

# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

**Thank you to all our volunteers!** Thank you for all you do week in and week out to bring smiles to children's faces, and support to families.



Next year, 2020 - CHI will be 50 years old! If you have any memories to share or would like to contribute in some way please contact Maura at [maura@childreninhospital.ie](mailto:maura@childreninhospital.ie) or 0871933331

## DM Thomas Foundation Grant

Children in Hospital Ireland is very proud to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the DM Thomas Foundation with the purpose of the expansion of invaluable play and family support to children in hospitals across Ireland to evenings and weekends when HSE staff are overstretched. This will very importantly support our core work of recruiting and supporting volunteers, with a particular focus on those hospitals without play specialists and for out of business hours play. A huge thank you to DM Thomas for their support of your work as volunteers!



**Ornaith Woodley, who volunteers in Temple St**, gave a fantastic interview to the Dublin Gazette to raise awareness of the incredible work volunteers do, and to mention our new volunteer role in Connolly Blanchardstown upcoming from July 31st. Check it out here: <https://dublinalgazette.com/news/news-city-edition/play-volunteer-blanch-40019/?fbclid=IwAR2jn4fkHMEEL5vhR5EszzZ1FxmtJ5->

**This summer CHI is updating an important piece of research** which we conducted in 2004 on the real cost of having a child in hospital. The study will look at costs such as parking, travel, and childcare. It will also explore the loss of income families are experiencing and which financial supports they are availing of. We will post a link to the survey on our website in the next two weeks. We hope to have approval to bring this survey directly into three hospitals but we are also making it available on our website as a link. If you know of anyone personally, who has had a child in hospital in the past 18 months, please share the link with them and they can complete the survey on line.

Prompted by the opening of the refurbished parent's accommodation, Hugh's House, for Temple St. Children's Hospital, RTE came to speak to CHI about the costs of having a child in hospital, the impact on the family and our research project. You can see it on the player (scrolling down to 4/7/2019). Our piece starts at 29 minutes 50 seconds. <https://www.rte.ie/news/player/six-one-news/>

## Autumn Recruitment Dates

Autumn recruitment dates are now live on the website. <https://www.childreninhospital.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/i-i-TRAINING-DATES-Autumn-2019.pdf>. We are stretching to include as many new volunteers in as many locations as we can. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a volunteer, please have them get in touch as a friend of a volunteer and we can be sure to include them in an upcoming training day.

Volunteer with Children in Hospital Ireland			
INTRODUCTION & INTERVIEW DATES			
Wexford	Tuesday 27th August 2019	6-8pm	
Cork	Thursday 12th September 2019	6-8pm	
Limerick	Wednesday 18th September 2019	6-8pm	
Sligo	Wednesday 18th October 2019	6-8pm	
Waterford	Wednesday 24th October 2019	6-8pm	
Kilkenny	Wednesday 4th November 2019	6-8pm	
Dublin	Wednesday 13th November 2019	6-8pm	
TRAINING DATES			
Wexford	Saturday 7th September 2019	10am-4pm	
Cork	Saturday 20th September 2019	10am-4pm	
Limerick	Saturday 5th October 2019	10am-4pm	
Sligo	Saturday 2nd November 2019	10am-4pm	
Waterford	Saturday 9th November 2019	10am-4pm	
Kilkenny	Saturday 23rd November 2019	10am-4pm	
Dublin	Saturday 30th November 2019	10am-4pm	
To find out how to become a play volunteer with Children in Hospital Ireland (CHI) please register your interest by emailing <a href="mailto:info@childreninhospital.ie">info@childreninhospital.ie</a> or calling 0871933331. We will provide you with full details on what is required and the location of the venue.			
For more information about CHI visit <a href="http://www.childreninhospital.ie">www.childreninhospital.ie</a>			

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE AGM WHICH WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER**

## Volunteer Appreciation Day 2019



It was wonderful to see so many of you on June 15th for our volunteer appreciation day. **Have a look at the pictures and short video here (password 2019)** The past 2 years have seen our appreciation days centering around a nice lunch with a chance to socialise, and providing trainings that volunteers have noted would be supportive and relevant to play volunteering. I would love to hear any ideas you might have for next year as this annual event grows and changes for you.

This year we had two morning workshops - the first saw Anna and Denise run their first Teen Workshop **Enhancing Play Volunteering to Work with Teens** - developed in conjunction with volunteers and Foróige. We will be holding expanded Teen Workshops locally this autumn, more details to follow!

A teaser of the key take aways include the 3 new games, Uno, Jenga with dice, and Dobble that were sent out to hospitals earlier this month.

The second workshop held was **Communication Skills for Play with Children with Communication Challenges** delivered by Speech and Language Therapist Moyna Noble. Moyna ended the session covering a few key Lámh signs, the handouts for which were in your most recent craft box. Please keep these handouts at the hospital for volunteers to use, but do not distribute them outside CHI. Moyna's fantastic slides, which include input from the National Rehabilitation Hospital's speech and language therapist, have been distributed with recent delivery of craft boxes. Here is a brief summary of the key points presented:

- Supporting communication with eye contact – getting down to be level with the child
- 5 Elephants Rule – pause for 5 seconds (elephants) after you make a comment or ask a questions, it allows the child time to process what you have said and to respond in his / her own time.
- The power of music for all ages and abilities
- Reducing choice – offer a choice of 2 play items and hide the others
- Changing the environment to help when you can, for example, turning off the TV

**As always we really welcome your feedback and ideas so please get in touch with any of the team.**

CHY 6632 3



Elizabeth is now on WhatsApp - you can contact Elizabeth on 087 794 9291 via WhatsApp if it is more convenient for you than text.



### VHI Mini Marathon

This year 13 runners, joggers and walkers, lent their legs and fundraising muscles to supporting CHI. Thank you so very much to those of you who participated. It was amazing to be a part of the day full of such spirit and goodwill. A grand total of almost €3,500 was raised! We are immensely grateful. These funds will be put to good use in helping with our forthcoming recruitment and also in supplying hospitals with games and arts & crafts materials.

### Celine Byrne's Summer Celebration for CHI

Soprano Singer Celine Byrne held her 2nd concert in the Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire, in support of Children in Hospital Ireland, and is an incredible ambassador for CHI. The evening raised over €6,000 which just fantastic. We extend our thanks to you volunteers that worked hard on the evening selling raffle tickets - the raffle alone raised €2,000. We thank all of our sponsors for supplying these really super prizes for the event:

***The Irish National Stud; The Purty Kitchen; The Cookbook Cafe; Rasam Restaurant; Radisson Hotel, St. Helens; The Beacon Hotel; Rathmines Pharmacy; Peter Mark; Elephant & Castle; Hartley's Restaurant; O'Connor Jewellers; MyYoga Body***



### Thank you

Crumlin Volunteer Bridget Hogg has started a produce garden at work, and set up an charity honesty box for CHI. Thank you so much to Bridget for not only the fundraising but the awareness raising in this gorgeous project!



**Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau** take on a different challenge for children in Irish Hospitals – raising almost €3,000. On 22nd of June 2019 the GNCCB took on the Gaelforce West Challenge which is an extreme endurance test with participants running 22km, cycling 23km and kayaking for 1km. – Luckily they all survived! There was a lot of hard training involved and alongside that, they put a great push into raising funds from friends and family.

### Focused Fundraising

The Great Dublin Bike Ride is now open for [registration](#). This event takes place in Dublin Sunday 29th of September. Last year our team of cyclists raised €5,000 - will you or any of your friends or colleagues sign up this year to Team CHI and #cycleyourcity? We will be sending out a full communication about how you can get involved or helps us to promote it but in the meantime if you have any queries or ideas please email [Maura@childreninhospital.ie](mailto:Maura@childreninhospital.ie) or call (01) 2903510

