



**Children
In Hospital**
Ireland (CIH)

HOW YOUR ORGANISATION CAN SUPPORT CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL



www.childreninhospital.ie

ABOUT CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL

Established in 1970, Children in Hospital Ireland (CIH Ireland) works to promote a positive hospital experience for all children and families. With a team of 300 volunteers across 14 paediatric units nationwide, Children in Hospital Ireland supports children and their families when they need it most.

OUR SERVICES

- Facilitate volunteer-led play in hospital
- Specialised Play Requests
- JustAsk at CHI Crumlin, welcoming and wayfinding service
- Provide information to families
- Research and Education
- Advocate for better experiences for children in hospital and their families

BELOW ARE OUR TWO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES THAT GUIDE OUR WORK

- 1** Provide support to children and their families in and around the time of receiving hospital care
- 2** Be a strong, recognised and effective voice advocating for the highest standards of care for children, young people and their families before, during, and after hospitalisation

Our Mission

Our mission is to promote the well-being of children within the healthcare system in Ireland. In particular, before, during and after hospitalisation. In order to fulfill our mission, we aim to provide information and support to parents and carers and to engage in advocacy in relation to healthcare services for children. In addition, we aim to make the hospital a happier place for children and young people by providing volunteer-led play and recreation services.

Our Vision

An Ireland where the rights of all children and their families and carers are respected and prioritised within the healthcare system.

Our Values

The work of Children in Hospital Ireland is firmly rooted in and inspired by the true reality of children in hospital and their families and the knowledge and insights of our volunteers, staff and members.



ALL-ISLAND COLLABORATION

A platform for shared learning, advocating for families and influencing policy change

NETWORKING

Sharing knowledge, identifying gaps, and advocating collaboratively



SCOPING PAPER

Identifying the financial supports available to families north and south



CONFERENCE

Sharing innovative approaches and best practice to promote positive change



All-Island Collaboration

We are partnered with Children's Heartbeat Trust Northern Ireland, working collaboratively to address the challenges faced by children in hospital on an all-island basis. Through this partnership, we are building strong connections between the childhood illness groups across the island.

SERVING COMMUNITIES ACROSS IRELAND



Hospitals where teams of CIH volunteers facilitate play and support children and families

1 National Rehabilitation Hospital

2 CHI at Crumlin

3 CHI at Temple Street

4 CHI at Connolly

5 CHI at Tallaght

6 Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda

7 Mayo University Hospital

8 University Hospital Galway

9 University Hospital Limerick

10 Cork University Hospital

11 Wexford General Hospital

12 St. Luke's General Hospital

13 University Hospital Waterford

14 Sligo University Hospital

- ▶ We are the **only organisation** to provide comprehensive support for the range of challenges that come with childhood illness. We are not tied to any one illness group or speciality.
- ▶ We work in collaboration with patient organisations for children including those dealing with:
 - cancer
 - diabetes
 - rare diseases
 - spina bifida hydrocephalus
 - epilepsy
 - down syndrome
 - congenital heart disease
 - neo-natal health
 - mental health & many others



HOW WE DO THIS

- ▶ We provide a **volunteer-led play service** across 14 hospitals nationwide. Play activities include board games, arts & crafts, story time and more.
- ▶ We provide **play and colouring resources** for children and young people, and parent care packs to families across 22 hospitals nationwide.
- ▶ We provide a **JustAsk service** in CHI at Crumlin. Our volunteers greet families and help them find their way around hospital.
- ▶ We **respond to play requests** for families who need additional support. Our one-to-one volunteer team provides individual play services to children in hospital.
- ▶ Our volunteer play services are available weekdays, evenings and at weekends.
- ▶ We conduct **research and advocate** on behalf of children and their families to create a better experience in hospitals.
- ▶ We provide **information and resources** to families to support their experience before, during and after hospitalisation.
- ▶ We **consult with parents** in order to understand the key challenges they face and respond accordingly.
- ▶ We **partner closely with childhood illness organisations** to amplify the voices of parents and families of children in hospital.

WHY PARTNER WITH CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL

Develop a partnership with a solid and trusted organisation that centers its work around supporting all children and families facing hospitalisation.

By partnering with us, you can:

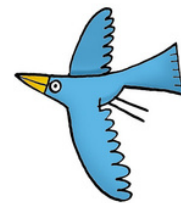
- ▶ Support communities across Ireland.
- ▶ Engage your staff by making a direct and meaningful impact on the lives of children and their families in hospital.
- ▶ Meet your corporate social responsibility objectives
- ▶ Expose your brand to the wider clinical and non-clinical hospital staff, our 500+ members and families of patients in healthcare settings.
- ▶ Enhance your reputation as a caring, progressive and influential organisation.



MARKETING & PR SUPPORT

- We will collaborate with you on all relevant PR and media activity.
- You will have brand recognition across our digital and social platforms, marketing collateral and annual lecture series.
- We will work closely with you to devise a strategic partnership plan.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US



FUNDRAISE

Children in Hospital Ireland often rely on donations to provide play and colouring resources, to train and recruit volunteers and to develop our information support services. We would be grateful for any fundraising efforts by your organisation.

- ▶ **Host an inter-organisation event** – why not host a quiz/sports day/Bake-off/competitions between the different departments or offices around the country.
- ▶ Consider taking part in a full marathon, a half marathon, VHI Women's Mini Marathon, Hell & Back or cycling challenge and ask for sponsorships.
- ▶ Hold an organisational **Revolut Spare change - Vault challenge** in aid of CIH Ireland.
- ▶ Join our **Give Up Your Cup Campaign** this October - Can your organisation go without your tea/ coffee for a day or week? Donate your savings to CIH Ireland.

TOY DRIVE

In addition to our play packs, we often have requests from our volunteers and hospital staff for specific toys to suit the needs of a child in that hospital. These might be sensory toys, baby items or board games. We'd be happy to provide a list of items that are often requested, if you can rally a team to source these items.

Please note: all play items donated must be brand new and unused due to infection control in the hospitals.

CORPORATE SUPPORT

We would be delighted to partner with organisations who could volunteer their time to support us with website development, administrative tasks, consultancy etc.

ASSEMBLE PACKS

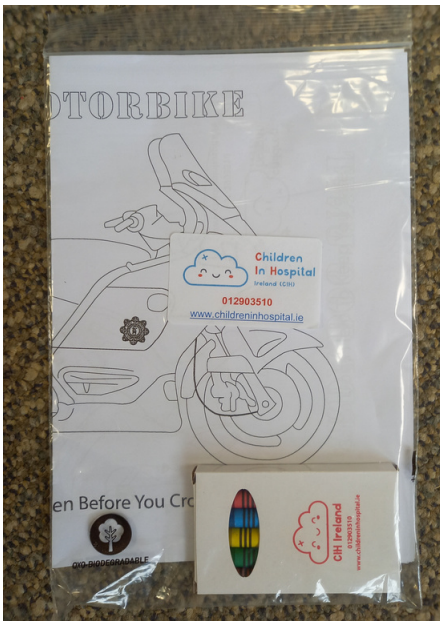
Organise for your team to assemble Play Packs, Colouring Packs or Parent Care Packs to be distributed to children and families in hospital. These packing days are a great way for your team to come together and actively get involved in providing play items to children in hospital. Due to infection control, items are currently single-use only so they are packed and distributed in sealed bags to children waiting in inpatient, outpatient and emergency departments.

This could be hosted in your offices in which team members can dedicate anywhere from an hour to a half day to assemble packs. We would be incredibly grateful if you could supply the funds for the play items or help us print the colouring pages.



PLAY PACKS

Items can include activity books, crafts, paints, sensory toys, figures, card games etc.



COLOURING/ACTIVITY PACKS

Items include colouring pages and crayons/pencils or wordsearches and highlighters.



PARENT CARE PACKS

Items include washcloth, shower gel, toothbrush, toothpaste, tissues, compact hairbrush, sudoku/crosswords and pen/pencils.

VOLUNTEER IN THE HOSPITAL

We have a number of volunteering roles available across the 14 hospitals. All volunteers must be vetted and receive training from Children in Hospital Ireland. We ask for volunteers to commit to a 2 hour time slot each week. If there is a team interested in volunteering, we can allocate your organisation a time slot and ask that a minimum of two volunteers attend each week.

What volunteer roles are there?

- ▶ **JustAsk** – Based in CHI at Crumlin only. Our *JustAsk* volunteers greet families, help them navigate where they need to go in the hospital and hand out colouring packs to children in the waiting areas.
- ▶ **Play** – Our play volunteers engage with children and young people through games, arts and crafts, story time and more. Their role is to create a fun environment while giving the parents an opportunity to take a break. (evenings and weekends shifts also available)
- ▶ **One-To-One Supports** – CIH Ireland responds to play requests from families who may need additional support. This play volunteer role is flexible, responding to requests as and when they are needed.

FROM SPORTING EVENTS TO OPERA, BAKE-OFFS TO CREATIVE WRITING THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Connacht Rugby's Gavin Thornbury and 2FM Broadcaster Ciara King help to raise funds to give parents a break

Annual Christmas Appeal



Marathon fun



Great Dublin Bike Ride



Author Sarah Webb facilitates World Book Day event for CIH



Soprano Celine Byrne hosts Annual fundraising Concert



Commissioner of Irish Lights publish Lighthouse Story book - proceeds to Children in Hospital



Dublin Fire Brigade Cycle

MUCH MORE THAN CHILD'S PLAY

CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE



- **Research** – We investigate the key issues faced by children in hospital and their families, to increase the understanding of challenges and identify lasting solutions. This includes our [*Childhood Illness, Financial Stress*](#) report which explored the non-medical financial costs of caring for a child in hospital.
- **Awareness Raising** – We raise awareness of key issues, to inform, educate, and inspire engagement with our campaign for change.
- **Engaging with Policymakers** – We engage with elected representatives, government departments, and statutory bodies to achieve policy change. Our headline policy ask is for the introduction of a new social protection payment to assist parents with the non-medical financial costs associated with having a child in hospital.
- **Promoting Children's Rights** – We promote the rights of children within the healthcare system. This advocacy happens through forums such as the Children's Rights Alliance and the Wheel, and internationally through the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH). Our approach is guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the EACH charter.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL

CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL IRELAND GOVERNANCE

- Annual audited accounts in accordance with SORP and are published on our website in full www.childreninhospital.ie/governance
- Fully compliant with the Charities Regulator's Governance Code
- Shortlisted for the 2020 Good Governance Awards
- We have been given the Investing in Volunteers Award in 2020.
- Operate under a strategic plan.



Network of
Childhood
Illness
Organisations

CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL TEAM



Anna Gunning, CEO, Children in Hospital Ireland

- Elizabeth Morrin, Volunteer Manager
- Jessica Hurley, Volunteer Coordinator
- Catherine Mallin, Volunteer Coordinator
- Niamh Lawlor, Information and Communications Officer
- Helen Jones, Project Officer
- Julia Dressler, Office Administrator

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

-  [childreninhospital](https://www.instagram.com/childreninhospital)
-  [Children In Hospital](https://www.facebook.com/ChildrenInHospital)
-  [@childreninhosp](https://twitter.com/@childreninhosp)
-  [Children in Hospital](https://www.linkedin.com/company/childreninhospital)

CONTACT:

[INFO@CHILDRENINHOSPITAL.IE](mailto:info@childreninhospital.ie)

