to up to £10,000 or €13,500 (please note this is the maximum sum that HSF will grant).

Large grant applications should be towards specific projects, research, or equipment rather than running costs. Organisations may make one application for a meeting and can apply for a standard or a large grant. The Grant Making Committee (GMC) meets quarterly.

For how to apply, see The Hospital Saturday Fund's website for criteria and link to the online application form:
www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org

Applications should be submitted online by close of business on the following dates:

GMC 22 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