

## Issue 3

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

September 2010

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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

Registered in Dublin, Ireland, Company Registration No. 464228 Charity No. 1183

Registered Office: St. Vincent's Foundation, Elm Park, Dublin 4

## *Welcome from the C.E.O. of St. Vincent's Healthcare Group*



**Mr. Nicholas Jermyn**  
**Chief Executive Officer of**  
**St. Vincent's Healthcare Group**

I am delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to this edition of Friends of St Vincent's.

As Group Chief Executive of St Vincent's Healthcare Group, I am constantly aware of the challenge of delivering the world class healthcare that our patients deserve. A major challenge is related to the physical environment of the hospitals and the quality of our premises. I am really proud of our staff in St Vincent's University Hospital. Every day they work tirelessly for our patients and provide exceptional care as has been done in this hospital for more than 176

years. If the hospital and its staff are to continue providing the excellent care that it has provided to-date, it is critical for us to ensure our medical staff have the most up-to-date and best equipment and facilities to care for our patients. To do this we need your support as well as that of the Government.

St. Vincent's University Hospital is a forward looking, innovative, voluntary hospital. Through excellence in healthcare which is enhanced by medical education and research, it will continue to provide the highest quality of care to its patients in the most effective and efficient manner possible as well as continuing to be responsive to its patients, and their families' needs, beliefs and wishes.

The hospital is an independent voluntary hospital managed by a Board of Directors under the legal structure of a registered company, not for profit, which has charitable status. This means that the hospital and its Board are not managed by the HSE or the Department of Health & Children (DOH&C). The hospital has a contract with the HSE/DOH&C to provide hospital services to the public. Each year this contract is negotiated. It should be recognised that the hospital is not fully funded by the HSE, the infrastructure, land, properties and equipment are owned by the company and not the State (HSE). While, over the years, the hospital receives funding from the State, it can not depend on the State for all its funding.

**The support of donors through St. Vincent's Foundation is vital to enable us to invest in modernising our facilities.**

**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.**

**(Website: [www.stvincents.ie](http://www.stvincents.ie))**

## *Welcome from the C.E.O. of St. Vincent's Healthcare Group contd.....*

Similar to other companies/businesses, the hospital has to try and generate other streams of revenue to support its activities without which it could not survive. That is why we need your support and are so grateful when you can help us. The only way we can ensure the dedication and professionalism of our staff is optimised is to provide them with the best environment and equipment they need.

St. Vincent's University Hospital is one of the largest University teaching hospitals in the country. The hospital provides a front line trauma/emergency service and national/regional medical care at inpatient and outpatient level with in excess of fifty medical and surgical specialties. The hospital has 554 in-patient beds, incorporating 7-day, 5-day and day care options, including intensive care, high dependency and coronary care beds as well as medical, surgical, orthopaedic, care of the elderly and psychiatry beds. The hospital is a health promoting hospital. Education (undergraduate and post-graduate) and research are major components of the hospital's activities

St. Vincent's University Hospital is the largest of the three hospitals in St. Vincent's Healthcare Group (including St. Michael's Hospital and St. Vincent's Private Hospital) employing in excess of 2,500 staff. 80% of the staff are directly involved in providing care to our patients. Many of our staff are leaders in their respective fields in the country and are internationally recognised. The following are just some of the hospital's areas of specialty interests:

- Cancer (Breast, Colorectal, Colon, Prostate, Pancreatic, Lung etc)
- Cardiovascular / Heart Disease
- Stroke and Care for the Elderly
- Respiratory Disease (COPD, Cystic Fibrosis, Sleep Apnoea)
- Neurology (MS, Parkinsons)
- Endocrinology (Diabetes)
- Accident & Emergency (Trauma)
- Liver Transplantation and related Hepatobiliary work

The support of donors through St Vincent's Foundation is vital to enable us to invest in modernising our facilities. Donors have been important since the foundation of St Vincent's in 1834. Because of advances in medical care the need is different now but no less pressing. We are truly grateful for the help of so many kind donors. We must continue to appeal to you to do what you can to help in the wonderful mission of providing care regardless of people's ability to pay for it.

We are proud to announce that St Vincent's University Hospital is the first public hospital in Ireland to be accorded the prestigious Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation. JCI is an international body who are pre-eminent in assessing hospital care and they are very demanding in their standards. It's wonderful to have this public international endorsement for what St Vincent's stands for.

*I want to join with my colleagues in thanking all our donors for their support and contribution to the hospital and being a Friend to St Vincent's*

## *Update from the CEO of St. Vincent's Foundation*

Welcome, once again, to the Autumn edition of our donor newsletter.

The stories in here contain so much good news about medical advances as well as the efforts of those donors who enable these advances to be made by their generosity.

We appreciate that the financial environment makes it more difficult for everyone to support the causes they believe in. We are therefore even more appreciative of the creativity and kindness of all those people who find ways to help.



In this edition we highlight a broad sample of the fundraising activities of our patients and their families and of our own staff. Once again we can only say how much we appreciate what they do.

We also remind our readers of supporters who have considered a gift to St. Vincent's when making their will and kind families who recommend donations in lieu of funeral flowers.

As well as featuring successes in fundraising we have included some highlights in developments in the hospital. We face a great challenge in implementing our plans for improvement in patient care as quickly as we would like, but with your help we'll get there.

Once again we welcome any suggestions or feedback either for the content of this magazine or to improve our fundraising.

I hope you enjoy the magazine and thank you for your continued support.

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

We are heartened by the number of events that have been organised by supporters of St. Vincent's. These take a lot of work and generously benefit our patient care and research. The range of events chosen shows the courage and ingenuity of supporters as well as their kindness.



# *EstatesUpdate - August 2010 .....*

The Hospital continued with a number of development projects in the first six months of 2010 including ward upgrades, service redesigns, essential maintenance and reconfiguration of areas including St. James and St. Agnes Wards to improve our service to patients, visitors and staff.

2010 is proving to be a very difficult year for capital funding and the Estates Strategy Group continues to work within very tight budget constraints but have managed to continue its refurbishment and upgrade program especially in patient care environments. Support from generous donors will be increasingly important in this environment.

In addition to this, the hospitals Technical Services and other service departments, have been working behind the scenes to improve essential services. These include the recent installation of new boilers and water tanks, improvements to fire detection and installation of fire doors and the continuing upgrade of access control across the campus.

Significant recent activity includes:

## **New Ward Block**

Following the submission of tenders for the design, build and financing of the new ward block at St. Vincent's University Hospital which will incorporate the new Cystic Fibrosis unit, the hospital is currently finalising the details and contracts.

Background work and preparations on this project are currently very active and from late December 2009 onwards the hospital completed various decanting projects necessary to leave a clear site ready for the new ward block construction.

Alternative accommodation was developed for the departments inhabiting the site and entailed relocating many hospital departments/services.

## **St. James Ward**

The transformation of St. James Ward (Ophthalmology) from an inpatient area to a comprehensive day service, including the

investigation and management of age related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Diabetic eye diseases has proven very successful and has improved patient safety and efficiency. This has streamlined the service from a patient perspective. They no longer need an overnight stay and has greatly improved throughput and reduced waiting lists.

The refurbishment work included reconfiguration of the bed base from 7 inpatient beds to day service, a new procedure room, upgrade to the waiting room and doctor's examination room and all floors, Doorways and electrics upgraded.

The department has now seen a significant rise in the number of patients attending the ward for various day procedures since the changes were introduced. Statistics indicate that during the first quarter of 2010 patient numbers have risen to 1223 in comparison to 820 in 2009 for the same period.

**The Estates Strategy Group continues to work within very tight budget constraints but have managed to continue its refurbishment and upgrade program especially in patient care environments.**

## **St. Anne's Ward**

St. Anne's Ward reopened in April following a major refurbishment that created a better patient environment, reducing risk of infection and considerably improved hygiene standards. The work entailed a complete strip out of the ward and the replacement of all mechanical and electrical services including flooring, painting, lighting and decorating. The project saw the introduction of a new nurse office, utilities, drug preparation, storage and most of all new toilets and showers for patients.

## *Estates Update continued.....*

### **Radiology Ultrasound Room**

Two additional ultrasound rooms were developed to meet the demands created by the new Rapid Access Prostate Cancer Clinics. This created a better patient environment and improved waiting times. This work was completed as part of St. Vincent's commitment to improving services for patients and was partly funded by the National Cancer Control Programme.

### **St. Luke's Ward**

A new Surgical Observation Unit was completed in July which included modifications to existing layout to create a designated 4 bedded unit for the care of Pancreatic Patients designed to improve the privacy and dignity for patients and their families. The work entailed an upgrade of flooring, ceilings, lighting and the installation of nurse call, T.V.'s and extensive monitoring to reduce risk and improve patient safety.



### **St. Agnes Ward**

In July following some minor works and redecorating St. Agnes Ward was reopened as the new home for the IV Therapies Suite. The work involved included repainting, T.V. installation and upgrading of the office areas to accommodate the service. This has allowed the service to expand and is now fully equipped for 14 patients. This development provided patients with a much welcomed larger brighter facility and with easier accessibility. The move also meant an increase in day case beds on St. Marks' Ward to meet the growing demand to see patients on a day case basis, reducing length of stay and increasing throughput.

There are also a number of projects currently still in progress or near completion including the upgrade of the Dermatology Unit, a new Patient Library, Theatre and St. Catherine's Ward upgrade. A full update on all these projects will be given in the next newsletter.

# Fundraising Highlights

## Women's Mini Marathon 2010

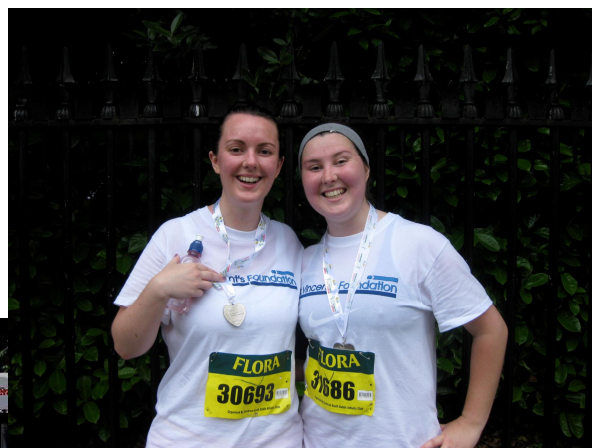


**The 2010 Women's Mini Marathon held on Bank Holiday Monday 7th June attracted the usual support and we are very grateful to those who signed up for St. Vincent's.**

**This year's event raised over €30,000 which is a fantastic result with a considerable increase in donations over last year.**

**Well done to all who completed the marathon on a day of awful rain and persevered to complete the course. We must also thank those hundreds of people who sponsored this event. It is terrific to see the number of patients and their families who are coming to us to take part in the Mini Marathon as a result of staff suggesting it to them.**

**We really appreciate that support. Thank you.**





## *Fundraising Highlights Continued.....*



The annual UCD Medical Society Charity Day took place in October 2009 and we are delighted that the Society voted to donate €3,000 to St. Vincent's Foundation, which was presented in February. This was a huge effort involving over 600 students and it is a great credit to all that they raised a record sum.

*Alex Richardson, Auditor of UCD Medical Society presents a cheque to John Hickey from the Society fundraising day*

Dominic & David Donovan – husband and son of Pain Management Unit patient Mary Donovan from Cork presented a cheque for €2,500 being proceeds of David's fundraising from taking part in the Dublin Marathon last October. We really appreciate their support

We are very grateful to Michael Powderly from Enfield, County Meath who took part in the Manchester Walk on 17<sup>th</sup> April for lung cancer care in St. Vincent's in memory of his late wife Barbara. Michael raised over €350. This was a walk through the city of Manchester at night, passing well known landmarks along the route and using light in different ways throughout the event to symbolise bringing hope to the darkness of cancer. Michael's participation also reflected the challenge of Volcanic Ash as he had to abandon his plans to fly to the event and travel by boat and car instead. The generosity of Michael and his family and friends is much appreciated.

Triona Douglas organised a Coffee Morning and raised €625 for cancer research in St. Vincent's as well as some other charities. A tremendous achievement and much appreciated.

*Triona Douglas (centre) presenting proceeds to Ger Lanigan Ryan & John Hickey St. Vincent's Foundation*



In February, a Liver Patient from County Sligo fundraised over €8,000 for the Liver Unit for which we are extremely grateful.

Sincere thanks to Imelda Noone, Serena Hatton, Sinead Feeney, Dr. Morgan Crowe from Our Lady's Ward and others who took part in the Connemarathon on 11<sup>th</sup> April last and who raised over €1,200 for the Stroke Unit by way of sponsorship, donations from relatives & staff and setting up fundraising pages on MyCharity.ie. We are extremely grateful for their generosity in taking part in the Marathon and for contributing to the hospital. Development of Stroke services and Care of the Elderly is one of the key targets in St. Vincent's and this support is particularly welcome.

We are very thankful to the people who have set up fundraising pages on Mycharity ([see www.mycharity.ie](http://www.mycharity.ie)) for different forthcoming events/fundraising.



## *Fundraising Highlights Continued.....*

The extended family of the late Brian McMahon who died in SVUH last year following an accident have shown huge generosity in supporting St. Vincent's. We received over €1,300 from the McMahon Family being proceeds of Christmas Card sales in memory of Brian. They also held a highly successful fundraising event on 23rd April which raised over €3,500. We are very grateful for a huge effort by the extended family at a very difficult time for them.



*Pictured on the left are The McMahon family Marie, Paul, Marian, Courtney & Lauren presenting proceeds from their fundraising event in memory of Brian to Kathryn McDonnell and Miriam Hayes, Staff of Luke's 1 as well as Ger Lanigan Ryan, St. Vincent's Foundation.*

Liver Transplant patient Kevin Farrell and his family from Edenderry who raised a lot of money last year for the Liver Unit, recently presented the Foundation with a cheque for €2,750 being proceeds from the sale of a C.D. containing tracks donated by his friends in the music business including Mick Foster of "Foster & Allen" as well as a monologue recorded by Kevin and his daughter Sinead. The C.D. was co-produced with well known singer/songwriter Danny Slevin. Kevin's brother Seamus was also the recipient of a liver transplant many years ago in St. Vincent's. We appreciate this support and the CD was terrific.



*Kevin, Eileen & Sinead Farrell presenting cheque to John Hickey*

The St. Vincent's Annual Rugby Club Ball was held in the Mansion House on Friday 5th March. The Rugby Club decided this year that the proceeds of the Ball would be donated to St. Vincent's Foundation for which we are extremely grateful. This year was extra special for the club, having won the Hospital's Cup after a gap of some years. The Ball was a great success. Our thanks to the Organising Committee and Prof. Michael Keane, President of St. Vincent's R.F.C. for their support to the Foundation.

Christian Eder who works with Smurfit Kappa in Dublin swam the Hellespont in Turkey on 3rd May last, to fundraise for the Liver Transplant Unit in St. Vincent's and in so doing raised over €4,000 for St. Vincent's. This swim over a distance of 5.5km of open sea was made famous by the poet Lord Byron who completed it 200 years ago this year. Christian completed the swim in 2 hours in water temperatures of 13.5°. Sincere thanks to Christian on behalf of all patients in St. Vincent's.

*On right - Christian Eder presents his fundraising monies for the Liver Unit to John Hickey, St. Vincent's Foundation*



## *Fundraising Highlights Continued.....*

Carmel Malone, Mary Egan and Catherine Kelly organised a super event in Ringsend Stadium on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. As they remembered friends and family who were affected by cancer including those deceased, they also donated funds for cancer care in St. Vincent's. They raised over €1,200. Well done to them all. We appreciate the support.

*Some of the participants at the Ringsend Stadium fundraiser*



Our sincere thanks to Brian Gallagher who took part in the Bupa Run in the Phoenix Park on 18<sup>th</sup> April last and who raised €1,260 for cancer care (St. Luke's Ward) in St. Vincent's through sponsorship and his fundraising page on MyCharity.

*Pictured on left are Brian Gallagher & Nicola Kerrigan presenting cheque to Finola Gill, St. Luke's Ward and John Hickey, St. Vincent's Foundation*

Jonathan Chawke again took part in the Wicklow 200 this year for St. Vincent's raising over €1,100. Jonathan continues to prepare and take part in this most taxing sport and, importantly, continues to support St Vincent's in doing so. Many thanks Jonathan.

Margaret Gorman from Ballina trained and competed on behalf of St. Vincent's in the West of Ireland Mini-Marathon in Castlebar on 2<sup>nd</sup> May last. Margaret persuaded a wide circle of friends to sponsor her to benefit the Liver Transplant Unit here and raised €700. Her efforts are very much appreciated.

*Margaret Gorman displays her St. Vincent's t-shirt before the race*



Our big money box at the main entrance of SVUH continues to attract a lot of donations. The generosity of all donors is much appreciated. Many of the donations into the box reflect the friendly and supportive service provided by the staff on the front desk.

Last summer a group in Carlow under the chairmanship of John Candy donated €5,000 for cancer care in St. Vincent's. This hardworking committee undertook local fundraising events again this summer and raised over €15,000. Five charities, including St. Vincent's, were beneficiaries of their hard work. John Candy recently presented St. Vincent's Foundation with a cheque for €3,000. It is most heartening to see the enthusiasm and hard work that delivered such an outstanding result for patient care here and in other institutions. Sincere thanks again to all concerned.



## Fundraising Highlights Continued.....



During the week of 12<sup>th</sup> July, the staff in the Dermatology Department held a Sun Awareness Week, with a week long advisory desk on skin protection. This is particularly important with the growing incidence of skin related conditions in Ireland. St. Vincent's plans to invest in this vital health area and the Dermatology staff ran a fundraising raffle in parallel to assist with this development. We are really grateful for the support and particular thanks to Esther O'Sullivan who organised the event. In addition to providing invaluable advice and information, the fundraising raffle raised €661.46.

*The Dermatology Team at Sun Awareness Week*

Gabrielle Shannon aged 10 years from Carlow decided to have her long hair cut to support St. Vincent's because her Mum's friend Anne Marie Griffin aged 32 died in SVUH last October. Gabrielle raised a total of nearly €6,400 from her activities. What a fantastic result from a remarkable young girl. Gabrielle's project got some very nice coverage in the Evening Herald.

*Friends and family of the late Ann Marie Griffin, including her mother Eileen and Gabrielle Shannon (holding the cheque), presenting the proceeds of Gabrielle's fundraising efforts*



In the immediate aftermath of the sad death of her father J.C. Savage, Philomena Savage raised in excess of €1,300 for St. Vincent's. This was a great achievement in any circumstances but particularly at such a hard time for her and her family. Our sincere thanks to them all.

*On the left Philomena Savage makes a presentation in memory of her late father to John Hickey & Ger Lanigan Ryan, St. Vincent's Foundation*

The extended O'Neill Family from Carrick on Suir, County Tipperary organised a fancy dress and other fundraising events in memory of their brother Leon O'Neill, R.I.P. for the care of patients with cystic fibrosis in St. Vincent's. Reflecting their popularity in the town and the generosity of their supporters, they raised in excess of €4,000 which will be used directly to improve the environment for cystic fibrosis patients and their families in St. Vincent's.

*On the right Margaret & Caroline O'Neill together with family and friends presenting a cheque for part of their fundraising memory of Leon R.I.P.*





## *Fundraising Highlights Continued.....*

Our sincere thanks to Fashion store Fran & Jane who hosted a London Tea Party/Fashion Show in Douglas & Kaldi, Dundrum Town Centre on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April last with all proceeds going to St. Vincent's Foundation, for Breast Cancer Care in St. Vincent's. The idea for this fashion show came from a staff member of Fran & Jane who wanted to show her appreciation for the caring staff in Breastcheck. Several staff attended the most enjoyable event on 28<sup>th</sup> April and a raffle was held on the night with a huge number of valuable spot prizes. We are very grateful to all involved in Fran & Jane, the staff of Douglas and Kaldi restaurant, Bertoni Menswear and all others in Dundrum Shopping Centre who made this event such a successful fundraiser with a fantastic result of €5,000 donated to St. Vincent's.



*Karen O'Hare and Marie McCrossan from Fran & Jane, Dundrum presenting cheque to John Hickey, St. Vincent's Foundation*



*Enjoying the Fashion Show*



***Again, we are so indebted to all these people and  
to many more not listed.***

***Some donors do not want to be identified and we always respect that.***

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

### *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 you can also access a myriad of fundraising ideas via the "fundraising ideas page" on this site.

### *Bequests to St Vincent's*

We were recently approached by a gentleman who is in the course of making his will. Because of the care provided to his father over many years, the man wants to include a gift to St. Vincent's in his will. His father died in the hospital last year. This great generosity follows a recent pattern of many people considering making a contribution to a charity from their estate and it means that they make a very real difference, after their own passing, to something that matters to them.

In recent months a growing number of former patients and their families have included a gift to St. Vincent's in their will. A bequest in this way allows someone to make a lasting difference, long after they are gone, to a cause that matters to them.

In February we received a legacy of just over €28,000. This is something that we believe will become more important over time as people decide that they want to give something back to St. Vincent's as they make their Will.

In March we were contacted by a former patient of St Vincent's to advise that she was writing her will and directed that some of her money should be given to St Vincent's so that others would benefit in the future. This generosity is much appreciated.

In April we received a legacy of €1,000

MyLegacy.ie is Ireland's leading resource for information on legacy giving. So if you would like to be remembered for a lasting act of kindness, or go on supporting a charity that is dear to you after your death, log onto [www.mylegacy.ie](http://www.mylegacy.ie) to learn more.



The services of a solicitor are advisable when considering a Will and we are delighted that Mangan O'Beirne Solicitors, 31 Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 have very kindly offered a free consultation to anyone considering a Will.

Anyone wishing to avail of this service should call 01-6684333 or email [solicitors@manganobeirne.ie](mailto:solicitors@manganobeirne.ie) and mention St. Vincent's, to make an appointment.

If you would like to know more about how a legacy/gift can help St. Vincent's, please contact John Hickey, C.E.O. St. Vincent's Foundation on email: [j.hickey@svuh.ie](mailto:j.hickey@svuh.ie) or tel: 01-2215035.

### *Gifts in Lieu of Flowers*

We have seen a growing trend of families suggesting donations to specific causes in St. Vincent's in lieu of funeral flowers.

This is welcome and very generous of families who look for others to benefit from their loss.

We are grateful to the donations we received from relatives of deceased patients and also via our website. It is noticeable that many more families are choosing that patients of the hospital will benefit from donations in lieu of flowers at funerals of loved ones.

## *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

*"Thank you so much for your help and support over the past 9 weeks. We couldn't have done it without you."*

*"Thank you all so very much for your help, guidance and kindness during my time spent on the ward"*

*"We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the staff during her stay in St Vincent's"*

*"Thank you so much for all the loving care and attention you gave our mother over the past 7 weeks. We really appreciate all you did for her"*

*"We haven't got the words to express our gratitude for all you did for us both. All we can say is a very big thank you"*

*"Every member of staff that we met was wonderful to both her and us in terms of the medical care given to Mom and the emotional support given to us at a very difficult time"*

*"I know that working in public hospitals is extremely challenging at times and that you and your colleagues don't always receive the acknowledgement for the care and comfort you give to so many, so please accept this note as one indication that people care about what you do"*

*"Thanks for all the loving care and attention you gave over the last few weeks".*

*"We cannot express enough how thankful we all are for the kindness and care you all showed to our mother"*

*"I would like to thank you and your team for the wonderful attention you and your team gave to me when I was your patient".*

*"The long and difficult days at the end of her journey were blessed by the kindness and excellence of your attention to every care and detail. As staff you have a great sincerity, sensitivity and humour as you carry out your daily care".*

*"We were always treated with respect, with gentleness and where applicable encouragement and assistance to help ourselves get better".*

*".....Another point I would like to refer to is the room into which my father was put into to pass away. It was on the top floor—The Nutley Suite. It has to be said that as a Hospital it's a credit to you to have such a fantastic facility to hand".*



## *Some Medical Highlights from St. Vincent's*

### **SVUH Surgeons Obtain Significant Research Funding**

Surgeons at St Vincent's University Hospital have secured more than one million euro in external research funding from Science Foundation Ireland and the Health Research Board. This remarkable achievement has been attained following external peer review and in the face of marked cutbacks in funding available for research and strong competition.



The largest grant, worth almost €650,000, was awarded by Science Foundation Ireland to a research consortium led by co-investigators Prof Ronan O'Connell and Prof Des Winter to study colonisation of the human colon by sulphate reducing bacteria in health and in Ulcerative Colitis. The consortium includes St Vincent's consultant staff Prof John Hyland, Prof Diarmuid O'Donoghue, Prof Hugh Mulcahy, Prof William Hall and Prof Kieran Sheahan. In addition collaboration has been established with TCD through Dr. Neil Docherty, UCC through Prof Fergus Shanahan and University of Limerick through newly appointed Prof Calvin Coffey. The project will use sophisticated next generation

genetic sequencing to profile the types of bacteria present in the colon of patients with ulcerative colitis and explore the relationship between sulphate reducing bacteria and disease activity. Preliminary work has shown that sulphate reducing bacteria can be detected in the mucous that normally protects the colonic mucosa and that there is a change in the ratio of these bacteria in acute colitis.

A research group led by Consultant Surgeon and UCD Senior Lecturer in Surgery Mr James Geraghty has been awarded €260,000 by the Health Research Board to study new prognostic markers of breast cancer using a model of cellular senescence and will be undertaken through a collaboration with Dr A Bracken at Trinity College Dublin.

A research group led by Prof Des Winter has been awarded €250,000 to conduct a randomised clinical trial of laparoscopic levage versus laparotomy and resection for perforated diverticular disease. This is a clinically very important development and arises from research conducted at St Vincent's, St Luke's Hospital Kilkenny and the Mercy Hospital Cork that has shown potential benefit for the less invasive laparoscopic technique.

### **Outstanding Achievements by SVUH Surgical Trainees**

Specialist surgical registrar Mr Jurgen Mulsow was awarded the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland Gold Medal for achieving first place in the Intercollegiate Fellowship in Surgery examination held in May.

Mr Mulsow had been working in the Surgical Professorial Unit and Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery. In July Mr Mulsow moved to Erlangen, Germany to take up a Fellowship in Colorectal Surgical Oncology in the University of Erlangen under the direction of Professor Werner Hohenberger.

A paper presented by Mr Calvin Coffey, based on work performed at St Vincent's and the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, was awarded the prize for best research presented to the annual meeting of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA in May 2010. Mr Coffey was Specialist Registrar in the Surgical Professorial Unit and Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery in 2008-9. More recently, Mr. Coffey has been a Fellow at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, USA and in May 2010 was appointed to the Foundation Chair of Surgery at the University of Limerick.



## *St. Rita's: a hidden gem*

St. Rita's is a 12 room facility for families of patients of St Vincent's who require to stay over and be very close to the hospital. This is often when they are supporting a family member in the hospital and helps to make a very difficult situation more tolerable.

St Rita's is available on a "first-come, first-served" basis and is free of charge. Kathleen Gill and her staff, including Maeve Doyle and Terry Burke maintain the rooms and they are extremely welcoming and homely.

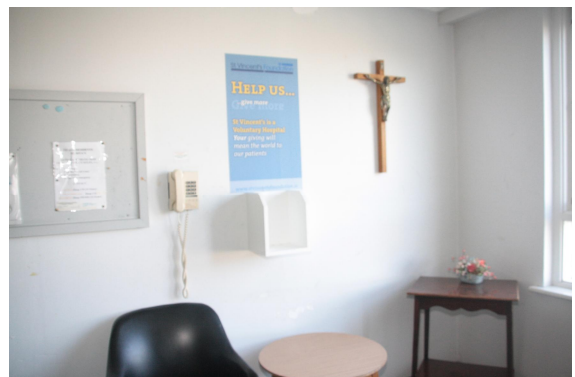
*L. to R. Maeve Doyle, Kathleen Gill & Terry Burke*



Patients have long expressed their gratitude for this accommodation, often provided at a time of great vulnerability for the family.

St. Vincent's Foundation will shortly be supporting an upgrade of the family facilities in St. Rita's.

This hidden gem is an example of caring in St. Vincent's that extends well beyond just medical care and reflects the values of the hospital in a very practical way.



## *Business Partners*

A very important element of the support for St Vincent's University Hospital is the growing number of Business Partners of St Vincent's Foundation. 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.

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





## Upcoming Sponsored Events



**Dublin Marathon 2010 – Monday 25th October, 9am**  
**2010 Registration is now open**

**For full registration details log onto official website [www.dublinmarathon.ie](http://www.dublinmarathon.ie)**

**Are you taking part in the 2010 Dublin Marathon?**

**If so, please consider choosing *St. Vincent's Foundation* – the fundraising wing of St. Vincent's Healthcare Group - 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 for a sponsorship pack on 2215065 or email [stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie](mailto:stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie)**

## Christmas Cards 2010



**The sale of Christmas Cards has been an important source of revenue for St. Vincent's Foundation, as well as key in promoting the work in our hospitals.**

**During the last year we had several suggestions from staff about the design of our Christmas Cards and following from this we organised a Staff Christmas Card competition for staff members and their immediate families for original art (including paintings, sculptures and photographs) to design Christmas Cards. There were many fine entries and our art expert shortlisted 12 for staff to vote on. The final winners were Louisa Gannon, daughter of Dr. Cecily Quinn and Regina Keenan, Senior Dietitian. The two winning entries will now become a new design for St. Vincent's Christmas Cards. We are particularly grateful once again to our business partner Stillorgan Park Hotel (part of the Talbot Hotel Group) for the two weekend break vouchers, generously provided free of charge, for the competition.**

**Please support St. Vincent's when buying your Christmas Cards**

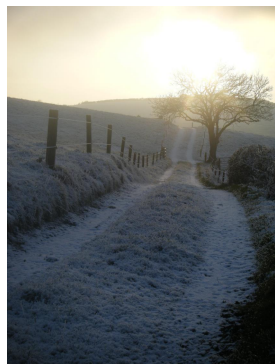
***St. Vincent's is acknowledged on all cards***

**Cards are available from Administration Office,  
Education & Research Centre, S.V.U.H. Tel: 2215065**

**Price: €5.00 per pack of 10 cards**



## Christmas Cards



1.

**Support St.Vincent's when buying your  
Christmas Cards**

**St.Vincent's is acknowledged on all cards**

**Price: €5.00 per pack of 10 cards**



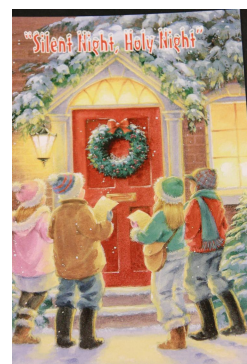
3.



2.



5.



4.

### Order Form for Christmas Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact tel. no. \_\_\_\_\_

**Cards are packed in 10's@ €5 per pack)**

**Choose Card Type/Quantity from above:** 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.

**Amount Enclosed €** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Cheque/postal order payable to St. Vincent's Foundation)**

**Return your completed order form (before 1st Dec 2010) to:**

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

**St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4**

# How to contact us?



St. Vincent's Foundation

St. Vincent's University Hospital

Elm Park,

Dublin 4

**Tel:** 01 221 5065

**Fax:** 01 221 4428

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

# How to Donate

Donations can be made through:

**24 hour donation phone line: 1850 603 803**

Or

Via Our Website:

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

Or pick up one of our leaflets in the hospital:

