

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! We are in the process of gathering stories, anecdotes, memories and inputs from all volunteers - past and present, hospital staff, members, patients & parents to include in our Children in Hospital Memoir - 1970 - 2020 and beyond... This memoir will aim to capture the story of why Children in Hospital Ireland exists, the importance it has played in promoting and advocating for child centred health care and its role in future proofing supports and services for children and families. Much of our story can be best told through voices past and present and we hope that you will get involved as much as you can with this project. Maura will be in touch with a short questionnaire which may prompt memories and anecdotes from your volunteering.

Refresher on Uniform and Infection Control

As we all settle back into routine and normality following the summer months, it's a good time to review the uniform and what we can do while volunteering to help with infection control.

Most importantly is **Bare Below the Elbows**

1. No nail polish, gel or shellac nails
2. 1 plain ring only, no jewels
3. No watches or bracelets
4. Sleeves stopping at the elbow

Good Hand Hygiene

Use the hand hygiene stations frequently throughout your time volunteering. **Key points hospital advise are**

- When entering a ward or clinical area such as the OPD
- Between children's rooms
- Entering or leaving the playroom
- After touching a wheelchair/bed rail/chair or other object in a child's room
- After eating, sneezing, using the restroom, or any cleaning done
- When leaving a ward

Please do not use moisturiser while in hospital, unless provided by the hospital for this purpose. Moisturiser can counter act the hand sanitiser. If your skin is dry from the gel, moisturise after leaving the hospital.



Uniform - with regard to both health and safety in dressing in keeping with hospital guidelines.

- Wear your t-shirt or tabard at all times, with no alterations.
- Ensure you have your name badge on clearly; stickers are welcome!
- Closed, flat shoes.
- Overall neat, tidy and professional appearance.

Do not bring in own or self-bought toys or treats (food of any kind) to children in the hospital. This is a health and safety risk. If there are materials you are in need of or think the children would benefit from, please contact Elizabeth and we will do our best to supply them.

Documenting Our Impact



IMPACT!

September saw changes to our sign in sheets. A line was added for volunteer pairs and teams to record the number of children they had the opportunity to interact with/play with while they volunteered each week. The best way to complete this has led to some confusion and a few ideas.

The goal in having this record is for overall statistics on the impact play volunteering is having in supporting children in hospital.

Play Volunteering is so much about supporting the needs of the children you meet each week – whether that is 1 child who would like to engage for a long period of time, or many shorter visits. It will vary week to week, between areas of the hospital and between hospitals at times. There are no targets and that will not change. We just need to be able to report that play volunteers supported x number of children in [region] or x number of children nationwide each year.

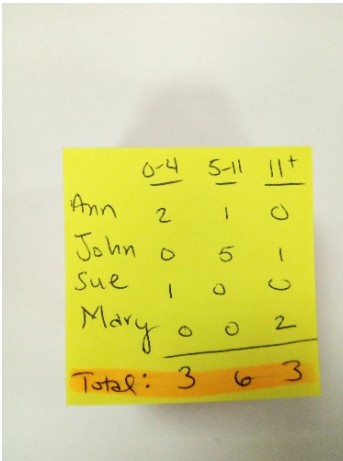
DO:

1. Count the children in the playroom and bedsides you spent time with, including siblings
2. Count children you brought toys down to, but who didn't necessarily want you to stay – including isolation room play packs
3. Count children who engaged with colouring or activities or whose parents you chatted with in out patients or a&e settings (and their siblings)
4. Count a child only once when you are working in a pair, not per volunteer
5. Do your best to keep a count, but don't add undue stress to your time
6. Estimate children's age within the ranges – no need to ask if you don't already know
7. Use a post it note or piece of scrap paper to total the count before leaving the numbers on the sign in sheet – especially where large teams might be leaving at different times, the last pair/person to leave can total the numbers and add to the sign in sheet

Don't:

List children's names, room numbers or other identifying information on the sign in sheet

DO Email Elizabeth if you have ideas for another way to record and send the details to the office, this is the clearest way I could work out, but I am sure by no means the only way. I am open to changing the system.

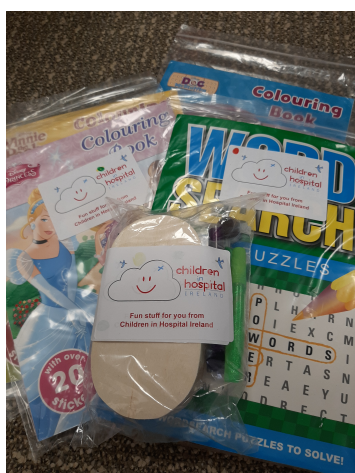


	0-4	5-11	11+
Ann	2	1	0
John	0	5	1
Sue	1	0	0
Mary	0	0	2
Total:	3	6	3

Isolation Packs

As part of the DM Thomas grant mentioned this summer, we have a budget to refresh the isolation room play packs that were made and distributed this past winter. I am still in the final stages of purchasing materials for them, but hope to have about 500 packs in total. These will be delivered or sent to hospitals in the coming couple of months before the end of the year.

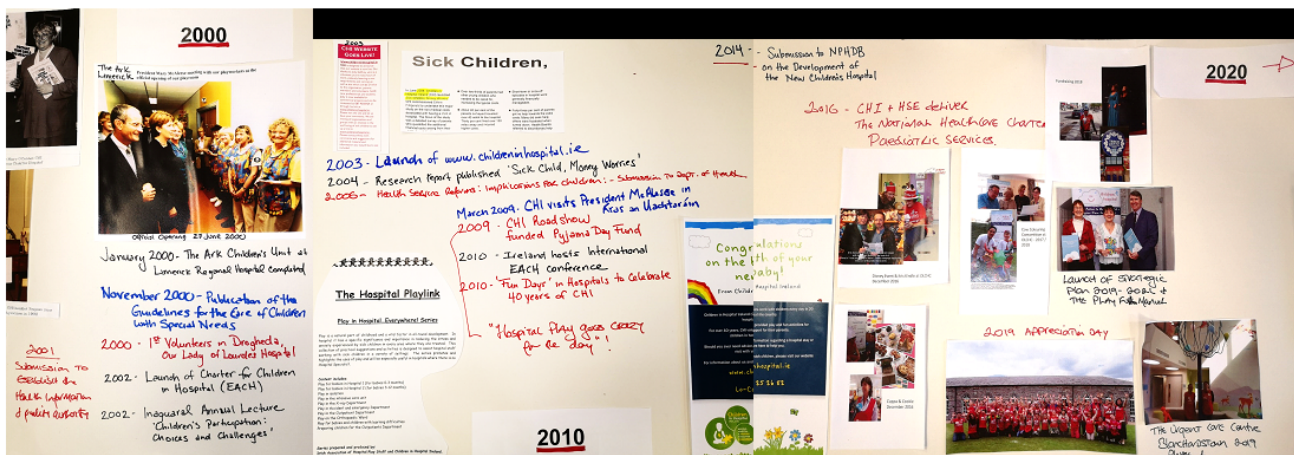
Packs so far include: playing cards, play dough, books and board books, activity and colouring books, and wooden planes and wooden boxes to decorate. There will also be further baby and toddler items.



September 2019

Mary O'Connor, former volunteer, council executive, and CEO of Children in Hospital Ireland shared some of the organisations early history and advocacy work.

And with a HUGE thank you to all of you who came into the office in early September to help us make our archives a living history, we put together some key dates in and displays to kick start our celebration of 50 Years of CHI!



This is a living growing timeline, and we welcome any additional memories of key dates, firsts, campaigns, surveys or publications to it! Email maura@childreninhospital.ie



The symbol is inspired by ancient Irish history and is not associated with any one religion or denomination. It communicates to staff and visitors that a patient is imminently dying or has died. Awareness of this profound event allows all of those in the ward to interact appropriately with those affected by the death. On seeing the symbol, people should create an atmosphere of quiet where people are respectful, avoid mobile phone use and be prepared to meet people who are grieving. The End of Life Symbol is placed on the entrance to the ward or on the nurse's desk, it will not be found outside of the room of the family directly. When you see this symbol just respectfully note this to the nurses and follow their guidance on interactions for your time.

More information can be found : <http://hospicefoundation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/The-End-of-Life-Symbol-Guidelines.pdf>

Celebrating the Year

Halloween is right around the corner and soon we will turn our attention to end of year celebrations with friends. As we did last year, we will have an opportunity for end of year team get togethers to celebrate the wonderful work you have done this past year, welcome new faces to the team, and meet each other once again.

Team leaders play a huge role in organising these nights out, thank you in advance to those who will help organise. If you have ideas for locations, dates (January so often a better deal than December!), or are willing to help plan for your hospital team contact either your team leader or elizabeth@childreninhospital.ie. The sooner we get dates in and locations booked the better!

The Wexford People features a day in the life of Catherine and Pat in Wexford

Autumn recruitment is in full swing for new volunteers. Catherine and Pat in Wexford generously gave an interview with the Wexford People about what play volunteering is like in Wexford General Hospital to help build up our volunteer team there. Thank you!

‘The child can go home from hospital afterwards and have a good memory of the experience’, said Catherine. ‘Even if a parent is sitting here in the chair and we’re playing with the child, you can see them having a rest.’



ANYONE FOR A CUPPA AND COOKIE?



Everyone loves a tea or coffee where they can sit and chat with colleagues and friends and knowing that they are making a difference for a child in hospital is an added bonus.

Host a coffee morning on International Children's Day, 20th November or any day that suits you and raise funds to make hospital a happier place for children.

You can register your event with us online: www.childreninhospital.ie/fundraising and we can arrange to get your starter pack of coffee, tea and cookies to you.

HELP US TO RAISE FUNDS AND TO MAKE HOSPITAL A HAPPIER PLACE FOR CHILDREN
Contact Children in Hospital Ireland at info@childreninhospital.ie or call 01 2903510.
You can donate directly at www.childreninhospital.ie/donate

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Fundraising in Focus: Have a cuppa on International Children's Day and raise funds for Children in Hospital Ireland. Maura will send details about how your local school, community group, place of work or just a group of friends can get involved.
maura@childreninhospital.ie