

**19 June 2013**

**Bon Secours pledges financial support to Pieta House to help open Cork suicide crisis centre**

*Bon Secours Cork donates €150,000 to fit out new Pieta House centre on Model Farm Road*

Bon Secours Cork has pledged €150,000 to fully fit out Pieta House’s new suicide and self-harm crisis centre for the southern region which is due to open in September on Model Farm Road, Cork. A tender process for the works is currently underway and the fit out is due to begin in July. This programme of works will be managed by Wilson Architecture of Lapps Quay, Cork. The roll out of Pieta House’s service for the southern region will be personally overseen by Pieta House’s CEO Joan Freeman who intends to move to Cork once the centre is open.

Harry Canning, Hospital Manager of Bon Secours, Cork said:*“Sr. Maria Cuffe, Mission Coordinator for Bon Secours Health System has been instrumental in promoting this support for Pieta House. The Bon Secours Sisters have a long history of supporting charitable endeavours in their local communities. The support being provided to Pieta House in helping Joan and her team to open a new suicide crisis centre in Cork bears testament to this. We are delighted that the opening of this new centre here in Cork will provide a much needed professional support structure for people who may be contemplating suicide”.*

Joan Freeman, CEO of Pieta House said: *“Pieta House helped over 3,000 people last year and demand for our services continues to grow year on year. We have been conscious for some time that without a footprint in the southern region it would be difficult for us to meet this increasing demand. I’m delighted to confirm today that with extremely generous financial assistance from Bon Secours, Cork we will be able to open a new support centre in Cork this September. This important development brings us one step closer to our long-term goal of having a Pieta House centre within 100 kilometres of everyone in Ireland.”*

The Bon Secours Sisters operate four hospitals in Ireland, one in Cork and one each in Dublin, Galway and Tralee. Management of the hospital group is co-ordinated by Bon Secours Health System, a not-for-profit Catholic healthcare organisation established in 1993. With more than 800 beds available across the group, Bon Secours Health System is the largest private healthcare provider in Ireland, employing more than 2,000 people.

Pieta House, the suicide and self-harm crisis centre, opened in Lucan, Co. Dublin in January 2006. Since then, three more centres have opened in Dublin and one each in Limerick and Roscrea. The Cork centre is one of three new Pieta House centres due to open in the second half of 2013; the others will be in Tuam and Castleisland.

**About Pieta House**

Pieta House is a suicide and self-harm crisis centre founded by psychologist Joan Freeman. It first opened its doors in Lucan, Co. Dublin in January 2006, and there are now four Pieta House centres throughout Dublin and one each in Limerick and Roscrea. Three new centres will open in 2013 in Tuam, Cork and Castleisland.

Pieta House provides a professional, face-to-face, free of charge therapeutic service for people in the acute stages of distress. The unique clinically-based model developed by Pieta House is used across its five centres. Pieta House’s primary aim is to reduce suicide by helping people get through that critical phase when suicide becomes a plan rather than just an idea. To date, over 8,000 people have been seen and helped by Pieta House.

Pieta House’s vision is that no-one in Ireland should be more than 100 kilometres from a Pieta House centre where they can avail of the clinical services at that time of crisis.

For more information, log on to [www.pieta.ie](http://www.pieta.ie).

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