



BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEM  
Cork | Dublin | Galway | Limerick | Tralee



# Community Outreach | 2023



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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Dear Friends

We are delighted to present this Community Outreach report, showcasing the positive impact that we endeavour to have on the charity sector nationally and internationally over 2023, in particular in the communities where we are privileged to serve. We hold our Mission and Values of high importance. This report highlights examples of how we extend our mission beyond the walls of our facilities, being 'good help to those in need' in a variety of different ways.

Throughout the year of 2023, as we continued to emerge from the shadow of the COVID crisis, we endeavoured to strengthen our support not just for the poor, vulnerable and underserved, but indeed other areas of need also. We sought to achieve this through our various community outreach programs, both at hospital and system level, by contributing over €1,135,000 of support over course of 2023. You will see examples of funding directly benefiting the poor, but also academic partnerships with the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI) as we supported the development of the field of professionalism. Additionally, our academic partnership with St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth created pathways for people interested in becoming healthcare chaplains. The conferences that we funded highlighted best practice and

sought to drive standards of excellence. There are examples of engagement with key partners in the communities where we serve, for example in the form of educational evenings for general practitioners.

Our commitment to making a difference is exemplified through our many partnerships with local and national charities, as well as through our in-house initiatives. In many instances our amazing staff took the lead and we endeavoured to support their fundraising efforts through match-funding.

In this report, you will find stories of hope, resilience, and progress. You will see how BSHS is trying to make a difference in our communities through our funding programs and volunteerism. Most importantly, you will see how our impact is being felt in tangible, lasting ways.

The report is structured into three sections:

1. 'Good Help Fund' programme  
  (€400,000)
2. Community Initiative Funding Programme  
  (€235,000)
3. Other outreach  
  (€500,000)

We are proud to be able to serve such a diverse and vibrant range of communities, and we are grateful for the opportunity

to support meaningful change. We want to particularly acknowledge and thank the fantastic charities that we have had the privilege of partnering with over 2023 and to commend them for the amazing work that they do throughout Ireland and internationally.

Our Community Outreach programme is a collaborative effort. We take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in administering the funding, especially the Heads of Mission, the Hospital Management Teams and the Health System Good Help Fund Steering Group. We hope you enjoy the read and get a sense of the impact that we seek to have through our Community Outreach Funding Programs.

Kind regards



**Bill Maher**  
Group Chief Executive Officer



**Andrew McCarthy**  
Chief Sponsorship and Mission Officer

# Bon Secours Health System

As Ireland's largest independent hospital group, Bon Secours Health System is renowned for the quality of its service provision coupled with a rich tradition in healthcare.

Bon Secours Health System is a not-for-profit organisation with its mission centred on providing compassionate, world-class medical treatment to all those it serves.

With over 3,500 staff, 800 beds, 450 leading consultants, Bon Secours treats in excess of 300,000 patients per year.

In 2019 Bon Secours Health System became affiliated with Bon Secours Mercy Health; the United States' fifth largest Catholic health care ministry and one of the United States' 20 largest health care systems.

Our Mission is Caring for the Sick, the Dying and their families, within our Catholic Ethos. Our staff translate this care into action through our Core Values, through which we endeavour to make our care a reality at all levels of the organisation. We serve more than 300,000 patients each year across all our hospitals and our care village. We are committed to our patients and continually strive to improve the services and care we provide to them.

A central aspect of our 2025 Strategic Plan is to increase our engagement with those in our care, to ensure continued exceptional care but also to ensure their input and involvement in their own healthcare.

## LIVING OUR MISSION

Bon Secours Health System invests annually, through its Community Initiative Programme, in worthwhile projects that add value to the lives of the most vulnerable in society, and that bring about a social good.

Our care goes beyond the walls of our facilities through our Community Initiative Programme. The projects we support are a key way in which we translate our mission and values into action for our wider local communities.

## Our Mission

Founded by the Sisters of Bon Secours, our hospitals have as their mission, care for the sick, the dying and their families within a Catholic Ethos. Inspired by the Gospel and sharing in the healing mission of Jesus, we recognise the dignity and uniqueness of each person, seeking to provide high quality, holistic care which is characterised by compassion, respect, justice and hope.

## Our Vision

Inspired by God's hope for the world, we will be a ministry where staff want to work, clinicians want to practice, people seek wellness and communities thrive. Inspired by God's hope for the world, we will be a ministry where staff want to work, clinicians want to practice, people seek wellness and communities thrive.

## Our Core Values

**Human Dignity:** We commit to uphold the sacredness of life and to be respectful and inclusive of everyone.

**Integrity:** We commit to act ethically and to model right relationships in all of our individual and organisational encounters.

**Compassion:** We commit to accompany those we serve with mercy and tenderness, recognising that "being with" is as important as "doing for."

**Stewardship:** We commit to promote the responsible use of all human and financial resources, including Earth itself.

**Service:** We commit to provide the highest quality in every dimension of our ministry.

# Good Help Fund Programmes



# Bon Secours Health System – Good Help Fund

## Introduction

The purpose of the ‘Good Help Fund’ is to build on the Bon Secours legacy of care that we have inherited and are privileged to continue, cognisant of our Founding Mission.

The ‘Good Help Fund’ was established by the Board of Directors as a model to contribute towards addressing healthcare inequity in the communities where we serve.

To achieve this, Bon Secours Health System (BSHS) has established this mission impact strategic fund, ‘the Good Help Fund’, as a vehicle for ensuring a consistent structured approach to providing some interventions for the poor and underserved. The ‘Good Help Fund’ is under the management of a steering committee (The Good Help Fund Steering Group), who are accountable to the Board of Bon Secours Health System.



The reasons why the ‘Good Help Fund’ exists are:

- If we are to truly live our mission, by extending the ‘good help’ we currently provide, we don’t answer this challenge by just donating money to other charities. We do this through our Community Initiative Fund, but felt that we needed to do more.
- We aim to provide services to a population we don’t normally serve, where there clearly is a need.
- We aim to provide the service in our facilities, driven by our values, to our quality standards.
- We focus on what we already bring to the table – our existing capability and expertise (doing what we are good at).
- Volunteerism element – where possible we encourage this as part of the projects.
- Financial impact on our hospitals: our hospitals are not at a loss for delivering procedures within the ‘good help initiatives’. The ‘Good Help Fund’ exists to provide support projects that fit the criteria.

## Note from Bon Secours Hospital Tralee Rehabilitation Team to patients

"We are delighted to inform you that our Interdisciplinary Rehabilitation Service has now commenced. The Rehabilitation Team is resourced by the Bon Secours 'Good Help Fund' and will be a free service to our patients. This service embodies the mission and values of the Bon Secours Health System (BSHS). Our primary aim is to provide high quality rehabilitation for adults with disabilities who are unable to access these services in their own locality.

Currently in Kerry, most rehabilitation services cater for adults over the age of 69 following acute episode of illness. Adults with disabilities outside of this cohort are underserved, particularly with regard to their long-term rehabilitation needs. Our innovative service will strive to provide this patient group with intensive rehabilitation which will ultimately assist them to live more active, independent and integrated lives within their communities. A core element of our service is to leverage existing community resources in the patient's own locality and work collaboratively with our community healthcare providers.

The team will collectively promote the holistic wellbeing of the patient guided by a biopsychosocial model. With the patient at

the centre of our care, our goal is to enhance self-empowerment and self-management. Goals will be set collaboratively with patients and their families, and all interventions will be planned around these goals and needs.

Dr Helena Moore will provide Clinical Governance to this service and Medical Governance will be provided by the patient's GP. The team will provide Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy and Dietetics and consists of the following staff:

- Physiotherapy Services Manager (Rosalie Stack)
- Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist (Siobhán O'Dowd)
- Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist (Sandra Martin)
- Senior Dietitian (Karen Daly)
- Therapy Assistant (Aodhan Quirke)

### Inclusion Criteria:

The service targets the following patient profile:

- Adults aged 18 to 69yrs
- Rehabilitation needs of the patient are currently not met by alternative services

- Adults with complex physical limitations who will benefit from specialist interdisciplinary team intervention
- Patients who are medically stable to participate in a rehabilitation programme
- Patients who are able to engage and commit to working collaboratively with the team to reach their identified goals

### Outside our remit:

Patients will be deemed unsuitable for the service if at the time of referral, they present with psychiatric, behavioural or substance misuse issues which negates their rehabilitation potential.

It is important to note that the Rehabilitation Service will not provide the following services:

- Provision of large equipment (e.g., wheelchairs, powered mobility, profiling beds)
- Home modifications
- FEDS (Feeding, Eating, Drinking & Swallowing) assessments
- Adults with new onset dysphagia will need Speech & Language assessment prior to commencing rehabilitation programme.

# Bon Secours Hospital Tralee Rehabilitation Team

## Target patient population examples:

- Neurological conditions- Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Cerebral Vascular Accident, Acquired Brain Injury, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida
- Orthopaedic - Complex polytrauma, post limb amputation
- Rheumatology - Established Rheumatoid Arthritis, Ehlers Danlos Syndrome.

## Location:

Out-patient services will be based in the GAA Centre of Excellence in the village of Currans (V93 A4N6). Hydrotherapy services will be accessed in Munster Technology University. Telehealth and home visits will be provided as appropriate.

Social outings and group activities will be included in the programme to promote patients' holistic wellbeing.

For further information please email:

[rehabteamtralee@bonsecours.ie](mailto:rehabteamtralee@bonsecours.ie)



**Pictured above:** REHAB TEAM: Dr Helena Moore, Consultant Neurologist, Clinical Governance; Karen Daly, Senior Dietician; Rosalie Stack, Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy Services Manager; Siobhan O'Dowd, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist; Sandra Martin, Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist.

**Far left:** Kerry Centre Of Excellence. **Left:** Hydro Pool.

# Bon Secours Hospital Tralee Rehabilitation Team

## BON SECOURS HOSPITAL TRALEE REHAB SERVICE FRAMEWORK



### 1 Overview

An innovative high quality interdisciplinary rehab service for adults 18- 69yrs. This service is supported by the 'Good Help Fund' and is free for patients with complex physical disabilities.

#### 2 Patient Profile

- Adults 18-69 yrs
- Unmet Rehab needs
- Complex physical limitations
- Medically stable
- Engaged, committed & motivated

##### Outside our remit

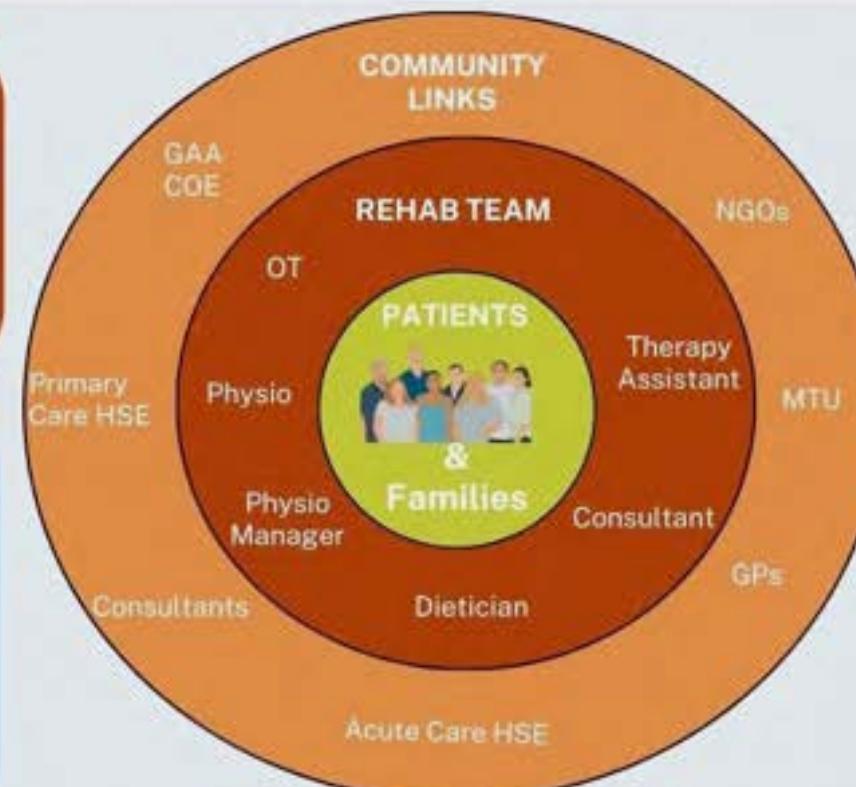
- Provision of large equipment (eg. wheelchairs, powered mobility)
- Home modifications
- FEDS (Feeding, eating, drinking & Swallowing) assessments.

#### 3 Interdisciplinary Team

- OT
- Physio
- Dietician
- Therapy Assistant

#### 4 Community Integration

- Home visits
- Social activities/ outings
- Hydrotherapy
- Volunteering
- Education Seminars
- Networking
- Information & advice
- Alternative therapies



#### 5 Community Links

- MTU
- GAA
- NGOs (eg. MS Society, Parkinson's Ireland)
- HSE

#### 6 Monitor & Evaluate

- Measure outcomes (PROMs/PREMs)
- Track activity
- Goal attainment
- Staff & Service experience

#### 7 Key Principles

- Free Service
- Interdisciplinary
- Patient centred
- Collaborative goal setting
- Independent living
- Community integration
- Focus on holistic & active well-being
- Peer support networks
- Promotion of self-management/self-empowerment

#### 8 How to refer:

- GP – via HealthLink
- Consultants – via referral form

#### 9 Service Location

GAA Centre of Excellence,  
Currans Village, V93 A4N6

#### 10 Contact Us:

Rehabteamtralee@bonsecours.ie  
066 71 49864

Human Dignity

Integrity

Compassion

Stewardship

Service

## **Dental Project - To build on the existing partnership with the HSE Dental Service for Co. Kerry and the successful funding of the dental general anaesthetic service through round one of the Good Help Fund in 2022 by repeating funding for 2023 with a new focus on measuring and improving quality of care.**

**Funding:** In summary, HSE matched the €50,000 granted from the Good Help Fund and the entire 'pot' of €100,000 was used to reduce the waiting lists for children with special needs and for mainstream children.

### **THE PROJECT**

The HSE Dental Service in Co. Kerry has a long tradition of partnership with the Bon Secours Hospital Tralee in delivering dental care under general anaesthetic to children and both organisations worked very successfully together in 2022. The service model involves HSE dental staff attending the Bon Secours Hospital Tralee to deliver the treatment and the service utilises the Bon Secours Hospital's patient accommodation, theatre, anaesthetists, paediatricians, nursing, and support staff. Round one of the Good Help Fund successfully demonstrated that the agreed patient numbers could be delivered on target, so it was agreed that the focus on round two would be to repeat the initiative but with a focus on strengthening governance structures and devising a quality improvement programme for the service in line with international best practice.

The key objectives of this collaborative Project were fourfold:

1. Utilising Good Help Funding, to collaborate with the HSE Kerry Dental Service to clear the current waiting list of 20 children who require comprehensive dental treatment under general anaesthesia due to their special needs.
2. Utilising HSE match funding, to reduce the waiting list for mainstream children in Kerry urgently awaiting tooth extractions under general anaesthetic.
3. To establish a joint BSHS/HSE governance structure for the service.
4. To jointly devise a quality improvement programme for the service based on best international practice.

The project directly engaged the Mission, Vision and Values of the Bon Secours Health System as it served children of the area with special needs, one of the most vulnerable and deserving groups in our society. It also engaged many of the goals in the 2025 Plan but particularly Goal 5: Living our Mission. The collaboration equally

engaged strategic initiatives 12, 13 and 14 in the 2025 Plan (partnership to meet mission, embedding the mission and values model, and extending the ethos of care). It set good example of the power of partnership between organisations with a common goal, in this case the HSE and Bon Secours health system sharing resources to deliver care to one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. The project provided opportunity for promotion of the initiative in order to enhance the reputation of both organisations in our community in Co. Kerry. It built on existing partnerships and work practices so was relatively easy to achieve with funding being the only dependent factor. Existing governance and clinical pathways were strengthened, and a programme of evaluation was put in place to assess the success of the project. A quality-of-care model such as that of Donabedian (2005) was utilised to plan the quality-of-care component. This project involved direct collaboration with the HSE and indirect collaboration with all of the special needs services in Co. Kerry who provide on-going support to the HSE special needs dental service.

At the beginning of this Project in 2023, there

# BSHT Dental Project in partnership with HSE Kerry Dental Service

were approximately 25 children with special needs awaiting treatment, with the longest 'waiter' being 12 months. Similar to 2022 and with the generosity of the Good Help Fund, the initiative involved the Bon Secours Hospital Tralee providing its services for free to 20 children with special needs and the HSE staff attended on 5 days. The list continues to grow and there is always the phenomenon that when a service is more responsive clinicians are more inclined to refer (additional demand is generated, a product of success!).

At the beginning of 2023, there were approximately 120 mainstream children awaiting treatment. With the match funding from the HSE and the treatment of 40 mainstream children, there has been a dramatic improvement in the numbers of mainstream children requiring general anaesthetic dental extraction service in Kerry. While the list is constantly being added to, this is the lowest it has been in the recent memory of the dental service in Kerry!

## OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

1. The most important was the impact on the individual patients and the families and carers who support them. Children with special needs often cannot articulate pain so clearing the existing waiting list would ensure that children are not suffering in silence.
2. Maintaining the service into the future involved the Bon Secours Hospital Tralee and HSE partnering to deliver the highest standard of dental care to children with special needs.
3. The project allowed funding that was being spent on this service to be re-diverted towards another children's waiting list, thereby having a powerful impact on two children's waiting lists. This would not have been possible without Good Help Funding and match HSE Funding.
4. An innovative, visually effective and user-friendly Patient Journey Guide was developed for the benefit of our paediatric patients involved in this Project and their parents. Such a Social Story explains social situations to autistic children and children with special needs. They are used together with other therapies. These stories were developed to help children with special needs learn ways of behaving in social settings. Social stories do this by explicitly pointing out details about the setting and things that typically happen in that setting. Providing this detail and presenting it in a social story makes it easier for children with special needs to understand the journey through the hospital to the operating theatre and the care post operatively. The story can help remove stress and anxiety associated with hospital visits as the story improves understanding.



**Pictured top:** Some members of the Dental team including from left, Karen Loughnane, HSE Dental Nurse; Aoife Ní Chonchubhair, HSE Dental Surgeon; Paul Murnal, HSE Senior Dental Surgeon; Kate Fitzgerald, BSHT Consultant Anaesthetist; Mary Kearney, BSHT ADON Surgical Services. **Above left:** Samantha Axworthy, ADON who co-ordinated the Dental Project. **Above right:** Liz Costello Clinical Nurse Manager and Staff Nurses Noreen Hickey and Mary Leahy.

# BSHT Dental Project in partnership with HSE Kerry Dental Service

5. A Special Care Dentistry Patient & Parent/Guardian Questionnaire was developed to ascertain the quality-of-service children received while patients in Bon Secours Hospital, Tralee. The Quality Managers from both Bon Secours Hospital Tralee and the HSE were invited to our meetings to help with this.
6. A Policy and Procedure for the Paediatric Special Needs Dental General Anaesthetic Service provided at Bon Secours Hospital, Tralee was also written.
7. A joint BSHT/HSE Paediatric Surgical Special Care Dentistry Service Users Group was established, with Terms of Reference agreed, to discuss any issues that may arise and bring forward new ideas for service improvement.
8. A Consent Form tailored to dental services in line with the format used for other disciplines within Bon Secours Hospital Tralee has also been developed.
9. The partnership further enhanced a strong sense of collaboration that currently exists between the HSE Dental Service and Bon Secours Hospital Tralee.
10. The project had a strong impact in terms of the reputation of both organisations in the community.
11. What worked really well was the excellent teamwork and communication between BSHT and HSE teams to deliver the two initiatives, both in terms of organisation and clinical care.

In conclusion, this project has continued to have a powerful reputational impact and has continued to be a shining example of public private partnership for the betterment of our community and a tangible expression of “good help to those in need.”



**Pictured above:** Grainne Rohan, HSE Quality Manager, Dr Patrick Quinn Principal Dental Surgeon, Breda Doyle, Hospital Quality & Risk Manager, Samantha Axworthy, ADON and Liz Costello, CNM.

**Far left:** Theatre Nurses Irene Reardon and Elaine Keane.

**Left:** Mary Kearney, Theatre Services Manager.

Funding  
€69,590

## Orthopaedic, Ophthalmology and Urology Initiatives – to contribute towards addressing healthcare inequity in the community by seeking to directly provide services for those who are underserved.

### THE PROJECT

Bon Secours Hospital Limerick at Barringtons (BSHLaB), as a hospital community, is keen to build on the Bon Secours legacy of care that we have inherited and are privileged to continue. We are committed to provide services to a population we don't normally serve, where there clearly is a need. We are committed to provide the service in our facilities, driven by our values, to our quality standards. We are keen to focus on what we can bring to the table – our existing capability and expertise i.e., doing what we are good at.

Following consultation with key stakeholders, it was decided by the Good Help Steering Group to invite 5 GPs to nominate a total of 5 public patients, of good baseline health status, who had been on the public waiting list for a considerable length of time for an Orthopaedic procedure, and to invite 5 other GPs to nominate a total of 5 public patients, of good baseline health status, who had been on the public waiting list for a considerable length of time for an Ophthalmology. The identified GPs already had a relationship with us in BSHLaB and knew which patients were suitable for our care and not, as regards patients' safety.

It was also decided by the Steering Group to collaborate with Focus Ireland to provide medical treatments for up to 5 of its clients whose health needs align with the treatments available at BSHLaB. Focus Ireland clients face barriers to accessing medical care for a variety of reasons, including long wait times in the public healthcare system. The aim of the proposed initiative was to facilitate interventions to address the most urgent needs of vulnerable communities in Limerick. This would have a long-lasting impact on the health of this underserved population, leading to better quality of life and improving outcomes.

We learned from our experience of the Good Help Fund Initiative in 2022, that patient-selection is critical to the success of any proposal going forward. This was one of our critical learnings from last year's Programme.

Our Orthopaedics and Ophthalmology Service Teams each determined its own criteria as regards assisting GPs and Focus Ireland with appropriate patient identification/selection. To ascertain suitability for consultation regarding surgical appropriateness each GP and Focus Ireland was asked for a medical letter for each potential patient to include the following:



**Pictured above:** Mr Muhammad Akram, Consultant Urologist with Sarah Bezant, Margaret O'Connor, Pat Maher and Debbie Kearney, Theatre Staff Nurses and Healthcare Assistant.



**Pictured above:** Mr Pathma Ramasamy, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and Retinal Specialist.

# BSHLaB Orthopaedic, Ophthalmology and Urology Initiatives

1. precise details of person's current complaint.
2. person's medical history, an up-to-date list of their medications and any specific requirements.
3. person's surgical history and allergy status.
4. person's discharge arrangements.
5. Any other relevant information.

'Surgically appropriate' patients were then seen by the appropriate Consultant, and appointments were subsequently arranged for those approved for the particular procedure by the said Consultant.

What transpired in the course of the year was not what we envisaged. The GPs, we had identified, began to communicate their challenges in having to go through their respective systems to find suitable patients who were on a waiting list for orthopaedic and cataract procedures. Similarly, Focus Ireland front-line staff were facing the challenge that, for all the information they requested, they were limited by what the GPs chose to send back. Consequently, the Good Help Steering Group decided to widen the scope of our reach to rural GPs, as well as GPs involved in the Deep End Practice Group, who work with the most disadvantaged communities in the Limerick and Mid-West Region. Following considerable discussion, we also decided to reach out the Rapid Access Unit in UHL, with whom we have an established working relationship. They sent us a total of ten public

patients with no co-morbidities for treatment, who urgently required TP Biopsies.

With considerable agility we responded as best we could to the purpose of the Good Help Fund, which is to build on the Bon Secours legacy of care that we have inherited. It provides a model to contribute towards addressing healthcare inequity in the communities where we serve. In the end, we provided the following services as part of this year's Good Help Fund Programme in our hospital, driven by our core values, to our quality standards, utilising the skills and services that we are proud of:

- 4 x Orthopaedic Joint Replacements
- 11 x Cataracts
- 10 x TP Biopsies.

The impact on the patients, their families and others who support them was most important to us. The delivery of healthcare procedures to members of our homeless community rendered the lives of the most vulnerable in our community more comfortable, with improved mental and physical health, and will hopefully ultimately prevent the occurrence of more serious health problems in the future.

The willingness of our multi-disciplinary team to participate in this initiative, and to make a difference in the lives of those who are underserved, was noteworthy again this year. Similar to 2022, all patients in this initiative

were again treated by all members of our multi-disciplinary team with the utmost of care, compassion, dignity, and professionalism.



**Pictured top:** Rachel Walsh Staff Nurse, Jeanette O'Leary Healthcare Assistant and Catherine Ryan Clinical Nurse Manager. **Above left:** Dr Siobhan Grimes, Consultant Anaesthetist and Clinical Director. **Above right:** Professor Eric Masterson, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon.

# BSHD Good Help Fund Project Report 2023

Sharon Morrow, CEO; Mary Houston, Business Manager; Alan Burke, Head of Mission

## Background

- Positive experience of Good Help projects in 2022.
- Opening of an AMAU service in BSHD in early 2023.
- BSHD-embedded Mental Health First Aid Trainers.
- Two projects identified:
  - AMAU Swift Access Pathway.
  - Delivery of Mental Health First Aid Training.
- Benefit to patients, local GPs, BSHD staff, public hospitals, local sporting organisation.
- Funding grant: **€52,500**

## AMAU Project Scoping

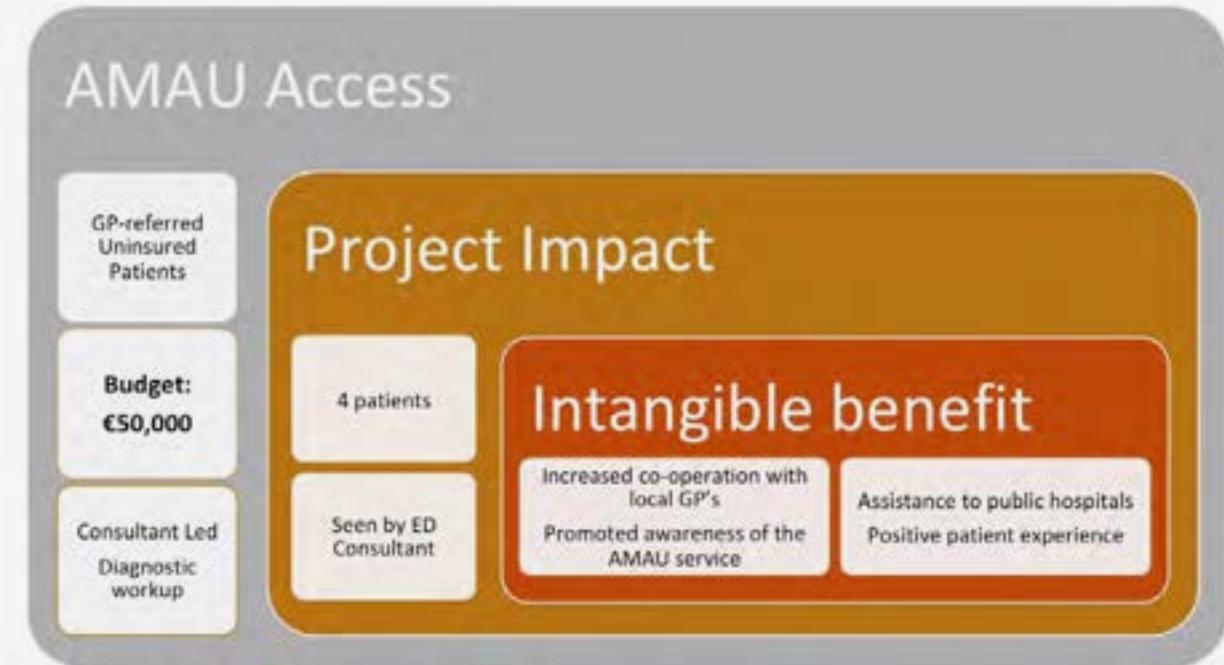
- Assessment of AMAU capacity to accept patients through this particular pathway.
- Co-operation of Stakeholders:
  - Consultants.
  - Referring GPs.
  - AMAU Staff.
- Establishment of clear patient selection criteria.
- Price modelling.



- Practical operationalisation within the context of a recently established service.

## 2023 Overall Learning

- Establishing a connection with referring GPs takes time – better to have focused on one practice.
- The unpredictability of AMAU capacity influenced when Good Help patients could be cared for.
- Consultants were eager to support the initiative.
- Smaller number than estimated; but good project to try out – good learning.
- Mental Health Fist Aid training in the community is much needed and appreciated.
- Projects are a source of pride for the hospital.



## Mental Health First Aid Training



**Pictured left:** The AMAU Care Team who provided care to patients admitted through the Good Help Fund pathway.

# Good Help Projects – Bon Secours Galway 2023

## Mental Health First Aid

### Good Help to Service Providers

#### Mental Health First Aid Training

Three staff are trained as MHFA facilitators.

We offered our charity partners MHFA training courses for their staff.

To Provide MHFA training to those who serve the underserved on our community.

To enhance our relationship with local charities and offer an opportunity for those staff to engage with others.

#### What is Mental Health First Aid?

Two day facilitated programme.

Under auspices of St. John of God.

To enable people to identify mental health issues and appropriately intervene to guide people to the help available.

Topics include: Depression, Psychosis, Addiction, Anxiety, Panic Attacks, Suicide.

Bon Secours have embedded trainers in all sites.



#### What did we achieve?

In 2023 we offered two MHFA two-day sessions (May and October).

Two sessions in Connacht Hotel with local charities, 20 people at each session.

COPE Galway, Galway Simon, CROI, Galway and Mayo Hospice, Secondary and Primary Teachers, Hopespace, Act for Meningitis.

#### What did we learn?

The programme is valued and appreciated.

The mix of charities and staff worked well.

HR offering to train more trainers.

People have used the skills learned.

#### Feedback

Kept me engaged, interactive, beneficial in personal life and work.

Extremely interesting, so well presented, factual and very informative.

I now feel a lot more confident if I was in a situation to help someone.



# Good Help Projects – Bon Secours Galway 2023

## Radiology Project

In conjunction with COPE Galway and Galway Family Doctors.

### Summary

Building on last year's programme, we have broadened this service and a greater number of GP's have engaged.

This initiative provided a system to be used at the discretion of the GPs for those most vulnerable to avail of specific services at Bon Secours Galway.

### What we achieved

There were some very significant findings for patients that would not otherwise have been found.

The service has broadened from Ultrasounds to a wide range of diagnostic services and now echos have been included.

Need to continue to communicate service within appropriate parameters and be flexible with what we offer.

Staff perceived the outreach as a practical example of our mission in action.



## Physiotherapy

Already a relationship with Galway Simon and Cope Galway.

Seventy-Six 1-1 treatments offered under Good Help.

Excellent response to this service.

### Evaluation and Looking forward

Currently, clients are seen on a 1-1 basis.

Group sessions would mean a greater number of people could be met.

Balance Classes.

Strength and Conditioning Classes.

Bone Health Classes.

### Testimonials from patients

1. Client who has CT abdomen: significant blockage in aorta affecting blood flow to kidneys found & could be acted on immediately. Otherwise, there would have been a delay of months for scan & treatment which would have had serious consequences. He said: 'staff couldn't have been nicer to me & I am so grateful for the speed of service - I think it has saved my life'.
2. A physio client: 'I felt I was listened to when explaining my issue and the physio has improved my pain level hugely'.
3. Client who had an echo: 'I felt I wouldn't fit in there but the staff made me feel welcome & the same as every other patient which doesn't happen me often'.

# Community Initiative Funding Programmes



# A Breakfast Club at Hartstown Community School



Funding  
€3,626

During a PE class on the importance of nutrition, the PE teacher at Hartstown Community School enquired how many students had had breakfast before coming to school. It became apparent from the response, and from further enquires, that breakfast in their own home was not possible for many students due to economic hardship. The PE teacher, Ms Hartney, and the School Chaplain, Mr McGroarty, set up a breakfast club in the school which is supported by the donation of fresh fruit, cereals and bagels from nearby suppliers. Having heard about the Bon Secours Community Initiative Fund, they applied for funds to purchase

equipment such as a fridge, toasters, smoothie machine, dishwasher – all to enhance the club's facilities and meet the demand. To ensure that no student is stigmatised for needing to use the breakfast club, the space is promoted as a place where all are welcome to enjoy their breakfast. BSHD was delighted to support the school in this way and Alan Burke, Head of Mission visited the school to meet with all involved and to present the donation on behalf of the hospital. He was met by Ms Hartney, Mr McGroarty, Ms Ryan (Principal) and Fr Dan Joe O'Mahanoy of the School Board of Management.

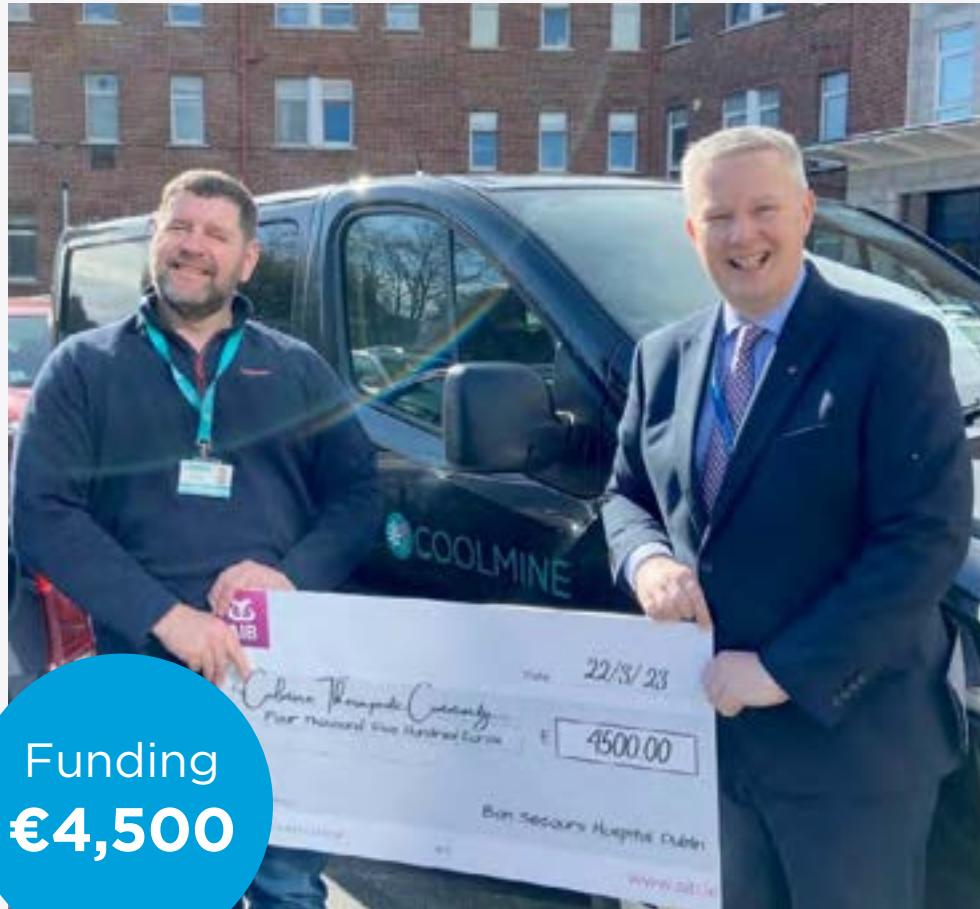
# The Caring and Sharing Association



Funding  
€7,000

From its Community Initiative Fund, BSHD provided a donation of €7,000 to CASA - Caring and Sharing Association. This association, staffed entirely by volunteers, provides a variety of specially tailored social opportunities for people with disability. As a social inclusion programme, the aims of CASA align very well with the core values of Bon Secours, especially our core value of Human Dignity. The donation from BSHD was given to support two projects: the creation of an accessible bathroom in their premises near Malahide; and the annual fundraising concert which is one of their principal fundraising events each year. Anne Moore, Volunteer Co-Ordinator with CASA came to BSHD to collect the donation in person and to offer the gratitude of all involved with CASA.

# BSHD Supports Coolmine Therapeutic Community



Funding  
€4,500

Coolmine Therapeutic Community provides a range of drug and alcohol addiction services through day and residential programmes. The aim of the treatment programmes is to help people overcome addiction and lead a fulfilled and productive life. BSHD provided a donation to support the upgrade of an education room in one of the Coolmine facilities. The room is used to teach a range of life and professional skills to people availing of treatment programmes. BSHD also repurposed 32 chairs and presented them to Coolmine Therapeutic Services for use in various counselling, waiting and recreation spaces.

**Pictured above:** Tom Kearns, Residential Services Manager receiving the donation from Alan Burke, Head of Mission.

## Feed our Homeless at Harvest Time

At the end of the agricultural harvest, when all the produce has been gathered in off the land, the turf is home from the bog and the hay for animals has been saved, traditionally, people give thanks to God for the security provided by the harvest. Food security has become a major concern in many parts of the world and, indeed, for families and individuals within Ireland who are struggling to make ends meet. At the same time, a whole new category of need has emerged in recent times, that of securing and maintaining a home, with the rising cost of home energy. With those concerns in mind, the Pastoral Care Team reached out to the Finglas based charity called "Feed our Homeless" to learn more about responding to those needs in our locality. Feed Our Homeless provides over 200 food hampers on a weekly basis to individuals and families in food poverty or in danger of homelessness. In addition, they run a nightly soup kitchen in various parts of Dublin city, and they also provide education programmes in schools on the theme of poverty and homelessness. The volunteers at Feed Our Homeless shared their experience of caring for the homeless and those in serious financial need. We were humbled to hear of the difference some basic food supplies can make to families and individuals. As a result, a collection of

food and personal hygiene products was organised in the hospital over the month of October – the month of harvest thanksgiving – whereby hospital staff could donate the essential items needed to fill the food hampers. The hospital also donated the cost of 80 sleeping bags, which represents about one month's worth of supply. We have decided that, for the coming three years, we will repeat the harvest thanksgiving food appeal in support of Feed Our Homeless and provide an opportunity for hospital staff to make a real difference in the lives of persons in serious food and economic poverty.



**Pictured above:** Belinda Walsh, Pastoral Care Team, delivering staff donations to Feed our Homeless in Finglas.

## BSHD Sponsors Ballymun Kickhams Children's Events



Sharon Morrow, CEO and Mary Houston, Business Manager were delighted to present a donation from the Community Initiative Fund to two of the greatest Dublin Senior and Ballymun Kickhams Club players John Small and James McCarthy.

The donation was provided to Ballymun Kickhams so that two social inclusion projects, with children at the heart of both, could be delivered during the summer.

The first project was a summer camp for 50 children with additional physical and intellectual needs while the other project was a children's fund day that attracted over 500 children and their families.

Using sport and fun activities to break down social barriers and to build up the bonds of local community is something that BSHD could really get behind, and we were delighted to partner with Ballymun Kickhams on this occasion to achieve those goals.

The presentation of the donation occurred while John and James were busy with their preparations for the All Ireland senior football campaign, but they still found time to come to the hospital in person to collection it and to support the events on the day.

## Therapeutic Garden at the Rutland Centre

Funding  
€2,329



Offering addiction rehabilitation services from their premises in Knocklyon, Co Dublin the Rutland Centre has been in existence since 1978. Services include both residential and outpatient treatment and rehabilitation programmes, as well as aftercare and outreach initiatives. Addiction services are much in demand and the Rutland Centre has been to the fore of service provision in this area for several decades. BSHD was delighted to support the Rutland Centre by donating the cost of the development of a therapeutic garden for the benefit of persons undertaking a residential programme. As a hospital committed to the An Taisce Green Campus programme, BSHD recognises the value of connection with nature for overall wellbeing and, most especially, as an aid to recovery. Developing a resource like this will provide space for people to use as they need to during their residential treatment programme, affording a space for refection and recreation.

# Emotional Understanding and Resilience Training at Mountjoy Prison



Funding  
**€8,500**

Ronan Conway is a specialist in helping individuals and teams develop emotional resilience. He has studied the impact of trauma on personal thought and behaviour processes. Ronan developed a programme specifically for prisoners in the hope of helping them to better understand the impact of trauma on their lives and its connection to their behaviours. BSHD funded Ronan to deliver this 12-week personal and emotional development programme to 18 prisoners in Mountjoy Prison as part of their pre-release programme. The programme was so successful that Ronan was invited back to deliver it to other prisoners.

# Sonairte – National Ecology Centre



Funding  
**€5,041**

BSHD provided funding to Sonairte to engage the services of a horticulturalist to assist with developing their cultivation programme. The funding allowed for this service for one day per week for a year. Sonairte provides immersive educational opportunities to groups and individuals that promote ecology and biodiversity awareness and practices. Because BSHD is part of the An Taisce Green Campus programme, we were delighted to provide this support.

Funding  
**€2,500**

Following the flooding disaster that occurred in Libya BSHD donated to the Irish Red Cross appeal as a gesture of support in recognition of the members of the hospital staff community with links to Libya.



Funding  
**€2,000**

Crosscare is an agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin providing various social supports including support services for migrant and refugee persons, people who are homeless or in danger of becoming

homeless, and other welfare services. This donation was given specifically for the refugee services that Crosscare provides.



## Resource Café – Speire Nua



**Speire Nua**  
Damien Quinn

Spéire Nua supports ex-offenders that struggle to secure opportunities so that they can build their lives after their time in the criminal justice sector.

'Business for Social Impact'  
Incubator Programme

**Funding**  
**€4,612**

Damien Quinn established Speire Nua Services to support newly released prisoners in their efforts to find and maintain paid employment. He has developed various programmes that support people reintegrate into the community. Damien spearheaded the drive to establish a drop-in resource café where people could immediately access some support services in an informal environment, and where many of the support programmes could be based. BSHD provided funding for some of the equipment needed for the café.

## Focus Ireland

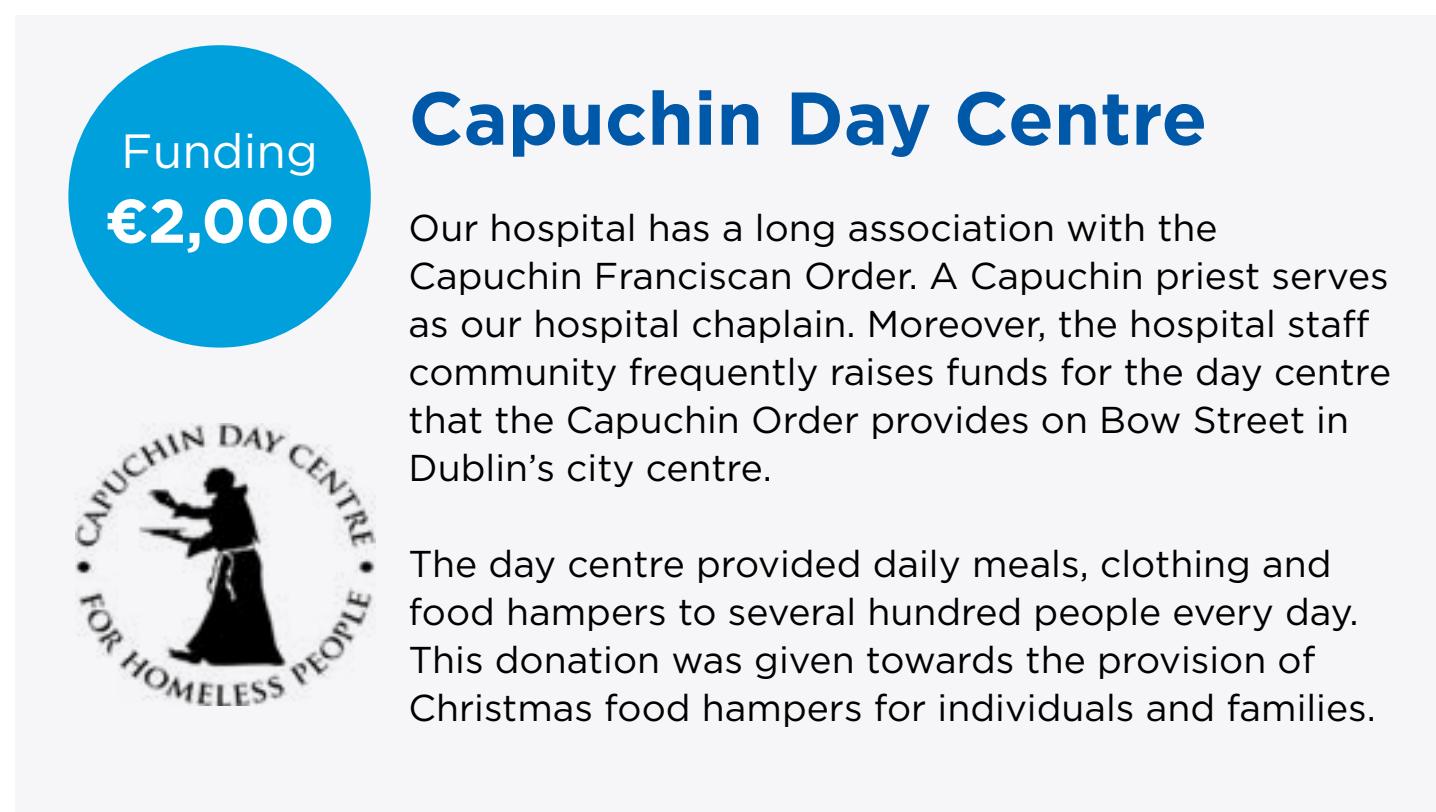


**Funding**  
**€2,000**

**Focus**  
Ireland

A donation was made to Focus Ireland to support their work with homeless persons. Tackling homelessness and its causes is a significant challenge in Dublin, as in many other parts of the country. BSHD, through its support of several charities in the homeless services area,

seeks to witness to our core value of Human Dignity. This year, the hospital donated to the value of €10,000 to charities working to alleviate homelessness and associated poverty, including this donation to Focus Ireland.



**Capuchin Day Centre**

Our hospital has a long association with the Capuchin Franciscan Order. A Capuchin priest serves as our hospital chaplain. Moreover, the hospital staff community frequently raises funds for the day centre that the Capuchin Order provides on Bow Street in Dublin's city centre.

The day centre provided daily meals, clothing and food hampers to several hundred people every day. This donation was given towards the provision of Christmas food hampers for individuals and families.

# The Ballybane Singing Club

Funding  
**€1,000**



This singing club provides much needed social support to the elderly and those living alone in the Ballybane community. In 2023 year, they were teaching the ukulele!

A testimonial from the club:  
“Firstly, on behalf of the Ballybane Singing Circle, I would like to pass on our thanks for the donation of €1,000.

Our singing circle attracts a mix of older people and people with additional needs, along with a small number of members in mid-life. They come from Castlepark, Ballybane and Mervue, as well as some from other communities on the east side of the city. The ethos is inclusive and welcomes members regardless of singing ability. The singing sessions, held in the SCCUL cafe, are delivered by a qualified music therapist, which contributes to the positive and mindful way individuals are encouraged to engage and benefit from singing in community with others.

We also provide break-out classes in the Ballybane Community Centre for people to learn ukulele, which is affordable and fun. This attracted 8 budding musicians, mainly but not exclusively drawn from the singing circle. We plan to put a call-out to new members for a beginners ukulele course this year.

Thanks to Bons Secours community funding, we have been able to maintain the membership contribution at €2 per session. This affordable cost is significant in maintaining weekly attendance averaging 19 out of 24 at our weekly singing session in the SCCUL cafe.

Bons Secours funding was used to pay the following:

Music Therapist funding: **€800**

Ukulele teacher: **€200**

In December we were delighted to perform some songs and Christmas carols at a lunch in the Connaught Hotel, for older people from Ballybane, Westside and Ballinfoyle areas.”

# Sponsorship of Hospice Climb Croagh Patrick, 17th June 2023

Funding  
€5,000



Bon Secours Galway was the main sponsor for the annual Galway Hospice Reek Climb, launched by Jack Carth (Connacht Rugby), which included staff participation and a memorial service at the Chapel on the summit. We are delighted to continue our close working association with our neighbours at Galway Hospice.

The Galway Hospice wrote:

"In 2023, Galway Hospice were delighted to welcome the Bons Secours onboard as the official partner of their Croagh Patrick Climb.

The Croagh Patrick Climb has taken place annually for many years and last year's event was very successful despite having to reschedule due to a weather warning, the rescheduled climb took place on Sunday 2nd July. We were delighted to have over 150 people register for the climb including a fantastic group from the Bons Secours. We also introduced a beautiful remembrance service at the top of the reek as many people climb in memory of their loved ones, it gave them a time to reflect and remember.

By having the Bons Secours onboard as the sponsors of the Croagh Patrick Climb meant that any funds that

were raised by all participants were invested into the hospice services provided throughout the city & county. Galway Hospice cared for over 1,000 patients throughout 2023 through their Inpatient Unit in Renmore; Community Palliative Care Service and Day Care Service.

The support of the Bons Secours and the Croagh Patrick Climb participants helped to support these patients and their families throughout 2023."



# Hand in Hand Cancer Charity

Funding  
€5,000



This charity provides practical support to families who have children undergoing cancer treatment. This charity began here in Galway and is now operating nationwide, providing healthy meal options for families.

Feedback from Hand in Hand:

"I would like to update you on how Hand in Children's Cancer Charity were able to allocate your generous donation of €5,000 that we received in 2023.

Hand in Hand supports families in Ireland with a childhood cancer diagnosis by providing practical supports such as household cleaning, laundry services, family meal deliveries, play therapy and counselling throughout active treatment. These behind the scenes services are of huge value and essential to families who are navigating hospital visits and stays. Hand in Hand strives to alleviate the burden of cleaning and day to day chores so families can spend more time concentrating on the important things,

Your donation allowed us to fund over 200 household cleaning hours to families in Ireland with a childhood cancer diagnosis. This makes a real difference to the lives of parents.

Sincere appreciation for your donation in 2023 and helping us to make a positive, lasting difference to families affected by childhood cancer."

# HOPE Foundation Kolkata Project

Funding  
€1,000



BSHG donated €1,000 from our fund for the work of the Hope Foundation in Kolkata, which will provide an EMG (Electromyography) & NCV (Nerve Conduction Velocity) instrument for the HOPE Hospital in Kolkata.

The Hope Foundation (HOPE) is dedicated to promoting the protection of street & slum children in Kolkata, and their families and communities. HOPE works to effect immediate and lasting change in their lives. Since 1999, HOPE has impacted the lives of over 3 million people.

HOPE Hospital, established in 2008 in Kolkata, operates on an ability-to-pay basis; and the aim is to ensure the Hospital's sustainability. It caters to people from both above and below the poverty line. Lower middle-class patients pay a subsidised rate and find the rates for diagnostic tests and surgeries to be reasonable compared to privately run hospitals. Poor/below poverty line patients are supported by HOPE or other NGOs, who pay the costs of their treatment.

HOPE Hospital works closely with 90 local charities operating in Kolkata and surrounding districts. These charities all face the same problem: the inability to admit patients to State hospitals, often due to their street living, lack of identity documents and family economic instability.

This situation is frequently a deterrent for patients to seek medical assistance when in need. Moreover, a charity must provide an Ayah (male/female attendant) to the State hospital when admitting a patient to care for the patient's daily needs.

These charities do not face such issues with HOPE Hospital, where every patient is welcomed with dedicated treatment. The Hospital in turn provides relief to the charities who know that patients will be provided high-quality, holistic and state-of-the-art medical care from our varied departments. HOPE and the charities work in harmony.

After HOPE Hospital has treated a homeless patient, they are restored to suitable residential care services run by HOPE or other charities throughout Kolkata, for further rehabilitation and holistic care. The charities support HOPE to ensure that no vulnerable individual is returned to live on the streets after treatment at HOPE Hospital. The mutual understanding, cooperation and sharing of facilities between different organisations ensures that HOPE Hospital delivers the most effective and comprehensive care and rehabilitation to individuals who live below the poverty line on the streets of Kolkata and further afield, a service that, time and time again they have been so grossly denied.

# HOPESPACE Bereavement Support Charity

Funding  
€5,000



This is a new charity based in the Galway area, which provides a listening service to children and young people (from 4-17 years of age, who have been impacted by grief caused by bereavement.

Feedback from their Board of Trustees:

“The funding is being used to pay for the cost of a series of free public talks which run under the title Support Strategies for Supporting Grieving Children and Young People . The first one was held in October 2023 and attracted over 80 attendees. We issued an open invitation to parents, grandparents, guardians, teachers, health and social care professionals, youth workers, sports club coaches and all who support children and young people struggling with loss. The next talk in the series will take place on 20 March and we expect that it will attract as large or larger attendance.

We are also using the funding to design a workshop on the topic of Designing and Implementing a School Bereavement Policy. This is being done in collaboration with local schools. This workshop is scheduled to take place in April, and we will invite representatives of all first and second-level school communities in Galway city and county to participate in the workshop.



Funding has enabled us to extend our outreach to schools, particularly local schools and youth services. We have visited some individual schools, and these visits are ongoing. The purpose of these visits are to explain the HopeSpace service to the schools and ask them to encourage parents and guardians to contact us if they need help for children and young people struggling with loss.

How the initiative has benefited those in need in the community:

- More people who need the HopeSpace service are aware that it exists and know how to access it.
- The number of people who are using the service has increased.
- Schools are becoming increasingly aware that there is a free resource available locally that will help them to support children and young people struggling with loss.

We want to record our thanks to BSHS Community Initiative Funding Steering Group for the funding and putting their trust in what we are doing. It has enabled us to bring the HopeSpace service to more people and for this we are incredibly grateful.”

# BSHC Supports UCC Teddy Bear Hospital

Funding  
€1,000



“Teddy Bear Hospital” is an annual event run by medical students in UCC for junior and senior infants from schools all over Cork. UCC’s Teddy Bear Hospital was attended by over 750 children and their “sick” teddies. The medical students helped to “diagnose” and “treat” the sick teddies by giving them x-rays, bandages, injections, casts etc. The main goal of this event is to reduce the stigma and fear that small children may have around hospital settings. By having fun with the “teddy doctors” (the medical students) the children learn to feel safe and secure around real medical professionals. The children also enjoyed fun activities including face-painting, jigsaw making, music and dancing and a teddy exercise session.

**Pictured above:** Members of UCC Medical Society expressing thanks to the Cork Hospital for its donation of plasters, bandages and other medical supplies, together with a grant of €1,000.

# Bon Secours Cork Supports Goal Syria Earthquake Appeal

Funding  
€1,000



**Pictured above:** Harry Canning, CEO, Mary-Pat Corridan, BSHC Values Ambassador, Jim Costello, GOAL and Dwayne Gavin, Head of Mission.

In February 2023, a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the region of southern Turkey and northern Syria. This natural disaster only further compounded the plight of a war-torn Syrian population plunged into economic disaster and continuous disease outbreaks. A donation of €8,000 from the Cork Hospital was used immediately by GOAL to purchase and distribute emergency and post emergency essential supplies including tents, blankets, Water Supply, Health management. This fund also helped



Funding  
€2,000

## BSHC sponsors 'Play in Pink Day' (Cork Golf Club) for Breast Cancer Research



In 2023, the ladies branch of Cork Golf Club chose Play in Pink as their charity for an annual golf day. All funds raised went directly Breast Cancer Research, based in University Hospital Galway. The branch aimed to raise as much funds as possible for this very worthy cause which has impacted many of its own members over the years. Thanks to a donation of €2,000 from Bon Secours Hospital, Cork, the branch was able to purchase pink golf poles and flags for all 18 greens. A great day was had by all as Cork Golf Club went "Bons Pink" for this very worthy charity on June 1st 2023!

**Pictured above:** Members of Cork Golf Club at 'Play in Pink Day' for Breast Cancer Research.

Funding  
€15,000



**Pictured above:** An ecstatic group of students celebrating the news that their hens will be returning!

## Down Syndrome Cork 'Field of Dreams' Sustainability Initiative

Situated in Curaheen, on the outskirts of Cork City, Down Syndrome Cork 'Field of Dreams' began in 2017. The centre offers bespoke learning and environmental programmes for adults with Down syndrome. "Field of Dreams" boasts of a training room, commercial grade kitchen with café area, 3 polytunnels, a market garden, sensory garden, remembrance garden, fruit garden, orchard, covered courtyard and recreational areas. A few years

ago, a care farm element was introduced to the site, with the introduction of sheep and chickens, which were a huge hit with the students. Sadly, the chicken coop succumbed to an attack from mink and all of the hens were lost. Thanks to this much needed funding from BSHC, the centre will now rebuild a bigger and better secure hen coop and restock it with new hens. This will greatly enhance learning opportunities for the students whilst also stocking the Farm Shop.

Funding  
€15,000



**Pictured above:** Dwayne Gavin, (Mission BSHC), Paddy Mc Carthy (Chairperson), Julie Murphy (CEO) Norma Gayer (Vice-Chairperson), Harry Canning, (CEO BSHC) and William O'Mahony (Vice-Chairperson).

## Donation of €15,000 from BSHC to Westgate Foundation

Located in Ballincollig, Co Cork, Westgate Foundation is a community based not-for-profit charitable organisation which provides a wide range of support services for older people in the Ballincollig and mid-Cork area. Among the services offered are a Day-Care Programme, Social Activities, Meals-on-Wheels and a Transport service. A grant of €15,000 from the Cork Hospital Community Outreach Fund enabled Westgate Foundation to proceed with the purchase of a much needed 8-seater wheelchair accessible minibus. The minibus will ensure transport for service users from rural areas who have no access to cars or public transport.

Funding  
€10,000



## BSHC Golf Classic for Cúnamh Cancer Support Group



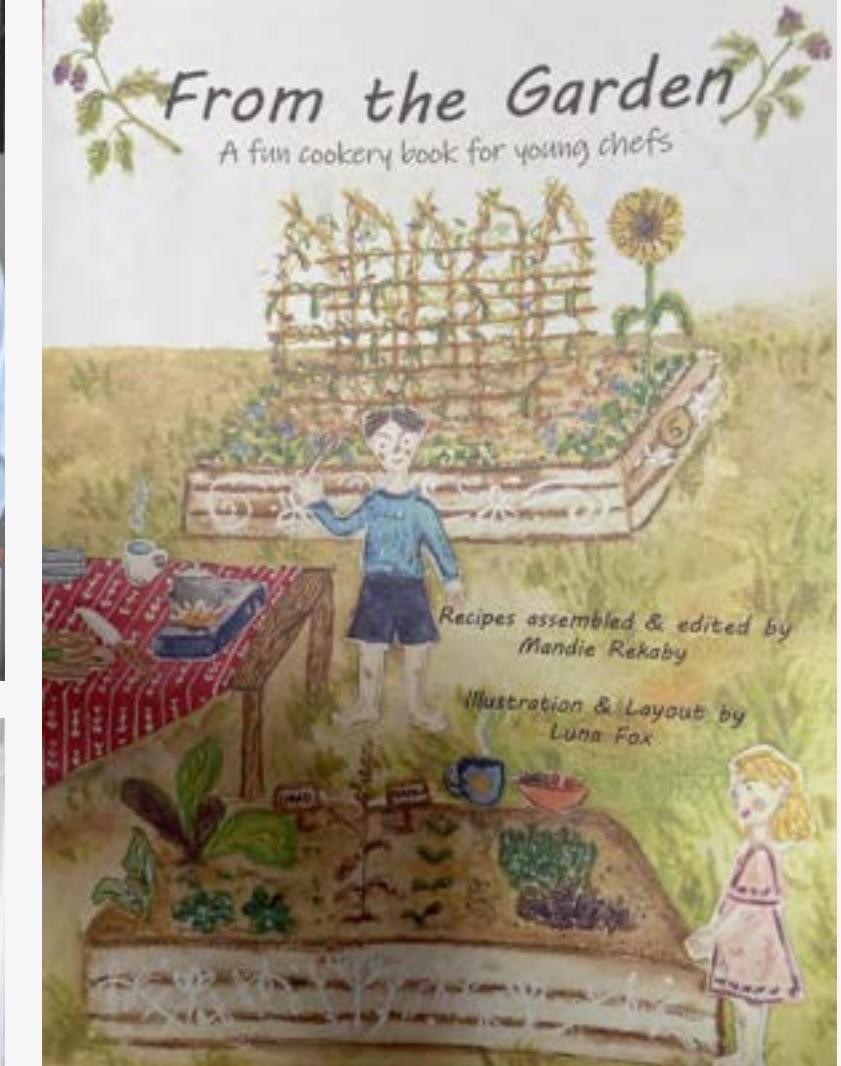
On 1st June 2023, Bon Secours Cork held a very successful and enjoyable Golf Classic at the Lee Valley Golf Club, Cork in aid of Cúnamh Cancer Support Group. Founded in 1996, Cúnamh is a voluntary organisation which aims to support oncology patients at Bon Secours Hospital Cork. This year's BSHC Golf Classic, together with the support of BSHC Community Outreach Fund, raised €10,000.

# Bon Secours Cork Supports Togher Community Garden

Funding  
€2,500



In recent years, Togher Community Garden garden has become a real focal point for the local community and a forum through which to learn about sustainability, biodiversity and cultivating delicious food as well as enhancing our wellness and mental health in the outdoors. Thanks to a grant of €2,500 from the BSHC Community Outreach Fund, the Togher Community Garden Committee were able to purchase much needed equipment, including water transport trolleys. This funding will also make possible the publication of a second book of recipes and gardening tips for adults and children by the Garden Community. As a result of our partnership with Togher Community Gardens, the hospital was delighted to welcome Maria Young from Green Spaces for Health, Cork, to present an excellent “Lunch-and-Learn” session at BSHC in June to explore the connection between closeness to nature and positive Mental Health.



**Pictured top:** At Togher Community Garden are Maria Young, Green Spaces for Health with Alice O'Callaghan and Dwayne Gavin from BSHC.

**Pictured above:** Maria Young with some of the staff in attendance at our June Lunch-and-Learn Seminar.

# €10,000 BSHC Donation to ‘Conservation at Crann’ Project in Kanturk

Funding  
€10,000



**Above left:** Dwayne Gavin and Ber Mulcahy (BSHC) on a visit to Conservation at Crann with Kate Jarvey from the Crann Centre.  
**Above right:** Presentation of €10,000 to Mr Padraig Mallon and Evelyn Power (Crann Centre) by Mr Harry Canning, CEO.

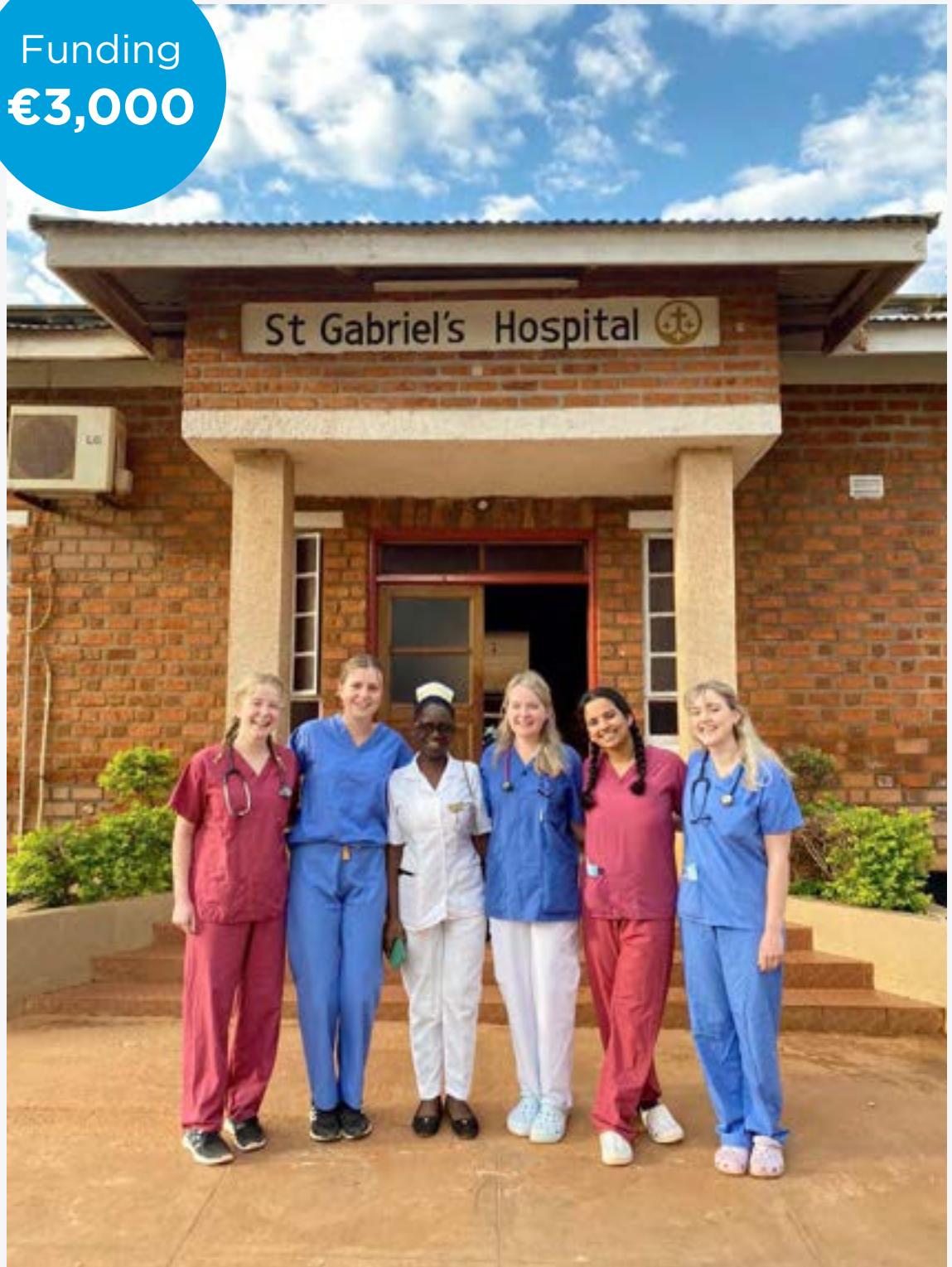
Based in Ballincollig, Cork, The Crann Centre has as its mission the implementation of an evidence based, best practice Model of Care that delivers meaningful outcomes for children, adults, and families, living with neuro-physical disabilities. In recent years, the BSHC Community Initiative Fund has supported the construction of a purpose build playground for Crann’s service users and their families. This year, we were delighted to support the centre in their exciting ‘Conservation at Crann’ initiative. “Conservation at Crann” is an accessible, inclusive, living conservation site near Kanturk, Co. Cork and is especially designed for families to experience and enjoy nature. It features a range of trails, natural woodland, wildflower fields and riversides. As Tadhg, the father of one

of Crann’s service users commented: “we visit the Conversation area regularly. It is a huge asset to the people of North Cork and Kerry. A chance for the whole family to connect with nature and just get some time outside in our local community without worrying about inaccessible paths or facilities”.

Thanks to a €10,000 grant from the BSHC Community Outreach Fund, Crann was finally in a position to complete the installation of permanent changing-room/restroom facilities on the site. This was described as a “game-changer” for service users and their families, who can visit the site and enjoy its natural beauty with the assurance of this essential facility in close proximity.

# BSHC Supports UCC Surgeon Noonan Society

Funding  
€3,000



**Pictured above:** Medical students sponsored by BHSC who participated in the Surgeon Noonan Society 2023 Programme at St. Gabriel's Hospital, Namitete, Malawi.



The UCC Surgeon Noonan Society is a registered charity whose aim is to provide medical aid to Africa, through fundraising and volunteerism. The charity is run voluntarily by 4th year medical students from UCC. Each year, the goal is to raise over 100,000 euro, all of which goes directly towards underfunded rural hospitals in Sub-Saharan Africa. The money raised by our fundraising is brought to the hospitals by medical students each summer. Each June, students travel to hospitals in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia, bringing with them much needed medical supplies and financial aid. These students then work voluntarily in the hospitals for four weeks. The finance provided to these hospitals not only serves as maintenance funding, but also subsidizes larger projects. Examples of such recent developments undertaken with the aid of the Surgeon Noonan Society include the building of new wards, a surgical unit and the introduction of an HIV Outreach Clinic.

In 2023, Bon Secours Hospital Cork donated €3,000 from the Community Outreach Fund to sponsor 10 volunteer students vaccination programmes prior to travelling to Africa.

Funding  
€1,000

## Cork Hospital Supports Cancer Connect



Cancer Connect is an important Community Service for people travelling to Cork City for Cancer treatments. Organising trips to radiotherapy, chemotherapy, Consultant visits, scans and various other cancer related appointments can be exhausting and hugely stressful for patients. Cancer Connect aims to alleviate these pressures with a team of volunteers who drive patients every day from their homes to hospital and back home again. All funding allows Cancer Connect to co-ordinate transport across County Cork and ensure that nobody struggles to access treatment.

**Pictured above:** Brian Ellis and his son Jack presenting a cheque on behalf of BSHC to Cancer Connect, Bantry.

Funding  
€4,000

## BSHC Supports Cork Penny Dinners



Cork Penny Dinners is a registered charity in Cork city whose objective is to provide a hot meal to those in need and to offer support to homeless people every day. Its services are free of charge to all who come to the centre. In the words of Cork Penny Dinners founder and CEO, "Our door is always open, we never judge, we serve. Sometimes a cup of tea, a handshake or a friendly chat can go a long way towards beating the loneliness and isolation that is a big issue for many that come our way". The Organisation relies on the generosity of its benefactors and on the dedication and kindness of its volunteers, who come from all walks of life and many different nationalities. In 2023, Bon Secours Cork donated €4,000 in support of Cork Penny Dinners.

**Pictured above:** Catriona Twomey, CEO Cork Penny Dinners with Dwayne Gavin and Karina Healy from Bon Secours, Cork.

Funding  
€1,000



## BSHC Support for The HOPE Foundation

Founded in Kolkata in 1999, the Hope Foundation is a registered charity working with children living on the streets and the slums of Kolkata. The charity works to free children and poor families from lives of poverty, hunger, physical and sexual abuse. The HOPE Foundation operates over 60 projects in the city with the objective of advancing its mission to achieving “a world where it should never hurt to be a child”. Each year, in an effort foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the challenges that

children meet every day on the streets and in the slums of Kolkata, the HOPE Foundation offers School Immersion programmes for students from secondary schools all over Ireland. Students travel to Kolkata and experience at first hand the work that HOPE Foundation volunteers do in an effort to support street children and break the cycle of poverty and abuse through education, the provision of life skills and vocational training, Healthcare and Nutrition and Emergency responses.

**Pictured above:** Dwayne Gavin, Head of Mission presenting a cheque for the HOPE Foundation to Ava O'Sullivan, daughter of a BSHC staff member. In April Ava travelled to Kolkata with a group of secondary students from Ballincollig as part of a HOPE Foundation School Immersion trip.

Funding  
€4,000



## BSHC Fundraiser for the Irish Cancer Society

In October 2023, we organised a 3 day “Take Away Coffee” fundraiser in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. Huge thanks to Bridget Kearney, HCA, St. Brigid’s Ward for all the hard work and time she invested in the initiative. Thanks to the generosity of the staff, visitors to the hospital and the support of the Community Outreach Fund, we raised over €4,000 for this very worthy charity.

**Pictured above:** Maeve Griffin, principal and other staff members of Scoil Maria Assumpta School, Ballypheahane, who received a grant of €1,000 from the BSHC Community Outreach Fund for a new AED Heartsaver defibrillator.

# Comm Outreach – Le Cheile Africa

Funding  
€1,000



This Article by John Mulcahy, BSHC who travelled to Kenya as a volunteer from 1-12 November 2023 with his 16 year old son Eoghan. Mission supported fundraising event in Hospital during the year and Comm Outreach Fund gave €1,000 at Christmas to Le Cheile Africa

“Our recent volunteering trip to Le Cheile Africa in Kenya saw us open up some recently developed projects. Rainbow Haven was funded by the Care Village and it is a building which is a safe haven for the victims of domestic abuse which sadly is a huge issue in rural Africa. A Soup Kitchen was also opened and it serves almost 1500 meals a week. It was funded by a raffle in the hospital restaurant supported by staff, management and the Sisters, and also by the hospital donating 14 van loads of waste scrap metal which was sold on to a local

metal recycling company, along with friends of staff and families from the greater Cork area who helped with donations of scrap metal. The hospital also donated to the Christmas Food Appeal which was used to give families food hampers.

While we were on the ground in Kenya we carried out food deliveries to the local families. We also purchased mattresses, bed clothes and whatever else the families needed, helped in the soup kitchen with the kids in the day-care centre, planted fields of tomatoes, and helped give out water.

All this was made possible through the support of everyone at the hospital. Volunteers are always welcome. Check out social media pages for more information.”

Go raibh maith agat / Asante Sana.



Funding  
€10,000



**Pictured above:** Presenting a donation of €10,000 to Bishop Fintan Gavin; Fr Dwayne Gavin, Fr Jack Twomey and Andrew McCarthy.

Young people from all over the world gather annually to celebrate their Christian faith. In 2023, organisers said that there were 354,000 pilgrims from at least 143 countries who attended the event. Taking place in Lisbon, Portugal, Bon Secours Health System were pleased to support the Diocese of Cork and Ross in bringing a group to the event.



**Pictured above:** Andrew McCarthy, BSHS Chief Sponsorship & Mission Officer, category judge, presenting the award during the ceremony in Clonmel.

In 2023 Bon Secours Health System was pleased to act as sponsor for the category of 'Community Volunteer of the Year'. These awards recognise and celebrate community and County Councils working together. They provide a great opportunity to highlight and celebrate the work done within across communities, to reward unsung heroes and recognise the phenomenal contribution they've made to lives and communities.

Funding  
€1,500



## Providing socially inclusive activities for people with autism and their families

Lidl Ireland, Community outreach programs, adult outreach program and we are working closely with local businesses to support them to become autism/sensory friendly.

The Volunteer team that set up and runs ASD Ireland has combined experience of over 30 years and support autistic people and families of people with autism every day. It is independently run by Keith Enright CEO (volunteer) with the support of a board of Directors. The board of Directors is an integral part of the organisation, and they take an active role in the charity by supporting the movement groups, camps, outreach programs and employment programs. The difference in this board is that not only do they provide oversight for the running of the organisation, but they are fully involved in the set up and provision of services.

### THE PROJECT

ASD Ireland's aim is to provide socially inclusive activities and events for autistic people and their families, and to ensure that every member of the autism community is part of an inclusive society. Since 2017 it has

provided support to county councils, private event organisers, schools and hospitals through its community outreach program, which ensures that autistic people and their families can attend events and activities in their community. It supports approximately 30 events annually which have included school sports days in Cork, Limerick, Galway, Sligo, Dublin, Athlone; Large Lego events in Dublin, Cork, Wexford, Galway and Limerick; and supports festivals such as Riverfest, St. Patrick's Festivals and the Waterford Food Festival. The main support it gives is the provision of its mobile sensory room. However, this sensory room is not wheelchair accessible and needs to be changed as ASD Ireland is engaging more and more with autistic people confined to wheelchairs.

This project will not only solve this issue by the purchase of a wheelchair accessible vehicle, but it will also allow ASD Ireland to attend more events to support the autism community with the state-of-the-art mobile sensory bus. This will make the community outreach program fully accessible, which will ensure that the most vulnerable in the autism

community and disadvantaged communities can access support at local/ national events and be included in society. ASD Ireland will be collaborating with the University of Limerick Occupation Therapy Department and Sensory House in Kildare to develop this initiative. Once complete the vehicle will be available to all national primary and secondary schools for hire for events. Sensory House will be manufacturing all the equipment in their factory in Kildare so all the equipment will be made in Ireland. The ongoing running costs of the outreach program is sustained by the in-grant applications through the arts and festivals department in local county councils and support fees charged from private event organisers.

**Pictured above left:** Sarah O'Sullivan, Interim Hospital CEO presenting Lisa Howard, ASD Ireland, with funding support on behalf of BSHLaB with Amy Spillane, Quality & Risk Manager, Niamh Sheehan, Head of HR and Owen McCarthy, Head of Mission.

ASD Ireland is a registered charity and a Not-for-profit organisation that provides socially inclusive activities for people with autism and their families. Our head office is in Limerick, and we provide activities to people from all over Ireland.

ASD Ireland was founded by two parents Keith Enright and Caroline Hogan who both have teenagers with autism spectrum disorder. It was developed due to the lack of socially inclusive activities available for their children. It began with the development of Limerick autism group and progressed to providing a number of inclusive activities and is now ASD Ireland. It provides, Autism camps, movement groups, psychotherapy counselling, gaming groups and camps, parking permits, ID cards, Training and education, an employment program with

Funding  
€2,000



Engage in Education is a non-profit organisation based in Limerick City since 1991. Its mission is to foster equality and inclusion across primary, secondary, further, and higher education. It supports motivated and committed students from areas of extreme disadvantage. It helps to break down barriers that prevent access to higher education. This includes financial, social, cultural, or psychological indicators. Engage in Education currently supports 350 students through its

## Providing much-needed Support to College Students from areas of Extreme Disadvantage

delivery of 3 programs: Nurture (primary-junior cycle), Compass (senior cycle & further education) and Engage (4-year college program). All these programs target students who are experiencing disadvantage, this includes students who live in socio-economic disadvantaged areas, migrants, members of the Traveller community or some other disadvantage such as disability. They may be the first in their family to progress to further or higher education. They are low-income families and often experience social exclusion. They may experience barriers in the education system or workforce.

### THE PROJECT

Our funding commitment of €2,000 a year over three years, is specifically in relation to the Engage Program, which provides a variety of interventions to support the needs of college students. This includes financial support via a €750 participation grant, emergency funds for when students experience financial issues. Engage in Education also provide various non-financial supports. For example, it meets students in a group, this helps form a peer support network, where the student being supported meets

students from similar backgrounds, which helps reduce social exclusion. It provides various workshops in relation to mental health, CV and interview skills, communication skills, health and wellbeing and various motivational speakers who often come from disadvantage and have gone on to be successful. Additional support is provided via social media groups. Students are expected to participate in project activities with young students, some students volunteer more in other project roles such as board members or social media management. The Engage Program has an 85% retention rate. Students graduate from various courses and progress to various professions, personal development workshops, peer, group, and individual support. College students are expected to participate in project activities with younger students and act as role model/mentors. The funding grant will be used to support these college students.

**Pictured above left:** Owen McCarthy, Head of Mission presenting John Roche, Project Director, Engage in Education, with funding support on behalf of BSHLaB.

# Engage in Education

## Testimonial from a Student Nancy Ekhator

**Background:** My name is Nancy Ekhator and I am 20 years old. I have been in the Engage programme since I was in TY in secondary school. I am studying in UL and in the future, I would like to work in the field of Insurance or Marketing.

**Course & College:** Studying International Business at the University of Limerick

### Impact:

- The financial support has helped me immensely as it meant that I could afford to buy myself the stationary I needed for school as well a laptop for myself. As I am also currently on Erasmus the financial support has also helped me pay for some of the public transportation which I need to get to school. This has helped me and my family because it meant that some financial burdens were removed from my mom.
- The 3rd level meetings have helped me in different areas of my school life. The most important meeting which stand out to me where for building a CV as well as one for managing personal mental health at school. The meetings are also a great way to meet my past school mates and to socialise with other people from different universities.



**Above:** Nancy Ekhator.

- I can say with total confidence that the Engage programme has helped me get from college to secondary school. In secondary school I was fortunate enough for Engage to provide me with grinds online and in person. Being able to get extra help with the subjects I was finding difficult at school aided me in reaching the points needed to get my first choice in the CAO.
- I am in my 3rd year, and I am currently on Erasmus in Germany for the rest of the school year. Being in a new country was a little difficult at first, the German college system is a bit different to Irelands however I wanted to push myself to improve my German and I can say that I am already seeing improvements.

Funding  
€1,000



Mid-West Simon Community believes in communities of mutual support that foster hope and independence. Its mission is to provide people experiencing homelessness with a sense of identity and promote meaningful engagement in a non-judgemental way. It seeks to do this by providing emergency accommodation, permanent housing, access to food and support services. Mid-West Simon Community builds a sense of independence, hope and community. It is fully committed to providing the highest quality service possible to all stakeholders, especially those who access its services and its donors who support them. It shows this commitment by adhering to the highest standards of governance and quality.

## Providing people experiencing homelessness with a sense of identity and promote meaningful engagement in a non-judgemental way

Its board is made up of unpaid volunteers who are elected from the community. The board has signed up to the Governance Code for Voluntary Organisations. This code ensures that community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland operate in line with best practice and that every part of their operations meet all requirements under current legislation, charitable and company law, and health and safety standards. Mid-West Simon Community is a member of the Triple Lock Standard of the Charities Institute of Ireland. We have achieved the highest level of transparency in reporting, ethical fundraising practices, and strong governance structures. This distinguished recognition is the gold standard for Irish charities to provide donors, members, and the general public with peace of mind.

I'm 75 years old and came to Mid-West Simon Community following drug and alcohol treatment. They are the most beautiful people you could deal with and just so compassionate. I'm so grateful to have a roof over

my head and the Mid-West Simon staff in my life.

### **Willie, Emergency Accommodation Resident**

They helped me by giving me a lovely home and took care of me when I was sick with cancer. They assisted me to my chemotherapy appointments and that really meant a lot. The staff are always compassionate, and kind and I don't know where I would be without them.

### **Declan, Mid-West Simon Community Tenant**

### **THE PROJECT**

Food poverty, and the associated difficulties for those suffering this type of hardship, is a complex problem. Over the years, Mid-West Simon Community has invested resources to try to solve this issue. Its latest initiative is a social grocery, which aims to not only improve individuals' access to healthy food, but offer them a holistic and empowering service.

The store proposed in Limerick City will be based on a social enterprise model, giving people the chance to buy groceries at heavily discounted prices. Just as importantly, a social grocery empowers clients, giving them the autonomy and choice that can be lacking when accessing a traditional food bank.

Mid-West Simon Community also facilitates a range of skills and training courses, money management workshops, advice and information services, and cooking and food skills classes – all with the goal of giving people prospects to move themselves towards a self-sustainable future and increased financial stability. It hopes to open the Social Grocery in 2024.

**Pictured above left:** Leo McKenna, Project Worker, Mid-West Simon Community accepting a cheque from Sarah O'Sullivan, Interim Hospital CEO, Amy Spillane, Quality & Risk Manager, Niamh Sheehan, Head of HR and Owen McCarthy, Head of Mission on behalf of BSHLaB.

Funding  
€4,886

## A school for students with a primary complex physical disability plus or minus complex medical needs

Made up of fundraising of €405.20 from Easter Raffle; €83.60 from Jersey Day; €490.00 from All Ireland Raffle; €447 from Christmas Dinner Fundraising Appeal; €1,460 from Virtual Cycle Challenge supplemented by €2000.20 in Community Initiative Funding.

St. Gabriel's School is a school for students with a primary complex physical disability plus or minus complex medical needs. We have students from 4 to 18 years of age. Its focus is very much on the individual student and

seeing their ability and potential in all settings and circumstances. It follows the Department of Education curricula as set out by the NCCA, adapted to the needs of our students, so that they are supported and encouraged to reach their full potential. The mission at St. Gabriel's School is to provide pupils with an education that is challenging and appropriate to their needs in a safe and caring environment. As the cornerstone of its ethos, St. Gabriel's School supports the principles of:

- Inclusiveness, specifically with reference to the enrolment of children with a physical/ multiple disability.
- Equality of access and participation in the school.
- Parental choice in relation to enrolment.
- Respect for diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages, and ways of life in society.



**Pictured above:** Stephanie McGrath, (newest member of the BSHLaB Team) presenting Derek Cox, Principal of St. Gabriel's School, with funding support on behalf of BSHLaB. Also in photo are from left Owen McCarthy, Janice Lyons, Dr Siobhan Grimes, Aine Ni Ghabhoid, Magdalena Jarzab, Jacqui Keane, Ciara O'Connell, Jacqueline Molloy, Niamh Sheehan and Bernadette Carroll.



**Pictured above:** Tom Coughlan, winner of the All Ireland Hurling Final Tickets with Sandra Ryan, Laura Walsh and Laura Carmello at Croke Park celebrating Limerick's 4-in-a-row victory.



**Pictured above:** Áine Ní Ghabhóid, Catering Manager overseeing Christmas Raffle Fundraiser with the assistance of Santa.



A child-centred approach to education is very much the essence of St. Gabriel's School's ethos. The school cherishes all children equally. A strong emphasis is placed on care values based on relationships between all the constituent partners in the school. The school is a non-denominational one which provides equal rights of access to all children of all social, cultural, and religious backgrounds. The Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation are delivered by the teachers to the pupils. As over 90% of the pupils are Catholic, preparation for the Sacraments is considered necessary and appropriate. Parents of other faiths who request an opportunity to conduct faith formation within the school are supported by Management in the provision of accommodation to facilitate such a request.

## THE PROJECT

St. Gabriel's students respond to many therapies including equine therapy and other services outside the school environment. Equine Assisted Learning is the practice of working in partnership with horses, in a range of exploratory activities, to facilitate learning and growth in areas of self-discovery and self-awareness. Equine Assisted Learning focusses on developing an individual's social and emotional competencies through a range of interesting, fun and stimulating activities. There is no riding involved, and no prior horse experience necessary. This entails trips out to avail of these therapies. Any class wishing to take such a trip will need to hire two buses, the cost of which has become prohibitively high in recent times. This funding grant will support the school to provide transport and access to equine and other therapies going forward.

**Pictured (clockwise from top left):** Taking part in the BSHS Virtual Cycle Challenge in aid of St. Gabriel's Special School are Aoife O'Connor, Maja Spilkucic, Niamh Shannon and Jacqui Keane.

Funding  
€3,635

## Promoting the right of everyone to live and grow to their full potential in a violence-free environment

Donation: €3,635 (including €1,830 fundraised by staff as part of a 50 km Walking / Running Challenge, which was co-ordinated by Michelle Greaney, St. Patrick's Ward and Daragh Devane, Occupational Health Nurse).

ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge provides supports to women and their children who experience domestic violence/coercive control. It provides temporary emergency accommodation to women and their children and an outreach service which includes legal accompaniments. It meets and supports 300 women each year from across Kerry, through the provision of Refuge and Outreach services.

ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge has supported another 214 women this year already through their Outreach Services across Kerry and provided 114 accompaniments to court. The service is very busy and full a lot of the time and unfortunately on 96 occasions this year they were full and unable to accommodate families. We work with other refuges and their outreach services to provide safety plans when this occurs.

ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge provides refuge accommodation to families experiencing domestic violence/coercive control. Financial abuse is part of this dynamic. Women staying

with ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge experience poverty as they navigate the systems and obstacles. ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge supports women through advocacy and other supports such as Housing Applications, Legal Aid Applications, Protections under the Domestic Violence Act, Medical Card applications, Meitheals, statements to the Gardai in relation to breaches of orders and the crime of coercive control. The new legislation regarding non-fatal strangulation and non-fatal suffocation, stalking and harassment, which came into force in November will also provide extra protections for women going forward.



**Pictured left:** Michelle Greaney and Daragh Devane, Co-ordinators of 50km Walking/Running Challenge, presenting Catherine Casey, General Manager ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge with funding support on behalf of BSHT. Also in photo are Liz Fenton and Mary B Murphy from BSHT, and Tina Duggin, Mary Broderick, and Catherine Gaynor from Adapt Kerry.

# ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge



**Above:** Some photos to bring home the fun that all had during the 50km Challenge!

This initiative will allow ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge to provide a place of safety and comfort for families as they navigate some of these systems.

Social Isolation is an impact of domestic violence/coercive control and providing a safe place for women and children facilitates opportunities to build supports for families as they move forward. ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge works with women and children from all socio-economic backgrounds. We know from Research that race, class, ability, religion will not protect any one from domestic violence and in fact the leading risk factor for anyone globally is being female.

ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge and the women who use its service link with a number of services to access supports. The legal, welfare, housing and medical systems are a key part as well as community organisations including schools, clubs, family resource centres, MABS and women's groups.

ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge also run an initiative called the 'Together Project', which brings together key stakeholders in Kerry with the aim of collaborating and networking to ensure 'softer landings' for families as they exit abusive relationships.

## THE PROJECT

ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge requires funding to renovate an apartment in the Refuge. The apartment needs flooring, new kitchen cabinets, bathroom door, rewiring to allow for movement of dishwasher and washing machine. This apartment is one of the bigger apartments and has over the last few years been a space for bigger families. ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge is experiencing longer stays, as women try to access accommodation as they try to exit abusive relationships. The space needs repair. The funding provided from BSHT is a once-off contribution that will enable ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge to repair and renovate the existing apartment and ensure that women and children

who find themselves seeking safety, have adequate, clean and comfortable living conditions.

60 individuals and 20 teams from BSHT took part in this 50 km Walking/Running Challenge and fundraising initiative in November for ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge by walking or running 7205.42 kms in total, which is the equivalent of 170.74 marathons!!! It was great to see so many Bon Secours staff members making an investment in themselves - in their health. There was great support, banter and camaraderie within the many groups formed. Little by little, a little became a lot, everyone achieved the goal of walking or running 50 km in the month, some made their own personal goals and achieved them out in all kinds of weather. There was a super sense of achievement and feel-good factor when everyone reached their goals and kept going beyond the target set also. Many more from BSHT and beyond donated generously, which is greatly appreciated by the ADAPT Team.

Funding  
€3,500



**Pictured above:** Margaret Cahill, Head of HR presenting Finbarr Mawe, Chairperson, Tom Pierce and Dr Patrick Quinn of Ard Chúram, with funding support on behalf of BSHT with Owen McCarthy, Head of Mission.

**Working to ensure that those whom it serves remain independent and at home for as long as possible, through the provision of services for older people and Alzheimer's services for those with dementia**

Ard Chúram Day Care Centre - North Kerry CLG is a registered charity providing day care services for older people and Alzheimer's services for those with dementia and operates from its two adjoining centres in Greenville, Listowel. Back in 2007 North Kerry was identified as a black spot for Day Care for the elderly. The Listowel area was totally deficient for this service compared to other parts of the county. A number of committed volunteers came together, formed a company, rented premises, employed a nurse, a carer and commenced a fledgling service, initially with 5 clients. This was done with the support of the HSE and dedicated fundraising by volunteers.

Over the years this fledgling service grew exponentially, and the company accepted there was a need for its own purpose-built centre. The company's ambitious plan was

thwarted for a number of years by the enormous cost of land during the Celtic tiger era. Ard Chúram subsequently approached the HSE and was granted a twenty-year lease on a site on the Hospital grounds in Listowel. With HSE support, with fundraising all over North Kerry, with participation in the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle and with grants from other agencies Ard Chúram succeeded in building a state-of-the-art Day Care Centre for the Older People and opened in 2016.

When completed Ard Chúram set about addressing another need in North Kerry. The company sought the lease of a new Adjoining site from the HSE, fundraised and built a New state of art Centre for those with Dementia which was opened in August 2021. Ard Chúram has a staff of 20 with over 100 clients availing of the services.

## THE PROJECT

Dementia Inclusive Listowel is a new initiative led by Ard Chúram, which aims to facilitate the Listowel community, be an inclusive, supportive and welcoming town for individuals living with dementia and to enable individuals to continue to participate and engage in their community. Dementia Inclusive Listowel is a collaboration between the Ard Chúram, the HSE and voluntary and statutory agencies in Listowel, Retail Sector, Business Sector Banking Sector, Kerry Co Council, the Gardai and the educational sector. To date the advisory group has organised 3 Dementia Awareness Workshops, which took place on the 28th of March. Listowel Arms Hotel kindly hosted the workshops. The main aim of the workshop was to promote awareness of dementia and to support businesses in their interactions with people with dementia and memory deficits. These workshops had over 100 attendees made up from business and agency representation within Listowel town.

The most recent meeting of the advisory group was on the 28th of November 2023.

After much discussion the group have decided to organise a Brain Health information evening in April/May of 2024 where a number of guest speakers will be invited to form a panel discussion on the topic. In addition to this, a pocket brochure will be developed to signpost businesses/individuals to relevant support services. This will be officially launched on the night of the brain health event.

It is planned to have key personnel addressing the everyday issues affecting People and their families with Dementia including Fair Deal process and Enduring Power of Attorney. The funding support from BSHT will support the costs of Venue hire & refreshments, Pocket brochure, Advertising and Speakers.

It is estimated 2000 people live with dementia in Kerry with over 4000 people caring for those with dementia the Brain Health event will be a very important way of promoting brain health and raising awareness of dementia. At present it is estimated that over 64,000 people are living with Dementia. 30 people are diagnosed with Dementia on

a daily basis. With an estimated 63% living with Dementia. The proposed initiative aims to provide professional advice to those directly affected by dementia and memory deficiencies along with their families and concerned persons. The work of the advisory group of Dementia Inclusive Listowel to date demonstrates the ability to reach out to those who need it the most

Dementia Inclusive Listowel has a large advisory group. Attendance at meetings is excellent and feedback on the relevance and benefits to the work of the group has been extremely positive to date. The workshops organised in March were testament to the level of collaboration within the community and demonstrate the commitment to continue to increase awareness of dementia in the wider community. Dementia Inclusive Listowel will continue its work annually. In 2024, the advisory group have prioritised the pocket brochure and Brain health event. These are both once off events, which will be completed by September 2024.

Funding  
€4,035

## Working to fundraise €5 million to build and equip a state-of-the-art, purpose-built chemotherapy unit for the people of Kerry



**Pictured above:** Cecilia Lawlor presenting Mikey Sheehy of Comfort for Chemo, Kerry, with funding support on behalf of BSHT. Also in photo from left are Brendan Fealy, Rosemary O'Sullivan, Katie Reidy, Finbarr Keane, Michelle Griffin and Leonel Ferreira.

Donation: €4,035.50 (including €2,824.50 from the annual Christmas Hamper Draw for Luxury Hampers ran by our Kitchen Catering colleagues).

Last year the HSE announced that it had allocated €9.3million in funding towards the construction of the stand-alone chemotherapy unit to be built on the grounds of the University

Hospital Kerry. This funding secured the construction of the building. Mary Fitzgerald, Chairperson of Comfort for Chemo said at the time that "this funding has propelled our efforts onwards and now enables us to focus our fundraising on ensuring this chemotherapy unit has all the necessary therapies, add-ons and comforts for cancer patients in Kerry... This is a great day for all people wanting a better service for cancer patients in Kerry. It now helps harness our fundraising efforts more than ever, as we can now deliver on a world-class chemotherapy unit, something that was only a pipe dream some years ago. Our fundraising efforts continue with added vigour."

Comfort for Chemo, Kerry has led the vision to build a centre of excellence for the patients of Kerry, who need chemotherapy and oncological treatments. The past number of years has seen incredible support for the cause, spurred on by a greater understanding during the pandemic of the vulnerabilities of those with immuno-suppressed conditions such as cancer and the importance of them limiting their exposure to other illnesses during their treatment. Community groups, sporting groups, fundraising groups, and

individuals have been incredibly gracious in their charitable efforts for Comfort for Chemo, Kerry both at home and overseas.

### THE PROJECT

Did you know that:

- Every 3 minutes in Ireland someone gets a cancer diagnosis.
- Incidence of cancer is growing and by 2020, 1 in 2 of us will get a cancer diagnosis in our lifetime.
- In Ireland more than 40,000 new cases of cancer or related tumours are diagnosed each year.
- In the last seven years the number of people receiving chemotherapy has increased by 63%.
- In the last five years the number of new people attending the oncology outpatients has increased by 58% and follow up visits have increased by 27%.

But the news is good ...

- There are more and more treatment options available, and this accounts for some of the increase in numbers.



# Comfort for Chemo, Kerry

- Survival Rates across a lot of cancers in Ireland continue to increase.
- Research is improving.
- More modern Chemotherapy treatments are becoming available.
- There is enhanced co-ordination of services.

Comfort for Chemo, Kerry is fundraising to build a centre of excellence for the patients of Kerry, who need Chemotherapy and Oncological treatments. Ensuring the best care available is delivered in an environment that is welcoming, reassuring, comfortable and dignified.

Our Kitchen Catering colleagues ran the annual Christmas Hamper Draw for Luxury Hampers again this year in aid of Comfort for Chemo, Kerry. All Hampers were generously donated by the kitchen staff! Tickets went on sale on the 24th November in our Fleur de Lis Restaurant and the draw took place on the 19th December.

What will be in the new state of the art purpose-built Chemotherapy Unit?

- Stand Alone State of the Art Building Privacy and Dignity for Patients
- New Outpatient Unit
- Dedicated Chemotherapy Suites
- Isolation Facilities
- Compounding Unit (Drug Preparation)
- Spacious Clinical Areas
- Dedicated Car parking
- Teaching and Research facilities
- Counselling and Support Rooms
- Treatment Rooms for Allied Health Professional to support Patients and deliver treatments.



**Above:** Raffle Prizes.

Funding  
€1,000



**Pictured above:** Jenny O'Connell presenting Aisling Cregan and Karina O'Connell of Féileacáin with funding support on behalf of BSHT. Also in photo are Breda Doyle, Quality & Risk Manager and Owen McCarthy, Head of Mission.

Féileacáin (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Association of Ireland – SANDAI) was formed in 2009 and subsequently registered as a charity in 2010. It was formed by a group of bereaved parents to offer support to anyone affected by the death of a baby around the time of birth, and the organisation is now the national charity supporting families affected by perinatal loss. Feileacain is a volunteer led organisation and receives no funding from central government, relying instead on the support of our community and the families who avail of our services. Its aims are as follows:

## Providing support to anyone affected by the death of a baby during or after pregnancy

- To provide each Maternity Unit and Children's Hospital in the country with our 'Gifts of Remembrance' Services. These services are provided free of charge to the hospitals and their delivery is supported by a nationwide team of Feileacain volunteers.
- Included in the Gifts of Remembrance Service are:
- 'Remembering...' Memory Boxes, which are provided to parents who lose their baby around the time of birth. The Memory Boxes offer information and support as well as artifacts that support parents in creating precious memories in the short time they have with their baby.
- Imprints so Precious: clay imprints of their child's feet or hands are offered to parents to create a lasting and precious memento of their baby. The imprints are created by a Feileacain volunteer who will come to the hospital, make the imprints with the parents and return the framed prints once they are painted and glazed.
- Remembrance Candles: while funds allow Feileacain offers each bereaved family a hand decorated candle with their baby's name inscribed.
- Cuddle Cots: Each maternity unit and children's hospital has up to 6 Cuddle Cots which supports parents to keep their baby with them while in hospital, and to wake their baby when they return home if this is their wish. If a Cuddle Cot is not available to the parents from the hospital, then a Feileacain volunteer will provide a Community Cuddle Cot for the family.

- Sibling Support: The impact of the loss of their little brother or sister on older siblings is immense, and they are often forgotten about during the trauma of infant loss. Feileacain offers advice and telephone support as well as a Play Therapy service to children following the death of a sibling. Each hospital is also provided with Sibling Teddy Bears and Resource Packs offer comfort to them at this time.
- Cocooned Project: Many babies who are born too soon are too little for the garments provided by the hospitals. Feileacain offers beautiful hand knit gowns, dresses and suits for parents of tiny little infants. These garments are lovingly made by our team of volunteer knitters, who also supply beautiful little cradles and cocoons in which little babies may be laid.
- Little Pix: Along with Little Pix (bereaved parents who manage this project, Feileacain have provided each hospital with at least two high resolution digital cameras.
- To offer a befriending service and support helpline on (085) 249 6464 to anyone affected by the death of a baby.
- To host regular support meetings which allow bereaved parents space and time to remember their baby.

- To offer support and provide a safe and confidential setting, in which those bereaved through stillbirth or neonatal death can share their experiences.
- To promote research into the causes of stillbirth and neonatal death and the effects of grief on the family.
- To work in co-operation with support services and other support organisations.
- To hold Remembrance Services where parents and families may honour their babies in the company of others who have also lost their child.

## THE PROJECT

The support from BSHT is to support Féileacáin to continue to provide support services for those affected by the death of a baby around the time of birth. It was made in support of a Féileacáin Fundraiser organised by Karina O'Connell in Fybogh on Easter Saturday in memory of her little boy Bobby.

The death of a baby during pregnancy or shortly after birth is devastating and the emotional pain is indescribable for all involved. The words of well-meaning friends or relations can seem empty. In the early days of grief, you are surrounded by friends and family.

However, as time moves on, people gradually return to their normal lives. You may feel that you cannot speak about your baby as often as you would like. You think that nobody can understand what you are going through, but you are not alone.

Féileacáin support meetings are open to all parents affected by the death of a baby. Our meetings are informal; they are simply a place where you can come and meet others on the same journey as you. Parents obtain great comfort from knowing that they can come to a meeting and everybody else there will understand what they are feeling. Only those who have been through the pain of stillbirth or neonatal death can understand it. The meetings are a place where you can come and speak freely without fear of judgement. There is no pressure on anyone at a meeting to speak; it is up to you how much or how little you say. All Féileacáin support meetings are facilitated by trained befrienders, who themselves are bereaved parents and provide you with a safe place to remember your baby and hopefully to find comfort in the company of other bereaved parents.

Féileacáin is currently doing Online Zoom Support Meetings monthly in addition to its in-person Support Meetings.

Funding  
€3,500

## Providing an inclusive space in the local community and through the provision of activities tries to address the needs of this rural area and enrich the lives of the local community



**Pictured above:** Owen McCarthy, Head of Mission presenting Dora McCarthy, Chairperson of Inch Community Council with funding support on behalf of BSHT with Margaret Cahill, Head of HR.

Inch Community Council was established in 1973 as a voluntary, community lead organisation. It was established under the guiding principles of Muintir Na Tire.

Inch Community Centre is the focal point of its activities. The centre provides an inclusive space in the local community and through the provision of activities the Community Council tries to address the needs of this rural area and enrich the lives of the local community.

### THE PROJECT

Inch Community Centre runs a Senior Meals Programme from September to April each year and is an ongoing success. The senior citizens of the area get a nutritious meal and a chance to catch up with each other and enjoy a game of Bingo! While the kitchen in the Community Centre is approved, some improvements are badly needed to bring it up to HSE standards.

This funding support from BSHT is being used for the Centre's "Kitchen Safety Project". The kitchen has been redesigned to improve functionality, hygiene, and safety. The grant will support the installation of:

- 1 x cook master cooker
- 1 x extractor fan
- 1 x Stainless steel sink
- 1 x wash hand basin

It is hoped that by completing this Kitchen Safety Project, the Centre will be in a much better position to address both the social and nutritional deficits in its senior community by providing a meal service. The senior members of the local community come to the Centre every 2 weeks for a freshly prepared, nutritious meal followed by a game of bingo with prizes or music or an exercise class.

The social aspect is a huge benefit to the senior citizens, as it gives them an opportunity to get out of the

# Inch Community Centre



**Pictured above:** Christmas Lunch for the Seniors of the Inch community, who love to come together every fortnight and have a chat and a catch up.

house and form bonds in the community. It also gives those in the Centre a chance to 'check in' with its seniors and see how they are doing. The gathering is also used as a way to address other issues affecting our seniors such as talks on fire safety, older citizens personal alarms scheme and about general safety in our community.

The fortnightly meals service has a chef employed under the Community Employment Scheme. The Centre has a team of brilliant local volunteers who help with serving, food preparation and generally interacting with the senior members of the community who come. All have recently completed the volunteers haccp course. The meals are one of the most successful projects run by Inch Community Council.

The meals are a sustainable initiative. The Community Employment Scheme helps with labour costs. The seniors pay a reduced cost of €8 for their meal and activity (our bingo includes some nice prizes!) The Community Council applies for the HSE section 39 grant each year to help with food costs. The meals have been running sustainably for the last 20 years. The kitchen upgrade is a once-off cost to ensure the future of the service.

Funding  
€2,500



**Pictured above:** Margaret Cahill, Head of HR presenting Paula McElligott, Chairperson of Kenmare Family Resource Centre with funding support on behalf of BSHT with Owen McCarthy, Head of Mission.

Kenmare Family Resource Centre is a local, all inclusive, community-based organisation. We offer a safe and welcoming space for learning, information, social activities, affordable services and support for families, individuals & groups in the greater Kenmare area.

One of the key objectives of Kenmare Family Resource Centre is to work with the community in its area disadvantaged and marginalised

## Providing a safe and welcoming space for learning, information, social activities, affordable services and support for families, individuals & groups in the greater Kenmare area

groups e.g., disadvantaged families, lone parents, youth, elderly, those who are isolated and lonely. Kenmare Family Resource Centre is committed to a policy of transparency, openness, equality, respect and fairness.

### THE PROJECT

The initiative consists of group acting classes for older people and is designed to give participants the older people a basic foundation in Acting and drama skills and gain an introduction to the craft of acting. It will include improvisation, movement, and voice work. The financial support from BSHT will fund a tutor from the West End School of Arts to work with the older people in the community, as well as room hire in the Carnegie Theatre and Refreshments. It will run over an 8-week program for 2 hours per session. It will explore cultural value as perceived and understood by older people, the difficulties are compounded because of how we construct and view these members of our society.

Acting can be beneficial for older people by improving cognition and social engagement. Acting also helps people express their emotions,

it does not require previous training, and also increases social interactions. It is perceived that improvements in older people's mental health and well-being, and quality of life as a result of participation in acting and drama. The initiative hopes to decrease loneliness, increase self-confidence and self-esteem, and increase sense of value and purpose within this group of people

Kenmare Family Resource Centre works closely with Taobh Linn Social Centre who provide a meal service & a social outlet to vulnerable people within the communities in the Greater Kenmare Area. It is hoped that some their clients will join this initiative and continue with this project for the long term.

It is perceived there are improvements in older people's mental health and well-being, and quality of life as a result of participation in acting and drama. These initiatives will help to decrease loneliness, increase self-confidence and self-esteem, and increase sense of value and purpose within their community in Kenmare. They would act as ambassadors in the future within their communities and share the skills and passion for a new skill and viability for the long-term project.

Funding  
€2,810



**Pictured above:** Padraig McCannon and Conor O'Mahony, Physiotherapy Department presenting Kathleen Collins, Recovery Haven Kerry, with funding support on behalf of BSHT. Also in photo are Ignatious Makozhombwe, David O'Connor, Sean O'Connell, Gene Ferris, Shane O'Connell, Chris Brennan and Dr Nabeel Salmons who took part in the Movember Challenge in aid of Recovery Haven.



## Providing free counselling and cancer support services to cancer patients and their families

Donation: €2,810 (including €310 fundraised by staff as part of a Movember Challenge, which was co-ordinated by Conor O'Mahony and Padraig McCannon from our Physiotherapy Department).

Recovery Haven Kerry Cancer Support House is a volunteer led charity which offers free psychosocial services, practical supports and complementary therapies to cancer patients, their families, and carers. It was formed as a charitable legal entity on 31st April 2009 and its' constitution defines its main objectives as:

- The provision of counselling and cancer support services to cancer patients and their families.
- To raise funds to enable the delivery of these services free of charge.

Recovery Haven Kerry does not receive core funding for our service delivery and as a charity, it needs to constantly fundraise to ensure we can maintain, develop, and expand its services and deliver them free of charge to its clients.

### THE PROJECT

The development of the Recovery Haven Kerry's child and family services through the provision of play therapy to children who have been impacted by a cancer diagnosis either themselves or within their family or who have experienced a bereavement through cancer. In 2014 when Recovery Haven Kerry started offering services to children it had 5 children. In 2022, Recovery Haven Kerry supported 74 children. It currently out-sources this service but wishes to develop this in house to provide a more streamlined service and access to other supports, resulting in better cohesion of the delivery of family services. Recovery Haven Kerry wants to increase the availability of this service to children who require it by increasing the number of play therapy sessions available. The funding from BSHT will allow for the provision of more than 37 play therapy sessions.

Cancer is a chronic and sometimes terminal illness that impacts individuals physically, emotionally, and often



# Recovery Haven Kerry



**Pictured left:** Padraig McCannon, Conor O'Mahony, Ignetious Makozhombwe, Raymond Galvin, David O'Connor, Sean O'Connell, Gene Ferris, Shane O'Connell, Chris Brennan and Dr Nabeel Salmons who took part in the Movember Challenge in aid of Recovery Haven.

financially. Family life often gets turned upside down; familial roles might change, and a family may lose financial security. All family members may be affected by a loved one's cancer, and children are among the most vulnerable and susceptible to familial impacts. This can impact on their sense of security, increase feelings of isolation, and cause them to worry about what will happen to them in the event of losing a parent.

Research has identified that children with parents with a cancer diagnosis had higher risks of mental health disorders in the first year after diagnosis and notably, the adverse impact became more severe over time. This is particularly concerning as the region Recovery Haven covers, namely Kerry and Cork borders has been identified as having the largest waiting list in Ireland for children's mental health services. There are currently over 800 children waiting on the children

and adolescent mental health wait list. From participation in play therapy, children will be supported to develop skills in understanding and coping with difficult emotions and to become more resilient.

Collaboration with other groups/services in the region is extremely important to Recovery Haven Kerry to ensure awareness raising about and referral to our services from across a range of oncology/medical professions. This entails liaison with surgical, medical and radiation oncologists, CNS's, Public Health Nurses, GP's. Practice Nurses, palliative care inpatient and home care services. Recovery Haven Kerry is engaging with the Laura Lynn Foundation (Irish Children's Hospice) who are now providing a service in Cork and Kerry to support referrals and complementary provision. Recovery Haven Kerry liaises with community groups in the community including Family Resource Centres, Community Centres

and Schools to increase awareness of our services and encourage referrals. It has offered training to teachers on supporting children who are dealing with the impact of cancer. Recovery Haven Kerry is currently undertaking a pilot programme with Cancer Care West to provide the CUBs programme (Children United in Bereavement) to children aged 8-12 years who have lost a parent to cancer. We will be promoting access to this with the palliative care, oncology and hospice teams.



# Other Outreach



# Launch of Spiritual Bereavement Training Services Programme

Spiritual Bereavement Training Services is a coalition of seven faith-based organisations in Cork together with BSHC Head of Mission that was established in 2023 with the aim of providing a collaborative local response for improving the quality of bereavement services in our communities. The group received an initial grant from the Irish Hospice Foundation and worked together to develop a practical and accessible training module for faith-based organisations. Thanks to a subsequent grant of €2,000 from the Cork Hospital's Community Outreach Fund, the course material was further

developed, and a hybrid online-in person training module was offered to staff at Bon Secours Hospital Cork last November. 12 participants undertook the training course, the aim of which was to provide a basic overview into the grief and loss process, familiarity with the natural stages of grief and some basic skills which may help in recognising when another person is grieving and how best to journey with them through grief and loss. Due to the level of interest expressed in this training module, a further course will be offered again in March to the staff of Bon Secours Hospital and the Care Village.



## Eid al-Fitr at BSHC

In April 2023, we joined our colleagues for a fraternal evening meal to mark the festival of Eid al-Fitr and the culmination of season of Ramadan. Pictured are some of our colleagues present on the evening.



# International Fun Day at Wilton SMA

On 10th September 2023, Bon Secours Hospital Cork manifested its multicultural diversity in style at our Annual International Fun Day! Together with the members of Wilton SMA Parish and staff from CUH and other healthcare settings from around the city, we gathered in huge numbers as we shared and celebrated each others cultural heritage, music, dance and food. A wide range of activities for the young (and not so young!) such as face painting, bouncing

castles, sporting activities and food tasting were enjoyed by all. A generous grant of €2,500 from the BSHC Community Outreach Fund to Wilton Parish helped the organisers greatly in meeting the costs incurred. After the event, colleagues from the Lithuanian Community at BSHC generously donated the proceeds from their food stall to Childhood Cancer Ireland. The amount was matched by the hospital and presented at the hospital to Childhood Cancer a few weeks later.



# BSHC 2023 Respite Programme

In July/August, Bon Secours Hospital Cork welcomed 10 elderly people from the community for a period of respite care. As a Mission/Nursing initiative, our aim was to provide "Good Help" to individuals in need of respite care and to allow their families and carers a time of rest and recuperation in the knowledge that their loved one would be well cared for and safe.. Our guests arrived at BSHC on Sunday 30th July and returned home last Saturday after two weeks of respite care on St. Patrick's Ward. Feedback from the group and from their families was extremely positive. One comment was especially touching. When asked by a member of the Pastoral Care Team on the day before leaving what was happiest time in her life, one lady answered without any hesitation: "The last two weeks"! Her spontaneous answer is heart-warming because it speaks volumes of what our Mission at Bon Secours Cork is all about!

A huge thanks to Maria Meehan CNM 2 and all the staff of St. Patrick's ward. All of the guests and their families expressed gratitude to the team in St. Patrick's who went beyond the call of duty at all times with their dedication and care. Sincere thanks also to Dr Catherine Molloy and the team of Consultants who provided on-call support in the event of a medical emergency. Special thanks to all of the staff who generously volunteered to provide music, exercises, quizzes, Bingo, hand/foot massages, newspaper readings among other activities. Your presence was greatly appreciated by the group who looked forward every day to the entertainments, but most of all to the chat!



# GP Outreach

Across all of our facilities, we engage with our key stakeholders, the GP community, through a series of GP Study Days.

Following are some images from our Cork GP Study Day.

The annual GP Study Day took place in Pairc Ui Chaoimh. The event was a great success and attended by 116 GPs in person, 40 BSHC Consultants and 441 online participants. The Consultants presented on Cardiology, Emergency Medicine, Endocrinology, Haematology, Urology, Orthopaedics, Respiratory, Gastroenterology and Neurology & Care of the Older Person. There were questions and answers with the panel from the floor and online viewers.



The keynote speaker was David Coleman and he presented on *Minding Your Emotional Wellbeing While Minding Others*.

**Pictured right:** With David Coleman are Karina Healy, Professor Diarmaid Houlihan and Professor Conleth Murphy.



# BSHS - Supporting the training of Healthcare Chaplains



**Pictured above:** Andrew McCarthy, BSHS Chief Sponsorship & Mission Officer, Bishop Michael Router, Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh & Chairman of the Council for Healthcare, & Ms Pauline O'Dowd, Co-director of the Clinical Pastoral Education programme that runs at the Mater Hospital, Dublin, at the graduation of 2023 cohort of Chaplains, at St Patrick's College Maynooth.

Over 2022-2024, Bon Secours Health System put in place a Bursary to support the training of Healthcare Chaplain's across Ireland, in partnership with the Healthcare Chaplaincy Board (HCB)

## **What is Pastoral Care in the healthcare setting?**

When sickness enters our life, it can bring disruption to our physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing, raising questions about life, suffering, meaning and faith. Pastoral Care in the healthcare setting is a ministry of care which forms part of a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the healing of the whole person. It is compassionate and purposeful accompaniment of the sick and the dying, available to every patient irrespective of their personal faith or philosophical tradition.

## **What are Healthcare Chaplains?**

Pastoral Care is provided by Healthcare Chaplains who are professionally trained to assist people on their journey of sickness. By establishing connection with patients, and listening without judgement, Healthcare Chaplains help the patient to explore their joys and hopes, fears and sorrows in a way that brings spiritual healing, hope and comfort. For some patients, faith is an important part of their life; a resource they can draw on in time of sickness.

Healthcare Chaplains are attentive to both the spiritual and religious needs of patients as they emerge in conversation, and they strive to respond appropriately. If it feels right for the patient, Healthcare Chaplains can facilitate prayer or arrange for ordained ministers to provide sacraments.

## **Bon Secours Health System Bursary**

As a participant in the Catholic ministry of healthcare, Bon Secours Health System is proud of its mission of caring for the sick and dying. Arising from its commitment to provide care for the total person, it has made a bursary available to support individuals with the cost of theological and pastoral training. It is anticipated that recipients of the bursary will go on to exercise the ministry of pastoral care in healthcare settings in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The bursary is administered by the Healthcare Chaplaincy Board. Full details, and an application form, can be obtained by emailing [informationhcboard@gmail.com](mailto:informationhcboard@gmail.com).

# BSHS Pastoral Care Symposium 2023

At the very successful Bon Secours Health System inaugural Pastoral Care Symposium, held in Croke Park, were Bill Maher BSHS CEO and Conor McCarthy, St John of God CEO.



# RCSI Professionalism Conference 2023 - The Cost of Caring

Supported by both Bon Secours Health System and the Medical Protection Society as lead sponsors, this event was hugely successful. With over 850 registered attendees, Health and Social care professionals primarily, this event was held virtually but with some in-person attendance also.

As part of our continued commitment to Professionalism, BSHS were pleased to support this event.



**Pictured above:** At the event were Andrew McCarthy, Chief Sponsorship and Mission Officer; Sharon Morrow, Chief Executive Officer BSHD; Professor Denis Harkin, Chair in Professionalism and conference organiser.

# BUMBLEance & Bon Secours Health System



In May 2023, we announced our €135,000 sponsorship of a brand-new vehicle for BUMBLEance children's ambulance service. The first year in a three-year partnership has been an overwhelming success, with over 200 trips made on our sponsored route between Cork and Dublin.

As a free service to any child requiring assistance, BUMBLEance eliminates the financial burden often accompanying regular hospital visits, ensuring that healthcare remains accessible to all. Through this sponsorship,

we will contribute to the vital expansion of BUMBLEance's services and make a tangible difference in the lives of countless children and families across Ireland.

This partnership aligns perfectly with our unwavering commitment to providing good help to those in need and enriching our communities. We recognise the essential nature of this service – it is a critical lifeline for children and families throughout the country, providing them with access to urgent care when they need it.

## BUMBLEance & Bon Secours Health System announce new 3-year partnership

### **Brian Conlan, CEO of BUMBLEance says:**

BUMBLEance are delighted to partner with Bon Secours Health System. We share many of the qualities and values of this wonderful organisation. This is a fabulous opportunity for the charity to increase awareness of the invaluable services it provides to sick children and their families and to further develop its services nationwide.

We look forward to a rewarding and fruitful partnership into the future.

### **Jennifer Burke, mother of Jamie and Callum who use BUMBLEance says:**

'BUMBLEance makes our hospital trips so much easier. Travelling in the BUMBLEance is much more comfortable than by car or train and the toll on the boys is much less. They really are treated like kings by the staff that truly care. I am delighted to hear that a new vehicle is being launched and that more children will benefit from the service just like my boys.'

## Celebrating 50 years of working with the poor internationally

The book 'A Giving Island', was produced by Trócaire to mark their 50th Anniversary. BSHS were please to act as one of the 4 sponsors for the publication, which was launched by Caoimhe De Barra, Trócaire CEO, and Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.



**Pictured above:** Andrew McCarthy, BSHS Chief Sponsorship and Mission Officer, with Mary Robinson (and other sponsors).



**Pictured above:** Andrew McCarthy, BSHS Chief Sponsorship and Mission Officer, with Caoimhe De Barra, Trócaire CEO.



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