

Issue 8

# St. Vincent's Foundation Newsletter for the *Friends of St. Vincent's*

Spring  
2013



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St. Vincent's Foundation is the philanthropic fundraising  
arm of St. Vincent's Healthcare Group



## St. Vincent's Foundation

Board of Directors: Prof. Noel Whelan (Chairman),  
Mr. Nicholas C. Jermyn, Mr. Stewart Harrington, Prof. Michael Keane  
& Mr. John Hickey

Registered in Dublin, Ireland, Company No. 464228 Charity No. 1183  
Registered Office: St. Vincent's Foundation, Elm Park, Dublin 4

## *Welcome from Professor Noel Whelan, Chairman St. Vincent's Healthcare Group*

### **Thanks from the Chairman of St. Vincent's Healthcare Group: Professor Noel Whelan**

As Chairman of St. Vincent's Healthcare Group and St. Vincent's Foundation it is my great pleasure to welcome all our readers to this, the Spring edition of "**Friends of St. Vincent's**".

We produce this magazine twice yearly to update our supporters on what has been happening within St. Vincent's Healthcare Group which includes three hospitals: St. Vincent's University Hospital; St. Vincent's Private Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. It also gives us the opportunity to feature many of the wonderful activities that our patients and their families are doing to raise money and support for St. Vincent's.

Each time I read "**Friends of St. Vincent's**" I am uplifted by the many heart-warming stories of fundraising events and generous donations. This edition is no exception. All over the country individuals and groups are using their imagination and energy to organise fundraising events as diverse as charity auctions, truck rallies, and head-shaving. The common feature of all these events is the commitment of our friends to St. Vincent's and the generosity of the contributors and participants who give of their time and energies to make a positive difference to the St. Vincent's family.

In addition to providing and delivering state-of-the-art clinical healthcare, St. Vincent's Healthcare Group is heavily involved in ground-breaking research in many areas of health and medical science. At all times, this research is focussed on areas which will be beneficial to our patients. In this edition of "**Friends of St. Vincent's**" you can read of some successful research that will be of benefit to our patients; and of the donations which enable this research to take place.

You will also read something of the improvements to the physical facilities in St. Vincent's that have been made possible by fundraising activity and donations. These improve both the medical facilities available to our patients and the comfort which is available for our patients and their families; and we are most grateful for this help.

I hope you enjoy this edition of "**Friends of St. Vincent's**" and again I thank you, and all the Friends of St. Vincent's. Your friendship means a lot to us.

**Noel Whelan**



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**St. Vincent's Healthcare Group comprises: St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4, Ireland (affiliated with University College Dublin); St. Vincent's Private Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4, Ireland; and St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland. [www.stvincents.ie](http://www.stvincents.ie)**

## *Update from John Hickey, C.E.O. of St. Vincent's Foundation*



I am delighted to welcome all our readers and supporters to this Spring edition of our donors' magazine.

When we bring together all the fundraising activity in the previous six months or so it reminds us all of how fortunate St. Vincent's is to have so many people who are prepared to give of their time or their own resources to help causes in the hospital that are near to their hearts.

Sometimes the support comes after celebrating a most positive outcome and the return of our patient to full health. On other occasions the families demonstrate their generosity in the most difficult of circumstances following the death of a loved one. We can only express our deep gratitude for all the selfless assistance.

Often we find that donations are accompanied by kind comments from patients or families about the treatment they have experienced in St. Vincent's in their personal circumstances in the hospital. We always appreciate these comments and some of them are included anonymously here.

As we say so often, every donation however large or small makes a real difference to our patients. The financial support enables us to invest in patient comforts or medical capacity that would not be possible otherwise. All the time the hospital is involved in research projects enabled by the support given by donors. This research will, in time, enable us to help prevent some serious illness or to improve outcomes for those who become ill.

Because St. Vincent's Foundation has almost no operating costs it means that we can contribute 100% all donations to the medical area they are specified for.

We are aware of a great number of projects that are currently planned to raise money for St. Vincent's. As we advance through Spring and Summer we look forward to these coming to successful fruition and will report on them in later editions of ***Friends of St. Vincents.***

The 2013 Flora Women's Mini Marathon preparations are underway and we look forward again this year to a great number of participants doing this for St Vincent's

We must thank those dozens of people who have organised or taken part in events or who currently are doing so. The effort is much appreciated.

I hope all ***Friends of St Vincent's*** will enjoy reading how supporters made a difference and be uplifted by the phenomenal kindness that is shown in the news and events we cover in this magazine.

Finally I want to thank my colleagues in St. Vincent's for their help and specifically in contributing interesting material for this magazine.

Remember to regularly check our website [www.stvincentsfoundation.ie](http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie) for news and events

***John Hickey, C.E.O., St. Vincent's Foundation***

# *Improvements to St. Vincent's*

## **Premises improvements in St Vincent's**

The following projects are just some of the recent hospital enhancements. As always, the generosity of donors helps us to create a better environment for patient care.

### **St. Anne's Day Centre and St. Anne's ADCC Unit opens**



St. Anne's Day Centre and St Anne's ADCC transferred to their purpose built state of the art units on Monday 21st January.

The new facility for Oncology / Haematology Day Services is located on the ground floor of the Nutley Wing and offers a full spectrum of services for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer as well as support services for patients and their families

Facilities include day care beds, consultation rooms, calm and comfortable waiting areas, reception areas and clinical support accommodation. It is hoped that patients and family members will benefit greatly by the move to these new improved facilities and the priority will remain on ensuring quality of care and patient dignity throughout their journey within St Vincent's.

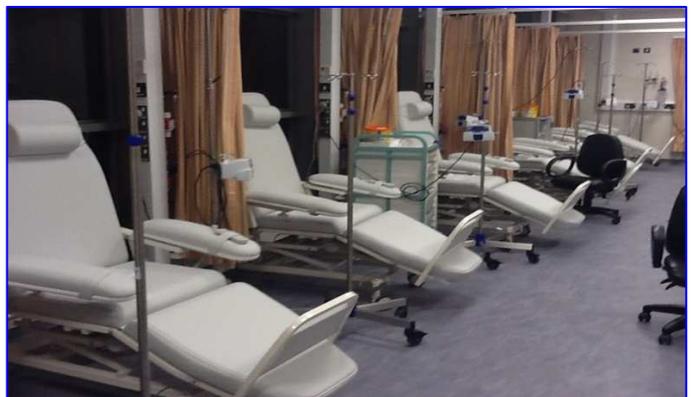


The opening of the ground floor was the final phase of the New Ward Block development and was the end of an ambitious two year building and commissioning programme.

The outstanding new facilities and exceptional environment for the delivery of care had been long awaited and has improved the patient care environment, privacy and dignity, care pathways and the patients' overall experiences.

### **New Acute Medical Assessment Unit Area opened in March**

The hospital has completed the assessment unit within the Acute Medical Unit. This 11 bay unit opened after some minor refurbishment and accommodates patients requiring additional monitoring and/or testing before they are admitted to the hospital or discharged.



## *Improvements to St. Vincent's continued.....*



### **St. Laurence's Ward transfers to a new home on the 3rd Floor of the main Ward Block**

St Laurence's Ward, our Orthopaedics bed base, transferred to new accommodation at the end of February. The ward is now located on the third floor of the hospital that formerly housed the old St Anne's Day centre (now located in the Nutley Wing). The new ward will provide additional privacy, comfort and safety for patients and their families during their hospital stay.

### **Coronary Care Unit Toilets and Showers upgrades**

The Cardiac Department of St. Vincent's University Hospital is delighted to announce that the installation of new and modern toilet and shower facilities in the department has been completed and the facilities are now fully operational. The development has greatly enhanced the quality of care delivered to our patients. They are bright and spacious, and patients have commented that "they are delighted with the new facilities".



The project was funded by generous donations from patients and their families through St. Vincent's Foundation.



**Donations have always been important in improving the hospital.**

**If you would like to support us please go to our website**

**[www.stvincentsfoundation.ie](http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie) or call our donation line on 1850 603 803**

**or write to St. Vincent's Foundation, Elm Park, Dublin 4.**

# Fundraising Highlights

**We are delighted to update on progress in St. Vincent's Foundation and specially to thank the legions of people who have used imagination, energy and generosity to help causes in the hospital. Without them we could not achieve what we do in patient care, research and education. The following are just some of the highlights of donors' gifts and great fundraising activities. They are not the complete list as many donors prefer to remain private in their giving.**

Our thanks to a longtime supporter, Jonathan Chawke who took part in the Sean Kelly Tour 2012 100km Cycle race in August and raised €835.00 for cancer research here in St. Vincent's.

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness month, our great supporter Christine Kearney organised a raffle in the main reception in St. Vincent's. Christine had gathered over 40 prizes for the raffle and she along with her friend Catherine Forde, raised the terrific sum of €1,142 for breast cancer research here in St. Vincent's. Our sincere thanks to all who supported this raffle and to Christine for her hard work and dedication to organise this event. The photos below capture something of the atmosphere.



*Christine is pictured above (on the right) with her friend Catherine Forde and their huge selection of raffle prizes. Also pictured at the raffle are Brian Dodd, Catherine, John Hickey, Christine & Tony Eliassen.*



Thank you to the family and friends of the late Ben Stafford Snr., who organised the Ben Stafford Memorial Darts tournament on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October last in the Ballally Inn in Sandyford. A magnificent sum of €1,045 was donated to St. Vincent's for Cancer Care in St. Anne's Ward. We are particularly grateful to Peter Ronayne and Ben Jnr., along with all who supported this wonderful fundraising event.

*Pictured at the cheque presentation are from L. to R. Peter Ronayne, Diane O'Brien, John Hickey, Cora Stafford, Ben Stafford Jr. & Iris McGearty.*

So often we find that fundraisers are repeating successful events to continue support for St. Vincent's. One great example is Liver Transplant recipient Adrian Yore from County Louth who again fundraised for the Liver Unit and recently presented €300 from a Dinner Dance event. We really appreciate it Adrian.

Tony Furlong from Rathfarnham took part in the 2012 Dublin Marathon and raised over €800 on his MyCharity fundraising page for patient care in St. Vincent's. Thank you Tony, for your support.

## *Fundraising Highlights continued.....*

Another loyal supporter Hazel Brack and her work colleagues in Dunnes Stores, Cornelscourt organised a "Pink Day" on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October last to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care and Research here in St. Vincent's. They held a day long series of activities and a magnificent sum of €3,878.30 was raised on the day. Our thanks to all the management and staff and particularly to Hazel and her family. (see photos below from "Pink Day")



A family who availed of accommodation in St Rita's during a long hospital stay sent a very kind gift to benefit other patients. We are very grateful for this.

In November we were pleased to receive a bequest of almost €13,000 from the estate of a former patient. We are delighted to confirm that we also received bequests of €12,800 in November and €10,000 in January. Again, these reflect a growing trend where people making a will leave a gift to a charity to make a difference after their death. Such generosity is of real benefit to St. Vincent's.

Among many recent individual donations we have received is a €2,000 donation to the Liver Unit from a widow in Limerick in gratitude for the care given to her late husband; a couple from County Leitrim donated €500 to the Liver Unit from wedding favours in memory of the groom's late father; the family of a grateful Liver Unit patient from County Monaghan recently donated €1,000; other thankful patients donated individual sums of €2,000 and €500 respectively to other causes in the hospital. All donations large and small are gratefully received.

On a regular basis the families of deceased patients request donations for a particular cause in St. Vincent's in lieu of funeral flowers. This is most generous at a distressing time for relatives and we are grateful to all.

Equally in celebrating a very happy event, many couples decide that instead of giving wedding favours they donate to St. Vincent's thereby having others benefit from their great day.

Clodagh Phelan from County Laois along with family and friends took part in the 2012 Women's Mini Marathon in June last. Her uncle Brendan English took part in the Cork Mini Marathon on 16<sup>th</sup> September last. Their combined fundraising for Cancer Research in St. Vincent's in memory of Clodagh's late mother, Mary Phelan, was nearly €3,000; a fantastic result. Our sincere thanks to all involved

(see photo on right of some of the group taken on Women's Mini Marathon day in June last)



## *Fundraising Highlights continued.....*

Congratulations to Patrick Noonan and his aunt Ann Hanily who undertook the Dublin Marathon in October to fundraise for the Liver Unit. Together they raised the magnificent sum of €3,407.00 for the Liver Unit through their MyCharity.ie fundraising page and offline sponsorship.

*(Pictured on right: Patrick Noonan with his parents Tina & Tony presenting his proceeds)*

Patrick's mother Tina had a liver transplant here in St. Vincents in June 2012. Patrick is pictured with his mother and his father Tony presenting his sponsorship proceeds. In their MyCharity fundraising page, the Noonan family highlighted Tina's gratitude for the wonderful care and attention she received in both the Liver Unit and I.C.U. following her emergency transplant operation.



Our thanks to Catherine (Kate) Mernagh *(pictured on the right with John Hickey)* for organising a highly successful Variety Concert on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November last in Glenmore Parish Hall, County Kilkenny which raised €2,649.65 for the Liver Unit.



The success of the event reflected an enormous community effort in Glenmore. Many of the volunteers who contributed to the Concert were present when the cheque for the proceeds was presented recently.



*Pictured at the cheque presentation in Glenmore are Back Row: Liam Mernagh, Bernie Cullinane, Eddie Kenny, Jo O'Shea, Dave Morrissey & Mary Aylward. Front Row: John Hickey, Katie Doherty, Kate Mernagh & Michael Shalloe*

Tipperary Association for Cystic Fibrosis, as part of their fundraising, very kindly donated €2,000 to St. Vincent's Foundation. The money will be used for the benefit of C.F. patients here in St Vincent's Hospital.

Michael Hickey Chairman of Tipperary Association for Cystic Fibrosis is pictured *(in the centre)* presenting the cheque to John Hickey & Ger Lanigan Ryan of St. Vincent's. We are truly grateful for this generosity.



Brooke Cleary from Ballinahown, Athlone organised a most innovative Bogfest in Moate on 12<sup>th</sup> August last. The Bogfest raised the fantastic total of €7,125.68 for Cardiac Care here in St. Vincent's, in memory of her late mother in law. On behalf of our patients, we are truly grateful to Brooke for all the effort and success of this event.

## Fundraising Highlights continued.....



Anthony (Tony) Bolger, once again organised a Truck Drive in Gorey on the October Bank Holiday weekend to raise money for charities including St Vincent's. This year St. Anne's Ward in St. Vincent's Hospital was a beneficiary from this event and Tony recently called in to present €2,000. Sincere thanks to Tony and his colleagues and all who took part and supported this event.

*Pictured L. to R. are Nurse Michelle Connell and Dr. Karen Murphy receiving cheque presentation from Tony Bolger along with his son Dean and wife Ann.*

Liver Transplant patient Saranne Flaherty from Claregalway organised a highly successful fundraising event on 1<sup>st</sup> December in support of the Liver Unit here in St. Vincent's. Saranne visited with her parents to present the fantastic proceeds of €3,351.69. We would like to thank Saranne and her family as well as numerous businesses who sponsored this event and who played a significant role in this outstanding success.

*Pictured L. to R. Gerry, Patricia & Saranne Flaherty present fundraising proceeds to John Hickey.*



Well done to Aifric Ni Mhuirheartaigh from Dingle (*pictured with her father Aogán*). Aifric took part in the Dingle Half Marathon on 1<sup>st</sup> September last for the Liver Unit here in St. Vincent's. Her father Aogán is a liver transplant recipient. Fundraising through sponsorship cards and her MyCharity fundraising page, Aifric raised the fantastic amount of €1,300. As well as using sponsorship cards in English, Aifric designed unique cards in Irish. Well done and thank you to Aifric and all who supported her in this achievement.

Michael Priest from Arklow (*pictured on right with John Hickey*) took part in the Dublin Marathon on October Bank Holiday Monday last, fundraising for oncology services here in St. Vincent's in memory of his late mother. Michael set up a MyCharity fundraising page and also organised a Table Quiz. Between the Table Quiz, sponsorship and his MyCharity fundraising, he raised a fantastic total of €1,542.46. We should add that Michael, as well as raising lots of money, completed the Marathon in a terrific time beating his target and personal best. Thank you again to all who contributed to Michael's wonderful success.



## *Fundraising Highlights continued.....*



A Liver Unit patient, Pat Horan from County Laois organised a fundraising event and auction which raised the huge sum of €10,215.00. Pat and his daughter Aisling recently called in to present these proceeds to Prof. Aidan McCormick in the Liver Unit. Sincere thanks to Pat and all who supported this wonderful fundraising initiative.

*Pictured presenting cheque to Prof. Aidan McCormick are Pat Horan (on left) and his daughter Aisling.*

Celebrating his great outcome from treatment in St. Vincent's, Joel Durand and his wife Katia and their extended family, purchased an exercise bicycle for the I.C.U. Dept. in the hospital. This unique piece of equipment, which cost in excess of €5,000, enables patients to exercise while confined to bed. Due to an increase in the level of input and control required by the patients, it makes a tremendous contribution to their wellbeing and recovery. We are really grateful to Katia and Joel for this wonderful gift to our patients.



*Joel & Katia are pictured with I.C.U. and Plastic Clinic staff*



Our thanks to Anna Fenelon and her colleagues in Teagasc in Johnstown Castle, Wexford for organising a raffle and auction at their Christmas Party held on 13<sup>th</sup> December last for the Liver Unit here in St. Vincent's. They particularly mentioned the care a colleague David Ryan received in the unit. A total of €1,218.00 has been donated and we are grateful to all in Teagasc associated with this innovative fundraising.

*Pictured on the right are the Teagasc Johnstown Castle, Christmas Party organising committee Daire O'hUallachain, Anna Fenelon, David Ryan (liver recipient), Sarah Lacey & David Wall.*



## *Fundraising Highlights continued.....*

### **Christmas Cards & Raffle for Breast Cancer:**



Supporting Breast Cancer research and care in St. Vincent's, we held a raffle and sale of Christmas Cards during the month of December. Together they raised nearly €5,600. We want to thank everybody who supported this initiative by buying cards or raffle lines.

We are particularly thankful to the following businesses who generously donated prizes for our Christmas Raffle:

- ◆ Gowan Merrion
- ◆ Noonan Services Group
- ◆ Home Instead Senior Care
- ◆ Tesco Merrion Centre
- ◆ Marks & Spencer
- ◆ Tony Walsh Pharmacy Merrion Centre
- ◆ Bianconi's Merrion Road.

Thanks also to the many volunteers who gave their time to make this campaign a great success. The funds will be a welcome contribution to helping our patients.



Well done to those who were successful in the raffle - which included staff, patients and visitors.



### **2013 Flora Women's Mini Marathon:**

The 2012 Flora Women's Mini Marathon raised over €30,000 for various causes in St. Vincent's. With the 2013 event fast approaching, please consider taking part this year for St. Vincent's. Contact us for a sponsorship pack.

UCD Medical Society held their annual Med Day Collection on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October last and St. Vincent's Foundation again benefitted from this highly successful fundraising event. Several hundred students took to the streets of Dublin to collect for very worthy charities, including St. Vincent's. A cheque for €1,500 was recently presented, which will go towards Breast Cancer research here in St. Vincent's. Our thanks again to all involved and who helped and supported this Charity Day.

*Pictured on right at cheque presentation are John Hickey with David Ryan & Aoife Cooney from UCD Medical Society.*



## *Fundraising Highlights continued.....*



Eamonn & Mary Burke from Arklow again organised their New Year's Day Swim in Arklow for the Liver Unit in St. Vincent's. Eamonn is a liver transplant recipient. He and Mary recently called to the hospital (*see photo on left*) to present the proceeds from this year's event, which raised a magnificent sum of €6,300. On a clear but cold day Eamonn and Mary had nearly 50 people taking part which was fantastic. Our sincere thanks to all who organised and to the people of Arklow, who generously support this annual event.

*(See photos below taken on the day)*



Our thanks to Fran McNamee, family and friends who organised a Pool competition in Dundrum and donated €500 to the Liver Unit in memory of his brother John RIP.

No festive season would be complete without a raffle or other fundraiser by Christine Kearney. Christine planned for this Easter raffle over many months, gathering and creating great prizes. With a wonderful display of delights and with Easter bunnies (Christine, her friend Catherine and daughter Katie) selling tickets, the draw was a great success raising €1,525.00 for Breast Cancer research and care. It also generated a terrific environment in the hospital aided by Christine handing out Easter eggs around the Hospital.



***We are so indebted to all our supporters and to many more not listed. Some donors do not want to be identified and we always respect that.***

## History of St. Vincent's



### The Move to Elm Park

Through a series of articles we are looking at some of the key milestones and events in the nearly 180 year history of St. Vincent's Hospital.

In an earlier edition we recorded how the hospital expanded from its first twelve beds, in 1834, through a series of developments on all sides of the original premises in No. 56 St. Stephen's Green. However it became clear that the existing location was becoming incapable of expanding sufficiently to meet the needs of the growing numbers of patients and a huge range of new treatments.

In 1934, one hundred years after the foundation of St. Vincent's, fifty acres of land were purchased at Elm Park, Dublin with a view to immediately commencing the planning for a brand new hospital. It proved to be a difficult and protracted journey

Early efforts to move the project ahead were slow and were halted entirely from the commencement of the Second World War in 1939. From that year until 1947 there were no developments with the project.

The first tangible plan was drawn up in 1948 for a 450 bed hospital which was to be assisted by a grant from the Department of Health of £1,350,000; a significant sum in those days. Little progress was made until 1956 when the site was prepared, over a two year period, with drainage, sewerage, water services and roads.

Progress continued to be slow due to significantly rising costs and difficulties in providing the necessary finance. Meanwhile the design plans were variously changed from a 450 bed hospital to a hospital of 250 beds and ultimately back to 450 beds and construction was begun in 1964 by contractors Messrs John Sisk who completed the project.

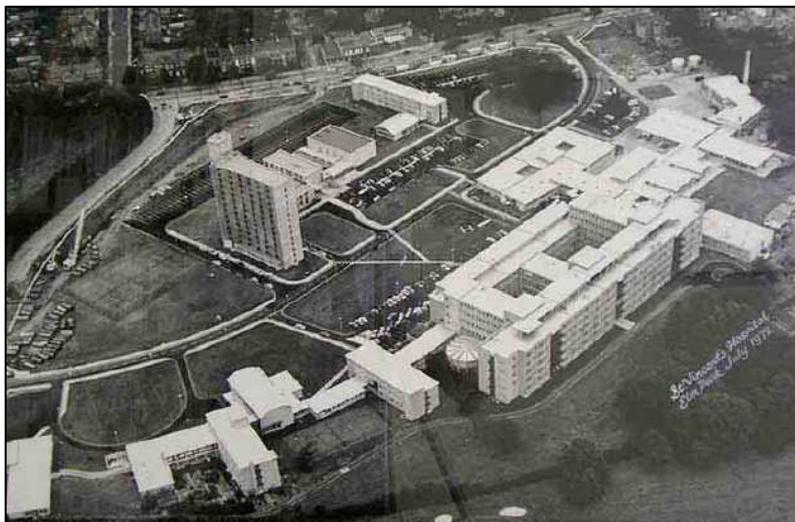
The complex task of fitting out the new hospital continued until 1969 and included all the specialist equipment of a modern hospital at the time. It is notable that St. Vincent's was the first Voluntary Hospital to open in Britain or Ireland since the Second World War

The first patients from St. Vincent's Hospital, St. Stephen's Green were admitted on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1970 - 136 years, to the day, from when the very first patient was admitted to the old hospital in 1834.

The move was highlighted in one of the London newspapers which recorded that the hospital had "...performed its trickiest operation for more than a century ...moving lock, stock and scalpel..."

By the end of October 1970 the last patient left St. Stephen's Green with the event recorded by TV cameras for Radio Telefis Eireann.

Among those at the official opening were President Eamonn de Valera.



# Bequests & Gifts to St. Vincent's

## Legacy Gifts to St. Vincent's



Making a will is a very personal thing but very important to ensure that your assets are used, after your death, according to your wishes. Many people will amend their wills as their circumstances change over their lifetime.

People who make a will often speak of the peace of mind they get from recording their intentions properly. Very interestingly some research in the UK found that people who have made wills have lived longer on average than those who didn't. Other than being a curious point it isn't possible to say why this is so.

If you are making or changing your will please consider leaving a gift to St. Vincent's Hospital after you have taken care of family and friends. Any legacy small or large makes a real positive difference and helps others after you are gone.

From the time that St. Vincent's was established in 1834 we have been able to offer additional care to our patients through money left to the hospital in wills. Some people specify the particular area of medical care or research that they want their money to go to as it means something special to them. We will always carry out the wishes of the legacy donor.

One recent supporter spent a considerable amount of effort to ensure that all the areas of the hospital he dealt with over his life were looked after. We were delighted to be able to thank him on behalf of each of the medical areas who will benefit in time from his generosity.

Often we only hear about a gift to St. Vincent's being included in a will after our benefactor has died. We would love to know who our benefactors are, so that we could meet them and thank them for their support for the hospital.

### Did you know?

- According to recent Irish research, only one in three Irish adults make a will.
  - Not making a will can have a really negative impact on families and can lead to bitter legal disputes over distribution of property and the possibility of the State having to decide on the distribution of your assets
  - Will making offers 'powerful future proofing' of your family
  - The research also showed that only 12% of Irish people have included a charity as a beneficiary in their will, despite the fact that 62% of Irish people say that they would consider leaving a gift to a charity.
  - Legacy donations are an extremely valuable source of unrestricted income to Irish charities
- Irish charities only raise approximately 6% of their income from legacies compared to up to 40% in the UK. We are working to change that. *[Source: [www.mylegacy.ie](http://www.mylegacy.ie)]*

St. Vincent's Foundation is a founding partner of MyLegacy.ie.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who is considering leaving a legacy gift to St. Vincent's.

Please call John Hickey, C.E.O. St Vincent's Foundation, on 01-2215035 or visit our website [www.stvincentsfoundation.ie](http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie)



# *Bequests & Gifts to St. Vincent's*



## ***In Memory donations***

In each edition of "*Friends of St Vincent's*" we note the large number of families who request donations to the hospital in lieu of funeral flowers. We are constantly amazed at this generosity at a time of great grieving for a loved one and we thank them all.

Often the bereaved relatives specify a medical area to be supported and we always adhere to this wish.

If families intend to have a collection, in the church, at the funeral we can provide suitable laminated signs on request.

We would also express our thanks for the many kind comments about the care given to the deceased. We are delighted to pass on these comments.

## ***Tax Relief on Donations to St. Vincent's Foundation***

Because St. Vincent's Foundation is an "Eligible Charity" as defined by the Irish Revenue Commissioners, personal donations are eligible for tax relief.

The relief means that the Irish Revenue Commissioners repay the tax that is relevant to the donation.

In Budget 2013 some changes were made to the tax relief on charitable donations including the following:

- ◆ Donations from all individual donors under the scheme will be treated in the same manner, with the tax relief in all cases being repaid to the charity. Self-assessed taxpayers will no longer be able to claim a deduction for donations.
- ◆ A tax rate of 31% will apply to all donations regardless of the marginal tax rate of the donor.
- ◆ The charitable donations scheme will be removed from the scope of the high earners' restriction.

We will be pleased to deal with any queries in relation to the new procedure for dealing with tax relief on donations.



## *Comments from Our Patients and their Relatives*



**We constantly receive kind comments on the care given to our patients**

**We give a sample of these in each edition but we don't identify any patient or staff member**

**Readers might recognise their own comments**

".....I am writing to you to relay my thanks for the wonderful care my stepfather received in his last days.....your nursing and nursing support staff are a credit to your institution and they care for patients in the most humane and gentle manner possible, whilst administering treatment in the most effective manner."

"May your staff continue their good work and thanks to all once again for the wonderful care."

"I am writing to thank you and the team within St. Vincent's Hospital for the care provided to my mother during her stay in the hospital."

"I am extremely impressed with the care, attention and courtesy which I have received from all who have attended me, consultants, nurses etc."

"I really appreciated having the service of St. Rita's available to me and my husband benefitted also. I felt so safe and near at hand to help him."

"We greatly appreciate the care our mother received and the kindness shown to her and indeed to us her family"

"We express our sincere thanks. The care and attention had to be seen to be believed. It is a great source of comfort to know that John was so well taken care of."

"You will always be remembered for the compassion shown to our family".

"Thank you so much for the love, care and attention mammy has received from all the staff".

"The best of care anyone could ever have got".

"With great appreciation for the loving care and empathy that were shown to our husband, father, brother and grand-dad".

"We were greatly moved by the care, kindness and professionalism show to our mother".

"We would like to thank all who cared for our Mam with such dedication, dignity and respect".

## *Medical news from St. Vincent's*

### European Breast Cancer Conference held in University College Dublin

St. Vincent's University Hospital is a National Centre for treatment of Breast Cancer and we are delighted to report on a major event in this area of medicine.

An International Conference on Young Women with Breast Cancer was held in the Reilly Hall in University College Dublin late last year. This was a joint venture between the European School of Oncology based in Milan, University College Dublin and St. Vincent's University Hospital. Over 360 delegates attended the conference from 40 different nationalities. There was also an International Faculty of Speakers from both Europe and the United States. This conference was funded by the European School of Oncology, Failte Ireland, The Irish Cancer Society and Science Foundation Ireland.

The conference largely dealt with the specific needs of young women who present with breast cancer. One session was dedicated to the concept of Familial Breast Cancer, in other words those patients who are predisposed to develop breast cancer because of a family history of breast cancer. Sessions in this area were dedicated to identification of these patients as well as the management of patients who are carrying specific genes for breast cancer. Another important section was the difficult area of management of patients with breast cancer in pregnancy. With this in mind, a multidisciplinary forum was set up to look at the specific issues relating to surgical practice, administration of chemotherapy and radiotherapy while patients are pregnant. A further session was spent dealing with the reaction of children to their mother who had developed a breast cancer. This section emphasised the point that management of the extended family and in particular how to handle the children of women with breast cancer was an important facet of overall care. Finally, specific issues relating to fertility following chemotherapy for breast cancer in young women was addressed. In this section talks were given by colleagues from Ireland and abroad on methods available for addressing fertility issues as well as issues relating to adoption in this patient population.

Overall the conference was received very well by delegates and faculty alike. The venue was excellent and the practical local issues were managed by MCI Ireland. It is anticipated that a further European conference will take place in the same setting under the umbrella of the same governance structure and that funding will be made available once again predominantly by the European School of Oncology to host such meetings.



St. Vincent's research in this vital medical area is hugely supported by fundraising efforts by our patients and their families. We are grateful to all who have helped and to assure each and every one that their contribution makes a difference.

**James Geraghty, Consultant Surgeon**

# Business Partners of St. Vincent's

Business Partners are an integral part of St. Vincent's Foundation, enabling us to improve the environment for our patients and their families. In a very practical way each of these companies has contributed to the development of the hospital and demonstrated their corporate social responsibility. This is much appreciated and we hope that each benefits from their involvement with St. Vincent's.

As part of our Business Partner programme, we have an annual reception in the hospital attended by the Business Partners together with the Board and Senior Management of St. Vincent's Healthcare Group. Partners are presented with certificates reflecting their ongoing support for the hospital.

Our Business Partners are a very important element of fundraising. As well as new partners we are really grateful to those who continue support, some for the third year. The continued support of our Business partners is very important to the hospital.

***Our grateful thanks to all our Business Partners and we look forward to working with them***

**St. Vincent's Foundation is supported by the following Business Partners**



## *Upcoming Sponsored Events*

### **MyCharity Affiliation**

Don't forget our partner in fundraising mycharity.ie. This is a really useful way to organise fundraising for sponsored events. If anyone is considering participating in any type of sponsored event, it is worth visiting the website. Literally any kind of event can be put up.

If you are using the MyCharity to raise money for St Vincent's through sponsored events the best way is by setting up your own page through [www.mycharity.ie](http://www.mycharity.ie) You can reach this by going to our website [www.stvincentsfoundation.ie](http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie) and following the link for sponsored events. You can then email the link to friends who might wish to sponsor you. There is a Direct Debit payment facility on the mycharity website and also, we are linked to their Facebook & Text Fundraising applications. You can also access a myriad of fundraising ideas via the "fundraising ideas page" on this site.



**Are you thinking of taking part in a fundraising event?**

**If so, please consider choosing St. Vincent's Foundation  
as your chosen charity**

**You can select the cause within the Foundation you would like your  
money to go to**

**All monies received will go directly to your chosen cause  
and patient care**

**Contact us now for a sponsorship pack on  
01-2215065**

**or**

**Email: [stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie](mailto:stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie)**

Donations can be made by  
24 hour donation phone line Tel: 1850 603 803

Via Our Website

[www.stvincentsfoundation.ie](http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie)

Or

Pick up one of our leaflets in the hospital

## **OUR CONTACT DETAILS**

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**St. Vincent's Foundation**

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