

VOLUNTEER

AUTUMN 2022 NEWSLETTER



VOLUNTEER UPDATE



We are delighted to have been given the green light to return volunteers to CHI at Connolly, CHI at Tallaght and Waterford in addition to those who have already returned We already have our play service operating in;

- CHI at Crumlin
- CHI at Temple St
- CHI at Tallaght (daytime OPD)
- The NRH
- OLOL Drogheda
- Cork University Hospital
- University Hospital Limerick (Saturday mornings only)
- University Hospital Galway
- St. Luke's Kilkenny

If you are fully vaccinated (with booster) and interested in returning to volunteering over the next few months get in touch with Elizabeth elizabeth@childreninhospital.ie or 0877949291. There are a few training modules to take online, and for some, vetting and Children First certificates to renew. We do not want these to be a deterrent however, and offer plenty of support to complete these steps!

CORPORATE PLAY PARTNERSHIPS

CIH are delighted to be involved in two corporate partnerships. As part of their employee volunteering day **Meta** staff made up 90 canvas back packs containing crafts and toys, while **Regeneron** Limerick are packing 2,500 play packs with a mixture of stickers, activities, games and books including a pack for babies as part of their "Days for Doing Good" Week.



If you know of a company looking for a volunteer opportunity or who might like to get involved please ask them to contact us.

AGM

1st October 2022 in Ombudsman for Children's Office, Dublin.

CHI were delighted so many of you were able to attend the AGM either in person or online. It started by reviewing the activities for the past year and the election of the board. Children In Hospital would like to express our sincere appreciation to the retiring board members, and to welcome the new members with whom we look forward to working.

Following the AGM formalities, we had a presentation from the Chief Director of Nursing in CHI who expressed her sincere appreciation to the volunteers, and committed to continued working together over the coming months and years to prepare for the transition to the new hospital. This was followed by an engaged conversation about what it will mean for all and how volunteers can engage in the process.



CHRISTMAS CARDS



€5 for a pack of 6 beautifully illustrated cards by Irish artist Heather McKay

Every purchase helps us put smiles on the faces of children in hospitals all over the country



**To purchase a set of cards
please visit
childreninhospital.ie or email
info@childreninhospital.ie
or call us on **01 2903510****



On 11th October CIH organised an webinar panel discussion titled

Play in Hospital – For Resilience and Good Mental Health.

The speakers; Catherine Matthews, Clinical Psychologist in CHI Crumlin, Rachel Griffin, Play Specialist in Cork University Hospital and Tracy Holmes, Parent of 3 with a 1 year hospital experience in CHI at Crumlin

The panel highlighted how play helps to build the resilience of sick children and contributes towards good mental health. It showcased the power of play and celebrated the great work being done to support children and families through play in hospital across the country.

On the

Quotes from the Play event speakers about our volunteers,

"I never really used to like the colour red, but when our play volunteers come on the wards it is a great colour to see coming...I can feel myself sigh, these children are going to be getting a gift now, this whole new atmosphere is coming in" - Catherine Matthews, Principal Clinical Psychologist, Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin

"I'm getting a bit emotional just thinking about it. They are just amazing. They don't get enough credit. We really wouldn't have got through our time in Crumlin without their services" - Tracy Holmes, Parent with one year experience at Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin



Are you interested in the area of Autism and diversity? Why not go to The National Youth Council of Ireland's website and explore their 'Working with Autistic young people – a new chapter for Access All Areas Diversity Toolkit'. Working with Autistic young people - [For access please click here.](#)

Diversity

MEDIA

Sheila Wayman had two articles in the Irish Times about CIH one relating to funding and the other to play week

Charity for volunteers providing playtime for children in hospitals loses Government funding. (link in title)

The consultant nearly fell through the floor — she had never heard the child's voice.

Leavers and Joiners

Emma Barrett our Just Ask Coordinator has left CIH to work directly with young people. We wish her every success and thank her for all she did for CIH. We also welcome Marijka Walsh, Volunteer Coordinator for the new targeted 1to1 support volunteer roles for children and families facing the most significant impact of hospitalisation. This role is funded by the Late Late Toy Show fund and will enhance the range of supports CIH can offer to children and our capacity to do so.

Advocacy

Sadly CIH has said goodbye to Fiachra Brennan our Policy Officer. He made a huge contribution to ensuring the needs of the children and families we work with get communicated to the right audiences. Our Advocacy Newsletter 2022 is on our website and has lots of clickable links to give you more information.

