

The IHF's Thérèse Brady Library Launches New Services

On September 8th, the Thérèse Brady Library launched two initiatives as part of the IHF's outreach programme. The aim of these initiatives is to make literature on bereavement more accessible to the public, either through their local libraries or by providing a loan service of suitable material. The first initiative is the **Recommended Reading Lists and Public Loan Information Pack**

This pack contains:

Stories for Young Children about Loss and Death.

Three lists of books aimed at professionals covering these issues: Death and Bereavement for Professionals; Death, Bereavement and Suicide for General Practitioners; Loss and Grief in the Workplace.

Residents of the Republic of Ireland may also borrow books included in these reading lists from the Thérèse Brady Library as of September 8, 2005. Two books may be borrowed at any one time, and the lending period is up to one month. Books can either be collected during working hours or posted, and there is a fee of €5 for each loan to cover operating costs.

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day – October 8, 2005

As part of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, the Thérèse Brady Library is pleased to present you with an information pack about hospice care.

In addition, we have a number of bereavement resources available in our library, including leaflets which may be helpful to people who have just lost a loved one or those who would like to learn more about the area. These publications will also be of benefit to City and County Public Libraries, as well as voluntary hospice groups throughout the country

Hospice has developed throughout Ireland thanks to the commitment and resources of local communities. These initiatives are aimed at helping voluntary hospice groups and public libraries to explore ways of working together to promote hospice and to provide information on local services.

Our training officer Breffni McGuinness will give two talks on the theme *Lost for Words / Words for Loss* on Tuesday 11th October in Ballymun Public Library at 3pm and on Wednesday 12th October at 6.30pm in Walkinstown Public Library. Admission is free, and bereavement resources including reading lists and leaflets will be available. Additional information may be obtained from the public libraries.

For further details about these new services and events, please contact either Caroline Pfeifer or Maura Dunne at the Irish Hospice Foundation on 01 679 3188 or e-mail caroline@hospice-foundation.ie or maura@hospice-foundation.ie. Alternatively, information is available on our website: www.hospice-foundation.ie.



THE IRISH HOSPICE

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FOUNDATION

First Commemorative Mary Holland Lecture

The first commemorative lecture in honour of journalist Mary Holland took place on Thursday, 7th July, in the Round Room of the Mansion House in Dublin, initiated by the Irish Hospice Foundation, in association with The Irish Times. The inaugural lecture was given by former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson. In her lecture, the former President paid tribute to the journalist, Mary Holland was a passionate and courageous advocate for the powerless. Her voice was always one of passionate and forceful commitment to human rights, the dignity of the individual and social justice.

She noted the bravery and courage of Mary Holland, attributes displayed throughout her life but especially during her last few months as she battled against scleroderma, a chronic disease of the immune system, connective tissue and blood vessels.

The Irish Hospice Foundation initiated this lecture as an acknowledgement of the work and life of Mary Holland and also to raise further awareness to the importance of bringing into reality our vision: a society where individuals and families facing serious illness, death and bereavement will experience the best possible care.

Mary Robinson also made reference to this vision: Mary Holland's difficult experience in the last months of her life, and the experience of many others in similar situations, points to the need for high-intensity care facilities for people with complex, debilitating and advancing diseases which have ongoing nursing and medical care at the core. It seems contradictory, given Ireland's position as one of the wealthiest countries in the world, that such facilities are not available to all who need them.

Denis Doherty, Chairman of the Irish Hospice Foundation, added: Mary, in her great and distinguished journalistic career, often wrote about the lives of quiet desperation endured by people who faced injustice in one form or other. We are now required to honour her life and her commitment to social progress by focusing on people who are dying in quiet desperation — people who can experience specific individuals as being practical and caring, but



Eugene Murray, John Hume, Mary Robinson and Denis Doherty at the Commemorative Mary Holland Lecture.

whose desperation arises from the overall failure of systems of care to meet their particular requirements.

The lecture was chaired by David Begg, General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. The large attendance included many of Mary Holland's family, friends and colleagues; The Irish Times Editor, Geraldine Kennedy; John and Pat Hume; Archbishop Robin Eames, and Seamus Dooley of the National Union of Journalists, all of whom were welcomed by Irish Hospice Foundation CEO, Eugene Murray. We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Kitty Holland and Mary Maher for their contributions to making this event such a success, and also to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Catherine Byrne, for very kindly sponsoring and hosting the evening's reception. It was certainly a very special evening, and we are delighted to have paid tribute to Mary Holland in such a memorable way.

Plans are underway for next year's commemorative lecture. Please see upcoming issues of Irish Hospice Foundation News for further details. Mary Robinson's speech is also available on our website, www.hospice-foundation.ie if you are interested in reading or downloading a copy.

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Nearest The Pin Day – Celebrating World Hospice & Palliative Care Day: October 8, 2005

The Irish Hospice Foundation is organising a national Nearest the Pin Competition open to all clubs. Christy O'Connor Jnr and the P.G.A. (Irish Region) have endorsed this event, and we are hoping for 100 clubs to join in. Prizes include five trips to St. Andrew's Old course for the over-all winners, as well as champagne in each club. For further information, please contact Aisling Carr at the IHF on 01 679 3188.

Adidas Dublin City Marathon Team

We are encouraging athletes to join the IHF Marathon Team, which we hope will reach 100 runners who are each aiming to fundraise 1000 for the Irish Hospice Foundation. The marathon is on bank holiday Monday, October 31st. Each team member receives sponsorship cards and t-shirts, as well as an IHF singlet to wear on the day. Three Sunway holidays will be given as prizes to athletes. If you are running the marathon and would like to register with our team, please contact us.

Royalties from Books

The royalties from two books will come to the Irish Hospice Foundation — *A Page in The Life*, from the popular writing series which ran on *The Marian Finucane Show* in 2004 and 2005, featuring true life stories written by programme listeners. Also, *A Sporting Eye – Ireland & The World*, by sports photo journalist Fionnbar Callanan, which covers major events and players from the world of athletics, including Gaelic football, hurling, soccer, rugby, golf, tennis, cycling and bridge.

Lady Golfers Annual Howth Walk

The annual lady golfers sponsored walk of Howth Head took place on Saturday 14th May in glorious sunshine! This is the sixteenth year of the event, which so far has raised more than €480,000 for Children's Hospice Homecare. Our thanks to the ever-diligent committee, under chairmanship of Joan Wylde, for their continued hard work.

NATIONAL HOSPICE FUNDRAISING NEWS

Argos Charity of the Year

24 Argos stores throughout the country have begun fundraising for their local hospices over a two-year period. Much of the fundraising through Argos will be focused on the annual catalogue launch days, as well as getting staff involved in local hospice fundraising events and activities.

Voices for Hospice

Voices for Hospice will be the fundraising aspect of World Hospice & Palliative Care Day (October 8th) Hundreds of choirs all over Ireland have been alerted to the day, and many are registering to support their local hospice groups. Tesco has also opened up its doors to choral groups as part of their Charity of the Year Programme, and some stores will have several choirs singing throughout the day on the 8th.

Tesco Charity of the Year

Over €700,000 has been raised so far by the staff at Tesco for Hospice! All money raised in Tesco Stores will go directly to support local hospice services. This is a phenomenal achievement by all who have supported and organised staff fundraising initiatives in Tesco. You can show your support by recycling your old mobile phone or ink jet cartridges, buying a blue wrist band or button badge or depositing your old and foreign coins in one of the special collection units in-store.

Hospice Sunflower Days

Sunflower Days took place on June 10th and 11th. This year's event took on a new flavour with the announcement of Tayto as sponsor. All reports indicate that this year was one of the most successful to date. One of the highlights from the event was when it took centre stage on TV3's Ireland AM programme on Friday 10th June. All money raised through Sunflower Days goes to support local hospice care.

Ireland's Biggest Coffee Morning

Ireland's Biggest Coffee Morning took place on 15th September. This is the twelfth year of this fundraiser, sponsored by Bewley's and supported by Marian Finucane. It is hoped that the event will again be a huge success, as people all over the country host coffee mornings in their homes, companies, schools and clubs in aid of local hospice care.



What's New?

an update on some of our projects and programmes

Care for People Dying in Hospitals Project Update

The First National Conference on Care for People Dying in Hospitals

The Irish Hospice Foundation's Care for People Dying in Hospitals project hosted a conference on May 12th entitled, *Finding A Better Way: A National Conference on Care for People Dying in Hospital*, the first of its kind in Ireland. Pat Cox, Former President of the European Parliament, gave the keynote address, during which he stated, 'The quality of support and care for people dying, both in hospital and at home needs clearly to assume a priority. I think in Ireland in particular, in respect of hospitals the issues are clear: the physical comforts; the concerns of family to meet their needs; and, the concerns of staff who care for the dying. We need to respond in a programmed and imaginative way and in a way which can be sustained. That it's not just building on the individual compassion [of the carer] which is indispensable but also is building a sustainable system of care and the protocols to go with it.'

Key themes that will help shape the national agenda on care for people dying in hospitals were explored and included Integrated Care, Design & Dignity, Patient Autonomy and Communications. We received very positive feedback from the event, with many people calling for it to be made an annual event.

The success of the day was attributable to the high-quality contributions of speakers, discussion group convenors, chairpersons and a thoroughly engaged audience. As a result of the conference, there is a greater level of public awareness around the topic of end-of-life care in hospitals. In addition, the National Hospitals Office has made a commitment to deliver change.

A number of resources from the conference are now available on the website of the Care for People Dying in Hospitals Project at www.newgrange-process.net

Family Handover Bag

All hospitals in the North-Eastern region and a number of large hospitals in Dublin have now ceased using plastic bags when handing over the personal belongings of a deceased patient to the family and have adopted a more dignified alternative, the Family Handover Bag, a jute fibre material bag, which has been developed through the project. The initiative is currently being rolled-out nationally. The first 5,000 bags have been delivered and a further 2,000 are on order. Details of the new ordering procedure for Family Handover Bags are now available at www.newgrange-process.net/bag

Education Awareness Training

In June & July 2005, an Educational Awareness Programme about care for the dying was delivered to front-line staff within Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. The programme was designed and delivered as a result of a nurses' survey, which found that many nurses felt they would benefit from additional training in the area. The programme was a sharing of experiences and expertise in caring for patients and their families and promoted improved care. One of the staff nurses commented on the fact that, 'staff concerns and comments are being recognised and reviewed. Many of the participants on the programme stated that they gained greater self-awareness about their practice as professionals caring for patients who are dying. It is hoped that through education and training, change can be adopted to encourage holistic care for all patients.'

Information Publications

The Care for People Dying in Hospitals Project has published a number of resource booklets, with the support of Comhairle, which are available for downloading at www.newgrange-process.net/resources. These publications cover a wide variety of topics, including: Guidelines on Breaking Bad News; Information on Post-Mortems; Dying & Death in an Acute Hospital; Bereavement Support Services; Care of the Muslim Patient; Citizen's Information Services; Pastoral Care.

Enterprise Ireland Supports The Irish Hospice Foundation



Enterprise Ireland has joined the Irish Hospice Foundation's Give As You Earn programme (GAYE). As a result, a large number of staff members have already pledged their support. It is heartening to see so many people signing up to this programme, and donations no matter how small or large are most gratefully received. The Irish Hospice Foundation would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Enterprise Ireland employees for their very generous support since the programme's inception.

Enterprise Ireland's Julie Sinnamon recently said, 'Hospice care has provided a very valuable service and support at a difficult time for many people including members of our staff and therefore there is deep appreciation by a lot of the staff for the support they receive over these difficult times and a resulting strong desire to help with the valuable work hospice does.'

How does G.A.Y.E. work?

- Enterprise Ireland staff voluntarily agree to donate a set amount of money each month from their salary
- The agreed amount is automatically deducted from individual staff salaries by the company's payroll department
- A total contribution is forwarded to the Hospice Foundation at the end of each month.
- For those availing of the tax efficient donation (€5 weekly), they will fill out a form at the end of the year and this will ensure that the IHF are made a repayment by the Revenue which amount to almost double what was donated in the first instance.

Our aim is to develop this partnership and hopefully bring more people on board and get everyone involved in a positive way. This can involve organising fun events among staff such as:

- Plain clothes day
- Wine tasting evening after work
- Come up with your own unique idea!
- The options are endless .contact Mary at the IHF



Patrick Riordan, Caoimhe McKeown, Kezia Keenan-O'Shea, Isabelle Scaife & Greg O'Carroll at the launch of Sunflower Days

ADDITIONAL NEWS AT THE THE IRISH HOSPICE FOUNDATION

Hospice/Palliative Care Baseline Study and Gap Analysis

The Irish Hospice Foundation has recently undertaken a hospice and palliative care Baseline Study and Gap Analysis, which is now almost complete and will be ready for publication in early October. The aim of the baseline study is to clearly identify specific gaps in policy implementation and service provision on a regional basis. It will provide a significant input to the work of the National Council for Specialist Palliative Care. The baseline study will provide the empirical evidence to support an advocacy campaign, which has recently commenced in a partnership between the Irish Hospice Foundation, Irish Cancer Society and the Irish Association of Palliative Care.

Professorship in Hospice Studies

University College Dublin (UCD) and Trinity College Dublin have agreed to the joint appointment of a part-time Visiting Professor in Hospice Studies, to be funded by the Irish Hospice Foundation. Professor David Clark, Director of the Institute of Health Research at Lancaster University, will take up his post in early October 2005. He will be focusing on three areas: research, education and service development in hospice care in Ireland.

Hospice and Palliative Care for Children

The National Children's Needs Assessment, which we undertook in partnership with the Department of Health and Children, will be launched by the Tanaiste and Minister for Health and Children in the Irish Hospice Foundation premises on Sept. 27th. The next step is to work with the various voluntary and statutory agencies on an implementation strategy, based on the findings of the assessment.

The Irish Hospice Foundation is delighted to have been involved in the recently announced a joint venture between the LauraLynn Foundation and The Sunshine Homes to build a Children's Hospice in Dublin. We will continue to be involved with this development, as it is proposed that the Foundation will fund a paediatric palliative care nurse in the proposed Dublin respite care centre for a period of 3 years.

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2005 takes place on October 8th, and the Irish Hospice Foundation is planning several events to coincide with this international fundraising and awareness-raising day.

CHRISTMAS CARDS 2005 COLLECTION

Our new collection of Christmas cards for 2005 is now available. This year the collection includes a selection of mixed packs with a variety of designs to suit all.

The cards cost €10 for a pack of 10. All profits from the sale of these Christmas Cards go directly to the Irish Hospice Foundation

To request a brochure, please e-mail Karen at karen@hospice-foundation.ie or ring the Irish Hospice Foundation on 01 679 3188.

