

Issue 11

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



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



St. Vincent's Foundation

Board of Directors: Mr. David Ryan (Chairman), Ms. Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Mr. Dermot Furey, Prof. Michael Keane & Mr. John Hickey
Registered in Dublin, Ireland, Company No. 464228 Charity No. 1183
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Autumn 2014

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

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Welcome from John Hickey, C.E.O. of St. Vincent's Foundation



Welcome to the final edition of ***Friends of St. Vincent's*** for 2014.

I want to thank those who gave us feedback on the changes which have been made to our website www.stvincentsfoundation.ie giving increased detail of donations and grants made by the Foundation. There was a great welcome for these enhancements and also for the article in the last edition of this magazine when we set out in detail how we deal with donations, fundraising and spending money on patient care.

We always welcome suggestions for improvement to how we operate the Foundation and we encourage supporters to make contact with us through any of the channels set out at the end of the magazine.

In this edition we are delighted to welcome three new directors to the Board of St Vincent's Foundation and to acknowledge the contribution they have already made to our work.

Dave Ryan joined us as Chairman of the Board. He worked in a wide variety of senior banking roles from 1965 until retirement in 2004. Since that time he has consulted on Management and Financial projects. He holds an M.Sc (Mgt) and contributes decades of business experience to the Foundation.

At the same time Stephanie Fitzpatrick agreed to become a Director. Stephanie worked in a wide variety of roles in the broadcasting industry for over 30 years until 2012. She now works as a career consultant, specialising in media positions.

The other additional Director is Dermot Furey. Dermot is a solicitor and a founding partner of Gartlan Furey, Solicitors, Dublin. He has been an active commercial and private client solicitor in Dublin for over 20 years. Dermot first became involved with St. Vincent's Foundation when he and his family raised money for Pancreatic Cancer care in St. Vincent's following the sad death of his wife Moira in 2012.

Our three new directors bring a wealth of experience to the Board and we are delighted that they are prepared to contribute their time and their skill to helping the Foundation to help our patients. Their work for St. Vincent's Foundation is entirely voluntary.

As we welcome these new Directors, we would like to thank Noel Whelan, Stewart Harrington and Nicky Jermyn who were on the Board since we were founded and who contributed enormously to steering the Foundation. They were unstinting in their support and we owe them a great debt of gratitude on behalf of our patients.

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

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

The Anonymous Donor

The majority of donors do not want to be identified by name and we always respect this. We would like, however, in this issue, to pay tribute to the many donors who continually send money to St Vincent's Foundation either for general patient care or for specific causes that are important to them.

The donor we must mention at the outset is a lady who was our first donor when the Foundation was launched over five years ago. This very kind woman sent us €20 and has regularly sent similar amounts over the years. The donation has always been accompanied by a lovely note about her experience with the care in St. Vincent's.

From another donor we have received €200 at regular intervals through the years for cancer care in the Hospital. This commenced from the tragedy of losing her beloved husband to cancer and showed her wonderful generosity.

Again following the death of her husband, another lady made a donation of €5,000 to enhance care for the Dialysis Unit. This reflected her own desire to help and also the wish of her husband expressed shortly before he died.

Each month we receive money through Standing Orders. Among these are €30 for Liver care, €30 for general patient care, €10 for Stroke treatment, €50 for benefit of Colorectal patients, and €50 for general care. These Standing Orders accumulate to very significant sums over the course of the years and are much appreciated.

These are a sample of the many kind contributions. All of the people involved will have received a letter of thanks from us but we hope they will also recognise themselves from these descriptions. From January of this year we have also highlighted each donation as it occurs on our website

[www.stvincentsfoundation.ie under "About Us"] and we know that donors can identify their contribution there also.

Another supporter has helped over the years by putting an envelope with a number of €50 & €20 notes in the large moneybox at the Main Reception at the Hospital. We know they have come from one donor because of the style of donation. In all these have amounted to in excess of €2,000 over the years. As they were deposited without a name or address we are unable to acknowledge directly so we express our thanks here and hopefully the donor will read this and recognise.

In addition of course, in all our moneyboxes throughout the hospital and in a number of shops who have kindly placed them, we receive in excess of €10,000 per annum. Virtually all of these donors are anonymous and through this magazine we wish to thank them all.

Throughout this magazine and earlier editions we have highlighted patient improvements that have been made possible by the generosity of donors. Here we want to thank publicly all those who cannot be named otherwise.

Also we should highlight that, as St Vincent's Foundation is a voluntary organisation, all money goes to the intended cause.

Fundraising Highlights

Almost daily we have contact from patients and families about making donations or organising fundraising events. We are pleased to record some of them in the following pages. Each and every one makes a difference to our research and patient care and we are grateful to them all. Details of these contributions and many more are featured on our website and in our photo gallery near Centrepoin in St. Vincent's University Hospital.

As the subject of the use of charitable donations has had so much publicity in recent times, we feel it is worth clarifying that because St Vincent's Foundation is run on a voluntary basis we can guarantee that all donated funds go to patient care, research and education.



Alan Kinsella, a.k.a. as the "King of Cambridge", organised King Kinsella's Walk on May 4th last with supporting fundraising activities. Ably supported by his close friend Michael Behan and many supporters in Ireland and abroad, they raised the terrific sum of €1,893 for Neurology care in St. Vincent's Hospital.

It was a superb community effort from the Ringsend & Irishtown Community Centre. Our sincere thanks to all.



Pictured above are Alan Kinsella & Michael Behan presenting their fundraising proceeds to John Hickey and Alan Kinsella visiting staff on the Neurology department.



Deerpark Tennis Club Ice Bucket Challenge:

Paul Smith and SVUH staff member Audrey Lenehan, along with friends in Deerpark Tennis Club, organised an Ice Bucket Challenge to fundraise for Cancer Research in St. Vincent's in memory of their friend Lorraine Andrews Donnelly RIP.

Paul bravely undertook the Ice Bucket challenge and we are very grateful for the sum of €400 which has been donated from this event.

Karen Doran's Coffee morning for Cancer Care:

On 24th September Karen Doran organised a coffee morning at her home for Cancer Research & Care here in St. Vincent's. With great support from a legion of friends and their families, she raised the tremendous sum of €4,205. We are really grateful, on behalf of our patients, to all who made this possible.



Fundraising Highlights continued.....



Tom Kennedy Annual Memorial Run:

In memory of the late Tom Kennedy, the Garden of Ireland Vintage Car Club held a most successful Memorial Run on July 13th 2014 in Ashford.

Tom who died in 2012, was well known and much loved in Wicklow and was very involved in Vintage and Classic cars. His family and friends organised, what has now become an annual event, to raise money for Cancer Care in St. Vincent's University Hospital and contributed the terrific sum of €2,000. Thanks to all who made this wonderful event possible.

Pictured above are Angela Kennedy (Tom's wife), Eileen Kennedy (Tom's sister) along with family members presenting fundraising proceeds

John Summers Hell & Back Challenge:

John Summers from Arklow took part in the Hell and Back Challenge in June 2014 to raise money for St Anne's Ward in St Vincent's. Hell and Back is described as Ireland's toughest physical and mental challenge. John had been a patient in St Vincent's and wanted to help others through this brave undertaking. He raised a phenomenal €1,834 in sponsorship.



His Mum, Doreen, also a patient in St Vincent's, sadly died during his preparations. John came into the hospital to present his fundraising proceeds, accompanied by his family. It was a very emotional visit for them all. Thank you John, family and supporters.



Pictured above on right are John Summers (centre) along with his father John, wife Frances, daughter Holly and sister Joan present the proceeds to John Hickey. John is also pictured taking part in the Hell and Back Challenge.

Bequests:

During the Summer, St. Vincent's was delighted to be the beneficiary of two bequests, each for €8,918.86, from the same estate, for the benefit of the Kidney Unit and the Liver Unit respectively. Additionally, we were bequested €7,857.60 for St. Vincent's Private Hospital from a woman in Australia.

Emma O'Donoghue Memorial Fundraising:

The family and friends of the late Emma O'Donoghue organised a great night in Mount Wolsey, Tullow, Co. Carlow on June 15th last to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis care in St. Vincent's.

As well as a most enjoyable evening the function raised the fabulous total of €8,600 for C.F. It was a great tribute to Emma and her community.

Jo Doyle, Specialist C.F. Nurse in St. Vincent's attended and spoke at the function. Sincere thanks to all involved on behalf of our patients.



Fundraising Highlights continued.....

Jason McHugh Dragon Sportive Cycle:

Jason McHugh from Athlone, Co. Westmeath recently took part in the Dragon Sportive Cycle series, fundraising for the Liver Unit here in St. Vincent's. This was a gruelling cycle of more than 130km in the South East.

Jason's mother Bernadette had a successful Liver Transplant in St. Vincent's. The family raised a magnificent total of €4,500 from sponsorship and fundraising from this event. This money was used to purchase a special exercise bike and chairs for St. Brigid's Liver Ward. On behalf of our patients we are deeply indebted to all associated with this fantastic fundraising initiative.



Pictured above are Tony, Bernadette & Jason McHugh presenting fundraising proceeds to Maire Ni Chinneide, Liver Unit & John Hickey

Christine Kearney's Halloween Raffle for Breast Cancer Research:

On Thursday, October 23rd Christine Kearney held her Halloween Raffle to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. In what has now become an annual event, Christine and her friends Catherine and Katie raised almost €2,000 for this great cause. This brings to nearly €16,000 the funds that Christine has raised from Halloween and Easter raffles each year. There were 52 prizes to be won and they made for a great display at the hospital reception. The atmosphere on the day was wonderful with Christine, Katie and Catherine dressed as clowns adding colour and fun to the proceedings. *(see photos below from the day)*

We are deeply indebted to Christine for her continuous work for St. Vincent's patients.



Aoife Mooney's Remembrance Run fundraising:

The Remembrance Run in Dublin's Phoenix Park every November has quickly established itself as an important event in memory of loved ones. This year it was particularly poignant for Aoife Mooney *(pictured at the event)*. Aoife had already entered to take part but her beloved mother, Nora died a few days before the Run and her funeral was just the day before. With great courage Aoife still did the run to raise money for the Stroke Unit in St. Vincent's. We are deeply grateful to Aoife and her family for the fantastic amount of €740 in sponsorship and funeral donations we have received.

Fundraising Highlights continued.....



Hazel Brack's Pink Day:

Hazel Brack has for many years been one of the best fundraisers for St. Vincent's. Year on year she has created events for Cancer support in the hospital.

On October 24th she again organised her colleagues in Dunnes Stores, Cornelscourt and raised the fantastic sum of €3,705 in one day of activities. We have to particularly mention Maria Kinsella and Gerry Finglas in this success.



Hazel was, as always, greatly supported by her family in this work and we thank them sincerely.

We are truly grateful to the Management of Dunnes Stores, the staff and particularly Hazel herself.

(Hazel is pictured on the left with John Hickey and photos from the Pink Day in Dunnes Cornelscourt)

Our longterm supporter **Christine Kearney** and her daughter Layla Moroney came up with a novel fundraising idea for Breast Cancer. They asked people to donate some of their Garth Brooks ticket refund to St. Vincent's. We are thankful for €107 raised in this way by them.

The Sligo Warriors Festival Committee donated a further €1,000 to St. Vincent's this Summer. Having donated a similar amount last year, we are indebted to Denis Foley & Family as well as the organisers of this year's Festival for again thinking of St. Vincent's.

Courts Poor-Box Donations:

St. Vincent's has benefitted a number of times when Court Judges have directed that a donation be made to a poor-box in lieu of a conviction. Recently we received €400 for C.F. care, which is very welcome.

Captain's Days:

Selection as Captain or Lady Captain of a golf club is a mark of great respect. Reflecting this, it is common that they are allocated a Charity Day within the club to raise money for a good cause of their choice.

St. Vincent's has been fortunate to be the beneficiary on a number of occasions and many of them have been featured in earlier editions of *Friends of St. Vincent's*.

Recently Edmonstown Golf Club committed their Charity Day for Breast Cancer care here in the hospital and we will report in more detail on this in the next edition.

All of the charities supported by golf clubs are worthy causes but we would be grateful always to be considered by incoming Captains.



Fundraising Highlights continued.....



Jillian McNulty Croagh Patrick Climb for Cystic Fibrosis

Jillian McNulty from Longford (*pictured on the left*) a C.F. patient in St. Vincent's, has been raising money for C.F. here for many years. As well as her amazing energy, Jillian has been hugely creative in the range of fundraising events.

Recently she organised and led a group to climb Croagh Patrick.

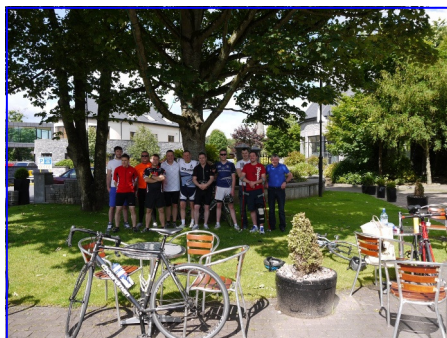
The result of the gruelling challenge was that she raised €1,011 for St. Vincent's and a further €211 for C.F. Ireland.

Thank you again Jillian.



Tara Mines Underground Electricians Cycle for Cancer Research:

We are very grateful to John Davey & colleagues, underground electricians in Tara Mines. In memory of their late colleague and friend John Galvin, they organised a gruelling 80km Westport-Louisburg-Leenane-Westport fundraising cycle in County Mayo on the weekend of 27th June last. (*see photos from the day*) This is the second year they have undertaken a cycle, for Oncology Research in St. Vincent's and a further event is planned for next year.



A magnificent total of €3,000 was raised from this year's event.

We also wish to express our thanks to Eoghan O'Neill and all in Boliden Tara Mines who contributed to this outstanding result.

On behalf of our patients, we appreciate all associated with this wonderful initiative.



***We are so indebted to all our supporters mentioned here
and to many more not listed.***

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

Fundraising Highlights continued.....

2014 Women's Mini Marathon:

The Women's Mini Marathon can be rightly proud of itself. As well as being the biggest single start event in the world, it is also one of the biggest fundraising dates for charities. With over 40,000 women taking part for an incredible variety of worthwhile causes, it is a magnificent event. This year the weather was kind and reflected the mood of the participants.



We are grateful each year to the many people who take part for St Vincent's. Many of these specify a cause that they wish to benefit from their efforts. We support participants with t-shirts and sponsorship cards, and we are always delighted to publish photos subsequently.

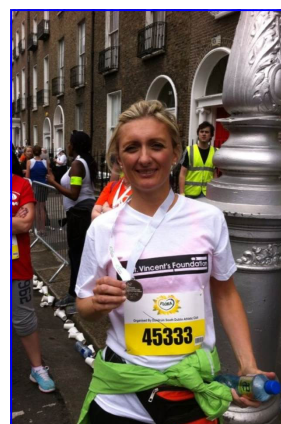
We don't specifically highlight everyone who takes part for St. Vincent's. Some people indeed want it to be a private matter.

Some examples of this year's fundraising were:

- Amy Archold, who already organised a huge fundraising event at Easter 2014 in memory of her late Dad Sean, combined with her Mini Marathon sponsorship raised a magnificent total of €9,043 for St. Anne's Cancer Care.
- Sisters Niamh Dillon (2013 Dublin Marathon) & Jennifer Dillon Bushe (2014 Mini Marathon) fundraised for the Liver Unit as their brother Brian had had two transplants there. We are most grateful for the combined total of over €4,200 which this family raised for St. Vincent's
- Sisters Louise O'Neill and Denise Walsh together raised €2,086 for the Liver Unit. Thank you to both.
- Sisters Rachel & Emma Furney along with family and friends raised €1,832 for the Respiratory Unit. We are really grateful.
- Laura Dunne & Friends contributed €810 for the Cystic Fibrosis Unit.

We stress that these are just some of the many supporters. If anyone would like to be specifically mentioned for their contribution in this or any other sponsored event, we are always delighted to highlight supporters.

Pictured below L to R. are some of our great supporters Carly Ward, Hannah Yorke & Adrienne Moore; Niamh Dillon and her sister Jennifer Dillon Bushe



How we handle your money

Make a Difference!
DONATE

In the last year we have expanded the detail that is available on our website. We are, at the same time, mindful of the wishes of donors for confidentiality regarding their own donation details. We know that transparency in handling donors' money is vital for confidence and we always try to ensure as much visibility as possible.

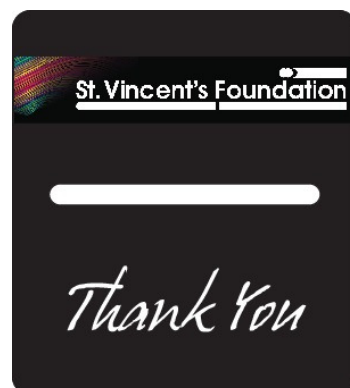
**For details of all donations, fundraising and spending, we encourage readers to go to our website www.stvincentsfoundation.ie
On the website also, you can read our Income and Grants policies.**

Personal details of **Donors** will remain confidential unless SVF is specifically requested by the Donor to publicise them. Otherwise Donors will be able to recognise their own donation by reference on that page to the donation date and amount and by the cause, if they have specified one.

Fundraisers will be individually identified in the publicly accessible database, if they have requested to be identified, by name and amount raised. Otherwise they will be able to recognise their contribution by reference to the presentation date and amount and specific cause if nominated.

We are very happy to deal with any queries

Our contact points are listed at the back of this magazine



Donations have always been important in improving the hospital.

St. Vincent's Foundation raises money from donors to enable our hospitals realise their world class potential in medical care, research and education

If you would like to support us please go to our website www.stvincentsfoundation.ie or call our donation line on 1850 603 803 or write to [St. Vincent's Foundation, Elm Park, Dublin 4.](#)

Donors making a difference

In each edition of Friends of St Vincent's we feature wonderful stories of fundraising for the hospital. In this edition we thought it would be appropriate to feature more examples of the many projects that have been made possible by this fundraising and by donations of all kinds.

This list is, by no means exhaustive, but does demonstrate how important donors and fundraisers are to the wellbeing of our patients. Broadly the investments are across medical research, medical education and equipment.

We don't generally highlight the donors who enabled these projects because many of them are made up of several smaller donations and many of our contributors wish to remain anonymous. Here are just some of the successes.



♦ **TV and Internet Service in St. Anne's Daycare Centre**

Many of our patients attend regularly as day patients for oncology treatment which necessitates them remaining in a treatment bay within St. Anne's. We installed individual ceiling mounted screens that allow personal access to TV programmes or internet. It greatly eases the tedium of this treatment.

♦ **Research project on *Clostridium difficile***

This project in the Department of Microbiology in St. Vincent's Hospital commenced in 2011 with an expectation that it would run for 3 or 4 years and is ongoing. It was made possible by a multi-year grant from the Freemasons of Ireland Medical Research Fund. The project aims to type the different strains ("ribotypes") of *C.difficile* which are causing disease in Ireland at present and correlate the ribotypes with information about the patients who are suffering from *C. difficile* disease.



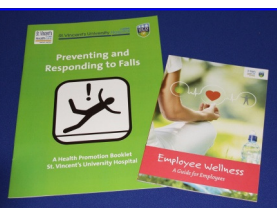
♦ **Leucapheresis Stem-cell machine and treatment chair for Haematology patients**

The family of two Haematology patients recognised an opportunity to vastly improve treatment in this area by the purchase of more modern equipment and raised all the funds required to enable it to happen. The improvement was rounded off by adding a personal TV and customised chair so that patients could have some relief from the boredom of having to remain attached to the machine for some hours.



♦ **TV's for St Brigid's Ward (Liver Unit)**

Many of the patients in St. Brigid's Ward spend many weeks or months in the hospital. The T.V.'s in the ward were shared between a number of beds. Because of donor support for Liver care, we were able to install individual televisions for each bed. This is a comfort for the users and contributes to better outcomes for them.



♦ **Guides for patients and staff**

Donated funds enabled the production of a range of booklets and guides for patients and staff. They covered topics from preventing falls to wellness support for staff.

Donors making a difference continued.....



♦ **Wheelchairs for St Christopher's Ward (C.F. Unit)**

Having had family members in St. Christopher's over lengthy periods, one family saw that the environment could be improved by having more wheelchairs available. Having raised funds they enabled us to buy three additional chairs.

♦ **Exercise bike for I.C.U.**

This highly specialised equipment allows patients in Intensive Care to help their recovery by appropriate exercise while confined to bed. It was financed by the family of a patient who made a great recovery in the hospital.



♦ **Research into early diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer**

Like so many other medical conditions, the treatment of Pancreatic Cancer is much more effective if recognised early. A current project sponsored by the fundraising of one family has financed this work.

♦ **Joint research with Trinity College into multi-generational Breast Cancer**

This is potentially a very exciting project in collaboration with The Smurfit Institute of Genetics in TCD. The participation of St. Vincent's is financed by a number of donors including one major donor who has stipulated that they remain anonymous.

♦ **Shower and toilet facilities in Coronary Care Unit**

The environment for patients in this area was much improved by upgrading and adding new showers and toilets. It had the added advantage of bringing the facilities closer to the patients using them.



♦ **Obesity Research Group**

Funds provided by a donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, as well as contributions from the Health Research Board, the National Children's Research Centre and Industry supporters, enabled this key study of the health consequences of obesity, with the objective of improving patient care.

♦ **Exercise Bike in St. Brigid's (Liver Unit)**

We obtained this specialised piece of equipment for St. Brigid's Ward with money raised for the purchase. It really helps patients there as it allows them exercise within the ward area.



♦ **Gemma Billington Painting**

Normally we are highlighting supporters making a difference by donating funds or fundraising. Recently, however, we were gifted a magnificent painting for the Clinic area in St. Vincent's. David and Annette Crowley, whose son Darragh is patient in the C.F. unit in the hospital, commissioned Gemma Billington and the impressive piece is now on display on the first floor of the Clinical Services Building. We are grateful for this wonderful addition to the patient environment.

Donors making a difference continued.....

♦ **Reclining chairs for C.F. patient rooms**

Many family members spend long periods including overnights at the bedside of patients. The purchase of these reclining chairs greatly improves the comfort of users and we are grateful to those who made it possible.



♦ **Liver Research**

As St. Vincent's is the National Liver Transplant Centre, the commitment to research is vital. The generosity of donors has allowed us to engage in comprehensive research activity year on year and this is ongoing.

♦ **WiFi throughout St. Vincent's**

By investing in modern routers and supporting technology, we were able to make internet freely available to all in the hospital. The system has greater efficiency for staff when they need to access the web for some aspect of their work and this benefits patients also. This has been welcomed by patients, families and staff.

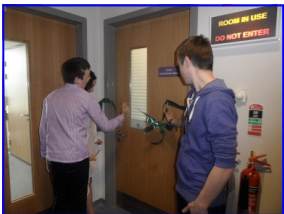
♦ **Coffee tables in St. Anne's Daycare Centre**

As with many improvements, this came as a patient suggestion and was enabled by donations. There were particular safety requirements that dictated the style of table to attach to infusion chairs. The result is more comfort for patients undergoing oncology treatments.



♦ **Medical Education.**

Each year we are able to support staff in developing their capacity to care for patients by attending at courses or specialised conferences. Sometime this is from specific grants from sponsors and in many cases from patient and family supporters.



♦ **Patient and family room St Anne's Ward**

We have previously referred to this development. By creating a relaxing and well equipped room for patients and their visitors, we were able to use donor money to transform the environment.



♦ **Laboratory equipment for E.R.C.**

Donated money enabled purchase of vital equipment for the laboratories in the Education & Research Centre (E.R.C.) improving our research capabilities.

♦ **Masterclass on Compassionate Approaches to Healing**

Supported by donors, St. Vincent's Foundation was able to contribute to a top-class panel of speakers for a Masterclass in November 2014 on developing this vital element in patient care.

In summary, these are just examples of the many enhancements to patient care, research and education that have been made possible by the generosity of those hundreds of people who have donated or raised money for St. Vincent's.

Since January 2014, we highlight, on our website under GRANTS, each project supported.

Buy our Christmas Cards

Our Christmas Cards sales campaign is a vital part of our fundraising. Each year we support a different cause and this year we are supporting Cancer Care in St. Vincent's.

Packs of 10 cards cost €5 per pack and each card highlights that it is supporting St. Vincent's. Each purchase also gets a free entry in our Christmas Raffle.

Because St. Vincent's Foundation is totally voluntary, all proceeds this year go to Cancer Care.

Please follow the link on our website to get more details or to order cards

<http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie/how-to-help/st-vincents-christmas-cards-on-sale-now/>

or fill out the Order Form below.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

SUPPORT ST. VINCENT'S WHEN BUYING YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS

ST. VINCENT'S IS ACKNOWLEDGED ON ALL CARDS

Price €5 per pack of 10 cards



1. Assorted (Non-Religious)



2. Assorted (Religious)

Order Form for Christmas Cards

Name: _____



Address: _____

Contact tel. no. _____ Amount Enclosed € _____

Cards are packed in 10's @€5 per pack

Tick Card Type/Quantity below

1.

2.

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

Return your completed order form to:
Mr. John Hickey, C.E.O., St. Vincent's Foundation,
St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4
or
Phone us on 01-2215065 with your order



Research News

Summary of Epidemiology of *Clostridium difficile* disease in Ireland

[Research project funded by grant from the Freemasons of Ireland, Medical Research Fund]

Clostridium difficile (*C. difficile*) is a type of bacterium that is present naturally in the gut of around two-thirds of children and 3% of adults.

C. difficile does not usually cause any problems in healthy people. However, some antibiotics that are used to treat other health conditions can interfere with the balance of 'good' bacteria in the gut. When this happens, *C. difficile* bacteria can multiply and produce toxins (poisons), which cause illness such as diarrhoea and fever (*C. difficile* infection or "CDI"). Over the last 10 years, *C. difficile* infection has become one of the leading causes of infection in hospitals and other healthcare facilities ("healthcare-associated infection"), and more recently has become a problem in patients in the community who may be taking antibiotics for other conditions. It tends to affect older patients more frequently, and is often a mild disease, but in some patients, the disease may be very severe and even cause death, and in others, multiple recurrences may occur which can be extremely distressing. The organism has a propensity to spread between patients in healthcare environments in particular, and severe epidemics of the disease in hospitals throughout the world have been recorded.

Many different "ribotypes" or strains of this bacterium may result in infection. Some ribotypes appear to be particularly associated with severe or fatal disease. A certain amount of work has been carried out in identifying the different strains of this organism that are prevalent in various countries in Europe, and in Ireland, we carried out a study in St Vincent's University Hospital in 2009 to identify the ribotypes which were causing CDI in Ireland at that time. Although some organisms causing disease in Ireland have been ribotyped (usually in the UK), no further formal ribotyping has taken place in Ireland since then. In the rest of Europe, the prevalent ribotypes have changed significantly over this time period, as has the epidemiology of CDI.

Our study is attempting to identify the ribotypes which are currently causing disease in humans in Ireland, and correlate these ribotypes with information about the patients who are suffering from CDI which is currently collected by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) in Dublin. We hope to be able to associate particular ribotypes with different disease severities, and also to find evidence that specific ribotypes are associated with disease in the community.

We also plan to look at the possible origins of community-associated CDI. *C. difficile* has been shown to cause diseases in animals such as pigs, horses and dogs throughout Europe. No research has been done on *C. difficile* disease in animals in this country. We have established a relationship with the National Equine Centre in Kildare, and hope to look at ribotypes of *C. difficile* in horses in Ireland with a view to establishing a link between strains in horses and humans.



Ultimately, we hope to ascertain further information about the disease and its epidemiology in Ireland, with a view to prevention strategies in both healthcare settings and the community.

**Dr Lynda Fenelon, Dr Suzy FitzGerald
& Ms Katharina Stein, Microbiology Dept., S.V.U.H.**

Pictured L. to R. are Dr. Suzy FitzGerald, Dr. Lynda Fenelon & Ms. Katharina Stein

Ways you can help St. Vincent's



Legacy Gifts to St. Vincent's

Through *MyLegacy.ie* St Vincent's has been active in promoting the merits of legacy giving to make a difference after we are gone. The focus has been through **Best Will in the World Week**. *MyLegacy.ie* exists to increase awareness of legacy giving and in turn, increase the number of people who leave legacies in their Will in Ireland.

Best Will in the World Week takes place every October to highlight the importance of making a Will. During Best Will in the World Week, solicitors across the country offer Will consultations for a fee of €50. People interested in making their Will, or updating an existing Will, are also asked to consider leaving a gift to their favourite charity, once loved ones have been taken care of.



For more information on Best Will in the World Week, check the website www.mylegacy.ie or email info@mylegacy.ie.

Anyone interested could also contact John Hickey on 01-2215035 or visit our website www.stvincentsfoundation.ie

The lives and medical outcomes of many of our patients have been positively affected by the kindness of those who left a gift to St. Vincent's in their Will.

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.

Donations

Every amount contributed to St. Vincent's makes a difference to our patient care regardless of how large or small. Contributions from *Friends of St. Vincent's* also help us in vital research that will improve the outcomes for patients now and in the future.



All the ways to make donations are listed on the final page of this magazine

Ways you can Help St. Vincent's continued.....

Tax Reclaim for Charities

As a registered charity, donations to St Vincent's Foundation can be enhanced when we can reclaim tax on the amount donated. The process is quite simple and we describe it here.

From January 2013, for all donations of €250 or more in a given tax year the receiving charity receives a tax rebate for the charity provided the donor/taxpayer had paid tax of this amount or more in the relevant tax period.

Because donations are made from "after-tax" income the tax reclaim is calculated to refund the amount of tax that would have been deducted and the taxation rate used is 31%.

The benefit to charities is best demonstrated by an example as follows: where a donor gives €500 during 2013 to St Vincent's Foundation the €500 is considered to be what was left after the donor had paid tax. At a rate of 31% this gross amount before deduction of tax is calculated at €724.65. If the donor has paid a minimum of €224.65 in tax in 2013 the Revenue will repay this amount (€224.65) to St. Vincent's Foundation thereby increasing the value of the donation by almost 45%.

Relevant donors complete and sign a Revenue CHY4 form, which we will provide and the tax reclaimed is very worthwhile as it substantially increases the income to charities at no further cost to donors.

Fundraising Events

These are one of the biggest sources of financial support and are covered extensively in this magazine.

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

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 a sponsored event the best way is by setting up your own page through www.mycharity.ie. You can reach this by going to our website 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.

However you choose to help St Vincent's you are assured that all your donation goes to your selected cause without deduction of costs. We are a voluntary organisation dedicated to raising funds for patients care, research and education in St Vincent's.

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 the hospital for the wonderful care bestowed on mom in her final 2 days and also for the compassion shown towards us as a family."

"We were so touched with the dignity shown towards Mom and us."

"A brief note to thank you for the lovely prayers you offered for our dear friend"

"On behalf of the family, I would like to convey our deep appreciation for the consolation and support offered to all of us"

"Your service is beyond price but it is beautiful to watch"

".....the most compassionate doctors I have ever metand all of the nursing team looking after Mum are wonderful. It's been a great experience albeit a devastating situation for Mum and us."

"Thank you for all your care for my granddad. It is a very nice hospital" (note from a little boy)

"To the staff of St Vincent's Hospital, we can't thank you enough for the kindness and support you have always shown us"

"Everything that could have been done for my dad was done during his stay"

"You are absolute saints and give such compassion to patient and families"

"We could not have been more impressed by the commitment and dedication of the staff"

"We will always be grateful for the comfort and consideration you gave us"

"Thank you so much for your care, attention and thoughtfulness"

Business Partners of St. Vincent's

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We frequently highlight that we can assure donors that we do not deduct costs from donations and that the cause supported by the donor benefits completely from the amount donated or contributed from a fundraising event. One of the reasons we can give this assurance is because of the financial help we receive from our Business Partners.

From the very beginning of St Vincent's Foundation, we have had this generous support and on behalf of all of all our patients and their families we thank these businesses.

Fannin Healthcare, one of our very first Business Partners has been consistent in renewing every year. We thank them for once again renewing for 2014/15.

All of our current Business Partners are highlighted in this magazine and on our website.

***We look forward to continuing to working with our Business Partners
into the future, for the benefit of our patients.***

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

AstraZeneca 

B&A
**BEHAVIOUR
& ATTITUDES**

 **biomnis**
YOUR PARTNER IN PATHOLOGY

 **Fannin**

Home Instead
SENIOR CARE
To us, it's personalSM

 **NOVARTIS**

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

www.stvincentsfoundation.ie

Or

Pick up one of our leaflets in the hospital

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

St. Vincent's Foundation

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Elm Park

Dublin 4

Tel: 01 221 5065

Fax: 01 221 4428

Email: stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie

St. Vincent's Foundation

Company Registration No. 464228 Charity No. 1183

St. Vincent's Foundation complies with The Principles of Good Governance and with
The Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising