

Issue 1

Friends of St. Vincent's Newsletter

June 2009

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*Working with friends and sponsors to
enrich and improve the lives of our patients*



St. Vincent's Foundation



St. Vincent's Foundation serves St. Vincent's University Hospital, St. Vincent's Private Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital.

Registration No. 464228 Charity No. 1183

Fundraising highlights

Welcome to the first edition of the 'Friends of St. Vincent's Newsletter'.

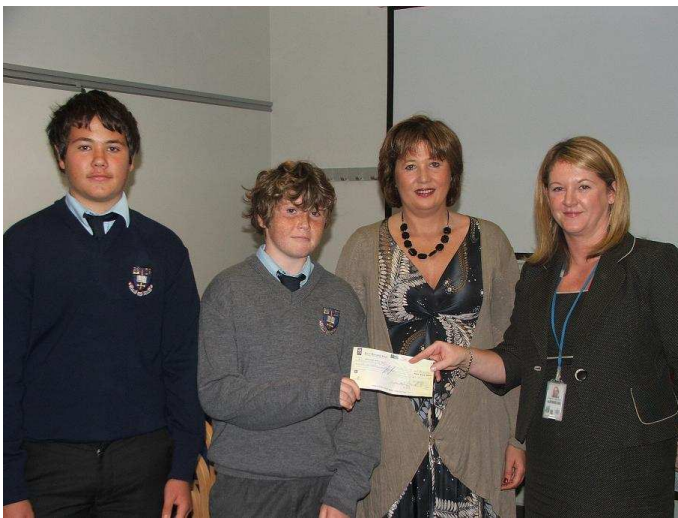
I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many loyal supporters and highlight those who have raised much needed funds for patient care here in St. Vincent's over the last eight months.

St. Vincent's Foundation was formally launched in December last to serve the fundraising needs of St. Vincent's University Hospital, St. Vincent's Private Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital.

Outlined below is a brief synopsis of some of the fundraising highlights to date.



Mr. John Hickey,
CEO St. Vincents Foundation



Pictured above : Members of the O'Neill Family
handing over the cheque to Dr. Karen Murphy

Our first cheque received was donated by the family of Mr. Jack O'Neill on Monday the 20th of October to St. Vincent's University Haematology Unit via St. Vincent's Foundation.

The Jack O' Neill Foundation have raised a vast amount of money in a very short space of time in memory of Jack O Neill who died tragically at the age of 43 years from AL Amyloid. His wife, three children and extended family have worked tirelessly over the last year to fundraise in order to buy equipment and fund research that will help patients and their families who are

currently coping with this illness.

Christmas saw us officially launch the Foundation with a Christmas Carol Service on Grafton Street on December 17. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all the choir members and staff who sang and collected donations on the night on behalf of the Foundation.

We got a great boost from the Board of St Vincent's Healthcare Group during December when they decided unanimously that every member of the Board would make a financial contribution to St Vincent's Foundation. This is particularly generous because it is in addition to the valuable time that the Directors give to St Vincents, all of which is voluntary.

This was followed by a number of kind donations from staff and all wished to be anonymous. One staff member decided with his family that they would club together at Christmas to help patient care at St Vincent's and contributed €1,400 which is extremely generous and reflects the caring culture of St Vincent's.

Another young couple donated money for the Liver Unit as part of their wedding celebrations.

Fundraising Highlights Continued



In March John Dunne from Clara, Co Offaly with his family and friends raised €2,500 for care of Cystic Fibrosis patients in St Vincent's.

This fundraising event represented a great community spirit and very hard work on behalf of everyone involved.

John had been a patient in St Vincent's and was warmly received by the staff in the CF area when he came up for the presentation.

Pictured to the left: John Dunne presents the cheque to Dr. Ed Mc Kone and other the member of the Cystic Fibrosis Multidisciplinary Team

The month of June was a great example of how many people are now choosing St. Vincent's as their charity of choice. The month started very well with one hundred and twelve participants in the Women's Mini Marathon raising money for St. Vincent's. The sponsorship money is now coming in, so we don't yet know what the final total will be but it looks very promising for our first year.

Amazingly one group in Aughrim under the leadership of Catherine Finan, raised €6,400. Catherine's husband Gerry tragically, died here in St. Vincent's on Christmas Day.

We have learned from the feedback from participants in the marathon. One big message is that, as the marathon passes by the hospital, we should have much more recognition of those who are doing it for us. We will make sure this is right for next year. A big thank you to also to those people who took part and those who sponsored participants.



John Hickey receiving the cheque from the Catherine Finan Women's Mini Marathon Team

Fundraising Highlights Continued



Enjoying the Women's Mini Marathon

The next marathon on the horizon is the Dublin Marathon in October and we are hoping that staff and friends will take part for St. Vincent's. We will be promoting participation in the Dublin Marathon over the coming months.

We had a great response to our Group CEO Nicky Jermyn and Professor Doug Veale taking part in the Wicklow 100 and 200 cycle races held on 7th of June. We are grateful to them and to staff who sponsored them. We also had a relation of a patient taking part in the Wicklow 100 for St. Vincent's who raised great sponsorship for stroke and

cancer services in St. Vincent's.

The Lady Captain of Rathsallagh Golf Club very kindly contributed over €4,000, being the proceeds of her Captain's Charity Day, to breast cancer at St Vincent's.

Also, through the mother of a staff member, the Lady Captain's Charity Day in Old Conna Golf Club raised over €3,000 for the Stroke Unit and Cancer services.

Wicklow I.C.A. raised over €1,000 from a sponsored walk for breast cancer services in St. Vincent's.

A patient Mary Ellen Knowles, aged sixteen, from Co Laois raised almost €4,000 from a series of events in her

parish with the help of her family and friends. A fabulous achievement and we're really grateful.

The 6th Year students in Muckross Park College contributed €1,000 for cancer services, which is much appreciated.

Other interesting fundraising events include a skydive in Co Kerry by teachers and students and a sponsored cycle in Wexford planned for July in aid of St Vincent's.

On behalf of our patients we are truly grateful to all our supporters and look forward to strengthening and developing our relationship over the coming months and years.



Left to right—Rathsallagh Golf Club Presentation

Prof. Joe Duffy, Prof. Noel Whelan, Chairman; Dr. Siun Walsh, Ms. Patricia Brady, Lady Captain Dr. Aisling Pierce, ; Mr. John Hickey, & Mr. John Mullan, Captain,

Latest news from St. Vincent's

NCCP confirms St Vincent's University Hospital to be National Surgical Centre for Pancreatic Cancer

The HSE National Cancer Control Programme confirmed in May that St. Vincent's University Hospital Dublin (as part of the Dublin Academic Health Centre) has been designated to be the National Surgical Centre for Pancreatic Cancer.

Prior to arriving at this decision, the NCCP sought expressions of interest from designated centres currently performing this surgery. Following a review of the capacity of individual cancer centres to take on this commitment, it was decided that all pancreatic cancer surgery should be centralised in one hospital as specified by the Advisory Group to the National Cancer Strategy.

Pancreatic cancer is acknowledged as having a poor prognosis, with surgery providing the only curative therapy for patients. Pancreatic surgical resection is highly complex surgery requiring a sophisticated surgical team and support services to achieve optimal outcomes. International evidence suggests that optimal survival is achieved when surgery is restricted to institutions performing significant volumes of surgery, performed by experienced personnel.

Almost all major pancreatic cancer surgery is currently performed in just six hospitals nationally - St James, the Mater Misericordiae, Beaumont, Tallaght, St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin and Mercy Hospital, Cork with a total of approximately 100 resections carried out annually. Each of these hospitals is performing, on average, less than 20 pancreatic cancer resections on an annual basis.

St Vincent's University Hospital, which houses the National Hepatobiliary Unit, already has a significant concentration of the necessary infrastructure and medical expertise to facilitate this development.

The NCCP and St Vincent's University Hospital have jointly committed to a process to ensure that the resources are in place to accommodate this new surgical programme by the end of 2009.

Latest news continued

It is anticipated that patients will continue to be diagnosed and receive non surgical management in other hospitals and cancer centres. This decision will require that all surgery will be carried out at SVUH. Triage of suitable patients will be carried out through multi disciplinary case conferences supported by video link technology between the eight centres.

This technology will be in place in all eight designated cancer centres by the end of the year. This review process will enable clinicians to meet on a national basis to determine the suitability of patients for surgery and facilitate their transfer to St Vincent's if surgery is recommended.

Commenting on the announcement, Prof Tom Keane, Interim Director of the National Cancer Control Programme said: "We are delighted to be working jointly with the clinicians and management at St Vincent's University Hospital as part of the Dublin Academic Health Centre to ensure this new national surgical centre is fully resourced and functioning by the end of this year. This announcement demonstrates the commitment of the many dedicated doctors, nurses and allied health professionals across the country to delivering on the National Cancer Strategy."

New theatre complex opens

We are delighted to announce the successful opening of the new Theatre Complex in the Clinical Service's Building in February. Considerable planning and preparation has gone into this move and this is a major achievement for St. Vincent's University Hospital and something we are very proud of.



All emergency surgery will now be carried out here. Looking to the future, we will continue to work with the HSE in planning the building of the further four theatres in the Clinical Service Building to bring the complement up to twelve. We will keep all advised of progress.

Latest news continued

SVUH Cardiac Team perform a live case to Boston

Professor David Keane and the Cardiac Electrophysiology Team at the SVUH recently performed a live case demonstration of a patient undergoing pulmonary vein isolation - a catheter ablation procedure used to treat patients with atrial fibrillation.

The procedure was performed in the Cardiac Electrophysiology Lab at SVUH and was transmitted live by satellite to the World Trade Centre in Boston to an audience of over 1300 attendees (afsymposium.com). The case demonstrated key points relating to safety and efficacy and role of new technology which is not yet available for use in the United States.

Professor Keane was accompanied in the laboratory by Dr Edward Rowland from the Heart Hospital in London who contributed greatly to the teaching and educational value of the procedure. The logistics of the case were greatly facilitated by Sharon Donohoe - senior EP technician, Derek Gilbane - chief cardiac radiography, Siobhan Milliken - nurse manager of the Cath Lab. The procedure was successfully completed within the two and half hour transmission time.

Catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation - pulmonary vein isolation is a complex procedure and is most effective in younger patients with symptomatic paroxysmal atrial fibrillation in the absence of advanced structural heart disease.



Building Projects Updates

Improvements to Patient Facilities

The challenge this year is to try to maintain our programme of upgrading patient facilities given the scarcity of capital funding.

St. Clare's Ward

This area was refurbished to create a 13 bedded semi-private ward. It is configured into two 4-bed units, one 3-bed unit and one 2-bed unit all with en-suite facilities. The ward reopened in early April.



Ward Kitchens.

Work commenced in February on the second phase which involves the kitchens on St. Michael's, St. Luke's, St. Laurence's and St. John's wards.

New Ward Block

St. Vincent's Hospital has received permission to proceed to tender for a new ward block. The new block will be a stand alone seven storey building containing 110 individual en-suite patient bedrooms. It will house a dedicated Cystic Fibrosis In-patient and Day-care Unit. No decision has yet been made in relation to the other specialties that will be located within the new block.

It is proposed that the site will be handed over to the successful contractor by December 2009. Construction will proceed on the basis that payment will be made at the end of the construction phase. This is a different way of funding this project as it involves the construction company financing the development up to the final phase of construction. The normal method would have involved staged payments throughout the construction period.

This is excellent news for St. Vincent's given the current economic conditions.

We are working to an ambitious timescale to ensure that the unit will be operational as early as possible in 2011.

The following progress has been made to date:

- The design brief has been completed with input from Clinicians, Nursing and other key stakeholders.
- The tender process has commenced and the official notice has been issued.
- A decanting strategy for the proposed site has been agreed and work has already commenced on preparing alternative accommodation for its current inhabitants.

Future Plans

St Vincent's Hospital has come a long way since we were founded by Mother Mary Aikenhead in 1834. She recognised, at that time, that the needy sick were totally neglected and she was determined that they would get the medical care they needed.

The values she established one hundred and seventy-five years ago are still valid today.

Human dignity, compassion, justice, quality and advocacy are equally important in patient care in 2009.

We are seeking to provide the best physical environment for our excellent healthcare professionals to deliver top quality care. Major elements of the plan include:

- gradually replacing the existing multi-bedded wards with single rooms where each patient will have the benefits that a single room provides in relation to infection control, patient dignity and medical outcomes. This will place St. Vincent's at the top of world class standards for a voluntary hospital.
- developing a Stroke Unit of international best standard which will give dramatically improved outcomes for people affected by strokes.
- For patients of our haematology services, we plan to build a day care centre to meet the specific needs of this patient population.

These are big projects and will take time. There are also many other smaller projects. The support of our donors is vital to delivering this world-standard hospital service to all patients regardless of their circumstances.

Again in the words of Mary Aikenhead 'we will provide to the poor what the rich can buy for themselves'.



Sponsored Events

Sponsored events are a great way of raising funds. We can provide sponsorship cards for any type of sponsored event. Please call Geraldine on 221 5065 for further details.

St. Vincent's Foundation is affiliated with mycharity.ie

Your mycharity.ie fundraising page is the easiest and most efficient way to generate and collect donations.

Login on to www.mycharity.ie for further details.

Below are just some examples of forthcoming events.

01-08-2009 [London Triathlon 2009](#)

05-09-2009 [50th Liffey Descent 2009](#)

26-10-2009 [Dublin City Marathon 2009](#)

01-11-2009 [New York City Marathon 2009](#)



Christmas Cards

And even though it's only July We have to mention Christmas Cards!!!!!!!

ST. VINCENT'S FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE

St. Vincent's Foundation Christmas Cards will be on sale throughout the Healthcare Group. A pack of 10 cards costs €5 and all proceeds go directly to improving the care of patients in the three hospitals.

If you want to get ahead of the posse and order early, please contact Geraldine on 221 5065.

We are also looking for volunteers to sell cards on our behalf. If you can help, please contact us.

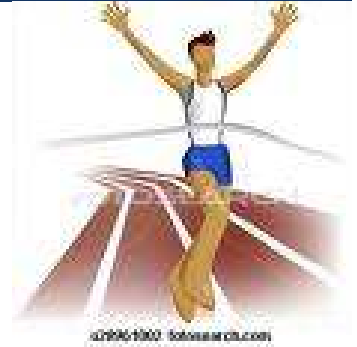


Lifestyle Sports – adidas Dublin Marathon

9:00am Monday 26th October 2009

2009 Dublin Marathon Registration is now open

For full registration details log onto official website
www.dublinmarathon.ie



Closing date for entries Monday 5th October 2009

Are you thinking of taking part in the 2009 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.

What do I have to do to take part in aid of St. Vincent's Foundation ?

Email us at stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie and we will be happy to provide you with a sponsorship pack which includes sponsorship cards and a t-shirt. Alternatively contact us by phone on 221 5065 .

So please choose St. Vincent's Foundation. Help us raise essential financial support to provide critical care and treatment for our ever expanding patient population in these difficult times.

How to contact us?

St. Vincent's Foundation
 1st Floor Convent Block
 St. Vincent's University Hospital
 Elm Park,
 Dublin 4
Tel: 01 221 5065
Fax: 01 221 4428
Email: stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie

How to Donate

Donations can be made through:

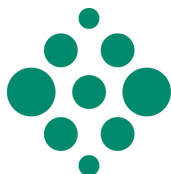
Website: www.stvincentsfoundation.ie

24 hour donation phone line: 1850 603 803

Or pick up one of our leaflets in the hospital:



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