



# LauraLynn

IRELAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



September 2016

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# 5th Birthday

## Special Edition Newsletter

2011

LauraLynn House opens a purpose built children's palliative care unit

2012

Children's Sunshine Home & LauraLynn House rebrand as



LauraLynn  
IRELAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

2013

Clinical Education & Research Dept set up to lead the way in Children's Palliative Care

2014

LauraLynn@HOME commenced

2015

Launched the Family Friendly Hospice Initiative

2016

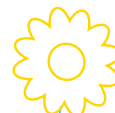
New Family Suite opened & restaurant refurbishment begun.



*"Your trust is of the utmost importance to us and we honour it by providing open and transparent information about how we raise our money and how we spend it. Our 2015 Annual Report & Financial Statements are available for download on our website [www.lauralynn.ie](http://www.lauralynn.ie) or please contact me to receive a copy."* Sharon Morrow, CEO

## We are 5 years old! Thank you!

With the fantastic support and generosity of so many individuals, communities and companies all over Ireland, we have developed and built Ireland's first children's hospice, providing a holistic hospice care service which embraces all the family. With your support, our care service is ensuring that children with life-limiting conditions and their families can have the nursing, practical, emotional and bereavement support they need. What a truly wonderful gift you are giving.



# A very special thank you to Jane & Brendan

There are moments in all our lives, when we wished we could do something differently or better; we've all had a vision for change, often never realised. Jane and Brendan McKenna on the other hand, in the midst of the most difficult circumstances imaginable did; becoming the inspiration and driving force behind the building of Ireland's first hospice for children, LauraLynn House.

Their 4 year old daughter Laura, died tragically in 1999 during the final surgery to repair a hole in her heart that had been with her since birth. On the day of Laura's surgery, her older sister Lynn was diagnosed with cancer at the age of thirteen. After eight months of chemotherapy treatment, Lynn was in remission but sadly relapsed before passing away at the tender age of fifteen. From this unimaginable situation, that no parent should have to deal with, Jane and Brendan found a courage beyond belief, courage that is a testament to the human spirit.

The LauraLynn Children's Hospice Foundation was set up in 2001 with Jane and Brendan tirelessly raising funds with the goal of building a hospice for other children and their families to receive the care, comfort and respite they need as they face the overwhelming prospect of losing their son or daughter.

Joining forces in 2006 with The Children's Sunshine Home Hospice Project, Jane and Brendan realised this dream, opening the first dedicated children's hospice - LauraLynn House - in 2011. This 'Home from Home' has since become a very special place for the children and families that have come to LauraLynn; a place full of memories both happy and sad.

300+ children and their families helped by LauraLynn since 2011



Jane & Brendan with President Mary McAleese at the opening of LauraLynn House in 2011

In 2014, the LauraLynn@HOME programme was launched, bringing hospice care into the family home, a wish that Lynn herself held close to her heart. However, there is still a long road ahead as we move towards our goal, and the vision Jane and Brendan share; to make hospice care available for every child and family that needs it.

Jane and Brendan recently announced that they would be stepping back from their public role with LauraLynn. We are hugely grateful for all they have done and achieved. Their legacy is not only the hospice which bears their daughter's names, but the availability of choice for families, changing the way we provide palliative care to children and families.

Brendan and Jane, you have provided a haven of comfort and happiness for so many children and families. Helping to create special memories to hold in their hearts forever. We are all forever in your debt. **Thank You!**



## Thank you for Every Moment

Whether you climbed a mountain, ran, walked, baked a cake, held a golf classic, a bridge or quiz night. If you lost weight, supported our online shop, jumped out of a plane, bag packed on a busy Saturday afternoon, played tennis, got your work colleagues to dress up or cycle for us. If you danced, sang, told jokes, gave up swearing or gave your time to us. If you made a small or sizable donation to us, if you signed up to become a regular giver, if you donated your hard earned money, if you got involved in your company's charity committee or donated your winnings. Whether you raised €10 or €10,000, thank you! We are so incredibly grateful to you for choosing to make a difference to the lives of very sick children. It's because of you that we can continue to

help families at the worst times in their lives. You are all heroes to us, thank you! (Sarah, Head of





you raised  
€14m  
since 2011  
Thank you!

Did you  
know...?

# Thank you for being part of our journey

We cannot thank you enough for everything you do for us. Quite simply, without your support we could not continue to support families at home and here in our hospice building. Over the past five years you have raised over €14 million for us and allowed us to support more than 300 children and families during their most difficult time. Thank you! (Sanu, Staff Nurse)

Because of you we have been able to change the lives of very sick children and those of their families. You have enabled us to make the most of short and precious lives. You have made all this happen by choosing to make a difference.

Thank you! (Terri, Co-ordinator [LauraLynn@Home](mailto:LauraLynn@Home))

Your unwavering support has meant we can provide more play therapy, organise more special memorable days, buy more equipment and importantly; provide the nursing care families need here at our hospice or in their home.

Thank You! (Angela, Healthcare Assistant)

A big thank you to all the children and young people who have shown great heart and creativity in their donations to LauraLynn! The future is brighter for everyone when kindness is kindled at such an early age. (Aidan, Senior Clinical Psychologist)



# Thank You

"Well yesterday started our first stay for our little man Angus and WOW!!! The dedication and care is amazing and Angus has settled right in which definitely puts our minds at ease. Thank you LauraLynn. You absolutely rock!"

Fiona Roberts, Angus' Mum

3,840  
children living in  
Ireland with a life-  
limiting condition

LauraLynn  
is the only  
children's  
hospice in  
Ireland

1,635  
LauraLynn  
@HOME visits  
in 2015

Dear, LauraLynn.



Hello, My name is Ellen, My cousin Maria and I thought about doing a bake sale because we were staying in this house. We wanted to do it for charity and we ~~wanted to do it~~ chose you because ~~we wanted to do it~~ you do such good work for sick children.

We ended up raising about £111 for you. Everything was homemade, Thank you so much for all the work you do! My brother Matthew

Sister Jess and Cousins Maria and Joe helped too. We all hope you benefit from this money! And Hello from all of us. Hope you have a great day!



Love from  
Ellen & again!

*"You make us do things we wouldn't have dreamed of doing before; you help us to have fun and bring laughter back into our lives and help us to make wonderful precious memories of our little family... we will always have these precious memories."*

**Rhona Knowles, Josh's Mum**



**495**  
play therapy  
sessions  
(individual &  
group) in  
2015

Music & Play Therapy

Did you  
know...?



**LauraLynn**  
**@ HOME**

bringing children's  
hospice care into the  
family home

Dear Terrie

I knew Conor was going to enjoy his time spent with you. We all knew he had because he would be always smiling and content after spending time with you.

Thank you for caring for Conor and for the support you have given to both Richard and myself.

Thanks again

Deirdre & Richard xx

Richard and I would like to Thank You for all the kind home care you gave Conor, for making loads of lovely art work with Conor so we have lovely memories to look back on because of you we can look back at different pieces of work and think fondly of Conor from the first day of home care.

**442**  
Family members  
attended  
Bereavement  
events since  
2011

# You helped make Good Friday Great

Your support has been truly remarkable over our five year journey since opening LauraLynn House and one event which truly epitomises your goodwill, energy and compassion was Ray's Half Million Half Marathon in the Phoenix Park on Good Friday, April 18th 2014. Over 1700 people gathered in the splendid April sunshine, to run side by side in a sea of blue, to raise funds for our new LauraLynn@HOME hospice service, to provide children

and families with hospice care in the comfort of their own home.

Runners were joined by families and supporters led by Ray and his team. Many goals were achieved on the day, with some people running their first half marathon. And our goal of raising a Half Million € was smashed, with the whole of the country rowing in behind the initiative and donating €640,000. Truly a great Good Friday!



runners  
travelled  
**37,400km**  
almost the  
distance round  
the globe

Ray D'Arcy & TodayFM Half Million Half Marathon 2014

You helped make it happen...  
**THANK YOU!**

**€640k**  
raised

*"And I'd do it all  
again tomorrow. Well  
maybe not tomorrow,  
but you know what I  
mean. Thanks for a  
brilliant event."*  
**Brendan Dempsey**



## Let's get fundraising

### Coffee Morning anytime!

An easy and great way to catch up with your pals and raise funds.

### Children Helping Children

There are so many fun ways for children and students to get involved. Why not host a Superhero Day, bake sale or recycle batteries? Log onto our website for ideas or get in touch with Elizabeth for your pack.

E: [eoriodan@lauralynn.ie](mailto:eoriodan@lauralynn.ie) T: 01 2893151



## Make your donation go further



### Taxback

Thank you to all our donors who generously have gifted to us over the years. If you are a taxpayer, either self-assessed or PAYE and donated €250 or more in a tax year to LauraLynn, the tax you pay can be refunded by Revenue to us. Get in touch with Pauline for your Taxback Pack and help us make your support go even further!

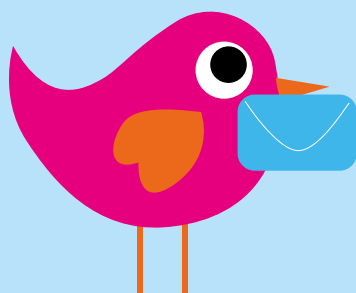
E: [paulinem@lauralynn.ie](mailto:paulinem@lauralynn.ie) T: 01 2893151



### WEEE Ireland

Our corporate partners WEEE Ireland are appealing to YOU to collect waste batteries and help Ireland meet the 2016 EU target of 45% of all batteries sold to be recycled. Thanks to your support to date, WEEE Ireland have donated over €235,000 since 2012! Every single battery collected supports LauraLynn. Get your school, company or family recycling by ordering your blue box from WEEE Ireland today and #RecycleforGood!

W: [www.weeireland.ie](http://www.weeireland.ie)



## Keep us posted

- We'd love to hear your feedback. Visit [LauraLynn.ie](http://LauraLynn.ie) and let us know.  
E: [info@lauralynn.ie](mailto:info@lauralynn.ie)
- It is important to keep you updated on how your support is making a difference to the families we care for and we want to reassure you that we will never pass your contact details to a third party.
- We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. However, if for any reason you no longer want to hear about the work we do, please ring or email us and we will immediately remove your details from our contacts list.

