

Volunteer Update



A FIRST STEP TOWARD RETURNING TO VOLUNTEERING

During the last week of June we were able to have volunteers in a hospital again for the first time since mid-March. It has been a very long road, I know many of you are missing not only the play and the children, but also your volunteer partners, your weekly routines and the joy each week brought in the hospitals. It will likely still be a long road ahead before we return to volunteering as normal.

However, it is wonderful to be in Crumlin's outpatients' department with a small team of volunteers. This role is very different from the play that many of those volunteers who have joined this temporary team are used to doing, and

different even than the JustAsk role that we modelled this on. So thank you to the Play and JustAsk volunteers who have joined this team this summer!

Volunteers are helping to welcome families in to main outpatients, ensure clinic waiting areas do not become over crowded, that families can access the outpatients safely without anxiety of missing their turn or their appointments due to social distancing restrictions. Volunteers are also handing out colouring packs and magazines, and supporting children and families with the smiles and conversation that all our volunteers do so well.

To any Crumlin volunteers who may have missed the first email about this role, but are interested in also returning at this time, please do email elizabeth@childreninhospital.ie.

For our volunteers in other hospitals, please know I am staying in touch with all hospitals, supporting them with isolation play packs where needed, and working on when and how we may be able to return to some play volunteering. I will stay in touch with you on any developments.

WELCOME TO JANE: VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

We are delighted to introduce Jane Carter who has very recently joined Children in Hospital Ireland as Volunteer Coordinator. We are so happy to welcome her to our office team. Jane has a number of years' experience working with volunteer programs, and has enthusiastically jumped in to her role with Children in Hospital Ireland. Jane will be working with the JustAsk volunteers in Crumlin Hospital and assisting with support for Crumlin play volunteers. Jane's role will also include project work on training and workshops for volunteers. I hope you will all have a chance to meet and welcome her soon.



Survey - Returning to Volunteering & the impact of Covid19 on our volunteer programme

Link to Survey : <https://kwiksurveys.com/s/B56FKJ7z#/0>

For many of our volunteers life will not look quite the same now as it did in February, and that not everyone will be able to return to previous activities at the same pace. Once we are given the opportunity by the hospitals to return to volunteer services, I will work with each volunteer individually to ensure that you can return to volunteering in a way and at a time that will suit your circumstances. In order to best plan this process, I would really appreciate if every volunteer could answer this short survey about returning to volunteering. The survey will close on Sunday July 26th.

I appreciate your time to help assess the impact of COVID-19 on our volunteers across the country, and what can be done to help make volunteering in the future feel safe for everyone in these difficult times.

Please get in touch with me directly if it is easier, or you have any particular questions or concerns 087 7949291. Thanks, Elizabeth

Some Crumlin volunteers have already completed this survey when seeking volunteers for our summer OPD role. If you have already completed it, thank you.

CALL FOR TEAM LEADERS



Volunteer Team Leaders do an incredible job of helping to support volunteer teams across the country. It would not be possible to support all 500 volunteers in 14

hospitals and paediatric centres across Ireland as well without our team leaders.

Team leaders communicate with volunteers to check in on who will be available, if changes or further support might be needed, organise coffees and end of year get togethers, and lead inductions for new volunteers making sure each new volunteer is welcomed and confident to take up their role.

It is ideal to have at least 2 team leaders in each hospital, or for larger hospitals, for each shift or role. As you all know well, having a volunteer partner makes the role much more enjoyable and easier. We also have 2 team leaders days per year, in spring and autumn. These are great opportunities to share stories between hospitals, get to know new people, and take on a leadership role. This spring with COVID19, we held our team leader meeting via zoom with a big leap of faith to try something new for many, and it was a great success. We plan to use this format mixed with in person meetings to continue to make the role accessible to more volunteers.

We are looking for new team leaders in Drogheda, Tallaght (daytime volunteers especially), Temple St (daytime and playroom volunteers especially), St. Luke's Kilkenny, Sligo, Connolly, Crumlin JustAsk, and the National Rehabilitation Hospital.

In these hospitals there are many volunteers who take on support roles already informally, and in some cases there are current team leaders, but we would love to increase the support. It is great if volunteers in this role have close to a year's experience volunteering, but it is not essential, enthusiasm to connect to and support fellow volunteers is the most important part of the role.

In addition to team leaders or deputy team leaders, there is always a need for volunteers to assist with settling in new volunteers, giving inductions, or partnering with new volunteers during their early shifts to build confidence and comfort. We would like to create a new official volunteer role for this – something like a Welcome Team.

If you might be interested in exploring these roles, contact



elizabeth@childreninhospital.ie

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Thanks to everyone who has paid their 2020 membership and a reminder to the small number of those who have not paid yet. While we are not actively volunteering at the moment, we do have to continue to pay our overheads and insurance for volunteers. Paying your membership also entitles you to attend our AGM. Please contact Julia to get payment details or to pay over the phone. Julia contact details: julia@childreninhospital.ie or 087 616 6623

Thank you.

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS

Thank you once again for all of your support and engagement over the past few years as we worked toward meeting the Investing in Volunteers Quality Standards. A special thank you to the 43 volunteers across the country who participated in interviews with the assessor under very unusual COVID19 limitations, and to the team of volunteers who met in our office this time last year to begin the formal part of the review process with Volunteer Ireland. Our assessment is now complete, and we eagerly anticipate our results later this year.

HSE CHILDREN FIRST E-MODULE



The HSE Children First child protection module needs to be completed by all volunteers and refreshed every 3 years. For those few who have not completed it yet, or those who completed the module in 2017 or even early 2018, this would be a very good time to ensure it is up to date.

[Click here to access the module.](#)

Once the certificate is complete, you will need to email a copy of it to elizabeth@childreninhospital.ie as Children in Hospital Ireland is not connected to the HSEland portal.

The module takes about an hour and a half to complete, and should be quite simple from a technology point of view – just slides and videos to click through. There are 10 questions at the end to answer before you are given your certificate. It cannot be completed on a tablet or mobile device.

For those who are unable to complete the e-module for tech reasons, but may be comfortable with Zoom, we will be leading the module over a group Zoom call on Monday 27th July at 2pm. RSVP elizabeth@childreninhospital.ie.

If you have any questions or difficulties, or if you cannot do the course online you can email or ring Elizabeth 087 794 9291.

ISOLATION PLAY PACKS



Our fundraising campaign for isolation room play packs continued through June and raised a further €1,000. This brings our fundraising total for the Isolation Play Pack Campaign to €2,700. We have been able already to post more than 50 boxes filled to bursting with toys, crayons, colouring packs, playing cards, craft materials and more to hospitals across the country. As the COVID19 restrictions will keep playrooms from opening, toys from being shared and limiting visitor numbers to children for the foreseeable future, we will be continue to support hospitals with these much needed packs.

“I wish to convey my deep appreciation for the box of beautiful toy bags you have gathered and put together for our sick children.” Clinical Nurse Manager, Mayo University Hospital

“We would love some isolation packs if you have them as most of our children are in isolation at the moment be it normal isolation or suspected covid-19. Thanks for all your help and the help of our volunteers throughout the year, it has been very much appreciated. We look forward to having ye back very soon.” Clinical Nurse Manager, St. Luke’s Hospital Kilkenny

We will be sending our next round of play packs this summer. We have also been in touch with hospitals with paediatric wards, but where we do not currently have volunteers. We were able to share isolation play packs to children and families in 7 additional hospitals in these challenging times.



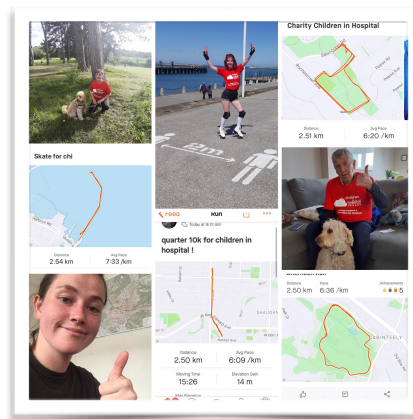
TAKE THE 10K FAMILY CHALLENGE FOR CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL IRELAND

Complete 10k in your own way
your own time
your own area, with your own family
Donate €10.00 to Children in Hospital Ireland
Making hospital a happier place for children.
Thank you
www.childreninhospital.ie/donate



THE 10K FAMILY CHALLENGE

During lock-down we launched the **10k Family Challenge**. As many of our annual fundraisers have had to be cancelled we thought it would be a way to recoup some of our fundraising income. However it is also a fun way to get active with family and friends. We are asking people to complete a shared distance of 10k - anyway they want - with friends or family members each taking a distance and completing it by walking, running, crawling, skating, scootingand the team then donates 10 euro to www.childreninhospital.ie



We are asking people to take photo's or videos to share the fun they have in completing the challenge so we can share our on social media platforms. Please contact Maura@childreninhospital.ie / 087 1933331 for more details - thank you.

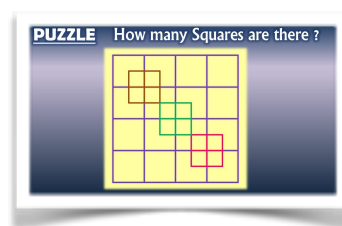
VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBeoDCKUxpA>

Learn how to Quill Paper People with Volunteer Tracey Fingleton and her daughter Isobel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsJTMXMu42k> This Puzzle from volunteer Susan Mulkeen got a great response when we posted it on facebook - it is not easy!



SUDOKU

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	7			2				1
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	6	2						8
8	2	7			9		1	3
5	3					9	8	
		9	8	3		2		

Something Fun for You!

Have fun and enjoy Sudoku online game here: <https://sudoku.com/>

You have the opportunity to print the games, when you prefer the paper version. Good luck.

Thank you for your patience in waiting to return to volunteering. Please do make contact with us at any point with any feedback or concerns.

