



Our Journeys

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Our Mission

The Children's Sunshine Home cares for children with life-limiting conditions and their families providing transitional care, home support, respite, crisis and end-of-life care. Our services are available to all children with high medical and nursing needs from birth to 18.

Our Vision

All children who need us, can access us!

The Children's Sunshine Home is governed by a dedicated voluntary Board of Directors:

George Balmer (Chairman)	Dr. Hugh Monaghan
Joan Banks (Vice Chairperson)	Michael O'Donoghue
David Andrews	Andrew Paul
Frances Fletcher	Moirá McQuaid
Jean Manahan	Martin Wall
Eugene Mitchell	

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"Putting life into a child's day, not days into a child's life"

CEO Overview



Philomena Dunne
Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to our 2011 Annual Review of the Children's Sunshine Home and LauraLynn House. We work to give families and their sick children choices for end-of-life care, respite, crisis care and home support.

Our "business" is embracing life and helping families to make the most of every day, improve the quality of life for the child and their families by providing home support, respite, crisis and end of life care.

2010 was a considerably challenging year but a productive one. We had a very clear focus of what we wanted and needed to do and have planned appropriately to make this happen.

Construction on LauraLynn House is now complete on target and on budget with final fitting out so will be open to families in September 2011.

TOGETHER

CSH has evolved tremendously over the last 80 years. From small beginnings, we have grown into a national organisation supporting a greater number of children with a wider range of needs than ever before.

Year after year, we go from strength to strength and this is result of our long lasting relationships with families, volunteers, local community, statutory agencies, health professional and corporates.

✿ **Together** we can create awareness of the need to support sick and dying children, advocate to address the lack of services, particularly in the community

✿ **Together** we can give children and their families a better quality of life

✿ **Together** we can give families more choices for end-of-life care, respite and support

We wish to acknowledge the leadership and invaluable support from the Board and Trustees (both old and new). Our heartfelt thanks to all the families, staff and volunteers whose enthusiasm and commitment have brought the Children's Sunshine Home to new levels of achievement.

We look forward to continued partnership in 2011 and onwards, the exciting opening of LauraLynn House and extending our respite, end-of-life and home support services to more children and families across Ireland so that "all children who need us can access us".

"Together we can make a lifetime of difference"

OurNext Steps



George Balmer
Chairman

1,369 CHILDREN
WITH LIMITING
CONDITION RISING
TO 1,610 BY 2021
370 CHILD
DEATHS A YEAR

As we approach the official opening of LauraLynn House by our President Mary McAleese it is a good time to reflect on the efforts of so many people that have brought us to this historic moment in children's palliative care.

A very real need has always existed to support these children and their families and the work of the Children's Sunshine Home has addressed this in a variety of ways since our formation in 1925. Some ten years ago the awareness of that need became a vision and later a plan to build and run this nation's first Children's Hospice. At the same time, and as a result of their tragic personal loss, Jane and Brendan McKenna were raising funds for a similar project and I am delighted that we merged our efforts to accomplish this goal. LauraLynn House is fittingly named after Jane and Brendan's two daughters. The teams subsequently formed to put the plans into action are to be congratulated for the huge success of their work. We will enjoy the benefits of a unit that is superb in design and function and which we can all be proud of for years to come.

As the children move into LauraLynn House in September 2011, I can be confident that the care provided will be without comparison. Our staff, guided by our CEO Philomena Dunne and her management team are to be congratulated for the detailed planning and training required to bring this new unit into operation.

On behalf of the board I thank, most sincerely, everyone who has been supportive, in any way, of LauraLynn House.

Whilst the building work progressed and disruption was a daily occurrence, life in the Children's Sunshine Home went on and I am delighted to report that a constantly increasing number of families is being supported by our staff, either at Leopardstown Road or in their own homes. We recognise the benefits to all in supporting the care of the children at home whenever possible and we are working to further our activities to extend care for children within the community.

Throughout the past exceptional year our volunteers have been superb. The programme of work undertaken by their ever-increasing number is extensive and an essential support in running the service. I send thanks to each and every volunteer and hope that you will find your efforts as rewarding as I myself have.

I would like to pay special tribute to my colleagues on the board, who have willingly and enthusiastically addressed the difficult decisions and tasks of the past year.

In looking ahead, I see a far-reaching opportunity for The Children's Sunshine Home and LauraLynn House to make a real impact on the very real need to support children with life-limiting conditions and their families.

Highlights & Milestones

2010 was a most challenging yet a rewarding year with great emphasis on developing the services in preparation for LauraLynn House in 2011. This happened against a backdrop of continued cuts in Government funding year on year without any significant direct impact on service delivery to children and their families. Great credit is due to our teams for their commitment to our Vision and Mission.

- * Opening of Hazel House which was funded by POBAL (Dormant Accounts Fund) and authorised by Mary Harney, Minister for Health and Children at that time. Hazel House provided us with the facilities to commence the respite and transitional care programme for children with life-limiting conditions, in advance of LauraLynn House being completed.
- * Our Patron Miriam O'Callaghan has been amazing. She is unbelievably generous with her time and support, - her infectious enthusiasm and compassion shines in everything allowing us to reach so many more people.
- * As part of an overall upgrade of facilities and infrastructures, plans were put in place to upgrade the existing facilities at The Children's Sunshine Home, to commence in 2011.
- * Minister John Moloney, Junior Minister for Health at that time, visited the service and met with the team in relation to the needs of young people over 18 years of age. A report on their needs was submitted to the Department of Health and Children and the HSE later in 2010 and remains on the agenda into 2011.
- * Continued evaluation of the service took place in 2010 and a robust system for dealing with incidents and complaints was established. These are reported to statutory bodies as required.
- * The Children's Sunshine Home Strategy - 'Caring for Children, Supporting the Family' commenced in 2009 and continued being successfully implemented in 2010. As part of that plan we were delighted to see the Clinical Governance Strategy being completed and commencing implementation, along with the Risk Strategy, HR Strategy and Research Strategy. The development of Care Pathways for children was a key development and will continue into 2011.
- * Tremendous work was carried out by the design team in bringing the plans for LauraLynn House to fruition and seeing the facilities being developed on-site. The staff are to be commended for managing to continue to provide services while construction continued unhindered.
- * Preparation for all areas in anticipation of HIQA Standards coming on stream
- * We were delighted that four of the young people successfully competed in the Special Olympics. Congratulations to them for winning 10 medals in total for the CSH team.



"Putting life into a child's day, not days into a child's life"

"The best possible care"

Our Journeys

"Together we make a lifetime of difference"

45 CHILDREN
HOSPICES IN UK.
1 IN IRELAND



"Changed our lives, it's such a happy place, Alicia comes out equally good if not better and that for us is a huge plus"

Gervin
Alicia's Dad



"The Children's Sunshine Home is like an oasis - where you can be with your child, listen to music, watch a DVD or sing or play with your child. I would never have believed I could laugh so much in the midst of it all..."

Oonagh
Alec's Mum

Sadly Alec passed away here on the 3rd of June 2009



"We wouldn't survive without the support and respite. Dara loves it here, it's a home away from home. It's fantastic knowing that Dara is so loved and well cared for when he is here"

Deirdre
Dara's Mum



"My daughter, Miss Ellie well known to the nursing staff as we're regulars out there. I depend on the support a lot. Without the help of Children's Sunshine - dealing with everyday life with Ellie would be so hard and difficult. Ellie absolutely loves going on her sleepovers, they're part of our family. Our respite is something we depend on for support, love and help in every possible way sometimes words aren't enough to describe how much we appreciate such fantastic support. Children's Sunshine Home and LauraLynn House are amazing - my life and Ellie's life is some what easier on our long journey with Ellie's illness. Our ups and downs are a roller coaster - you are our seat belts to mind, care and protect us in every possible. To be a part of such a amazing service I can never thank Children's Sunshine Home enough."

Amy
Ellie's Mum



Our People



"Every day working as a Chaplain and as a Volunteer co-ordinator are different; they are challenges; there are unexpected situations that emerge; knowing I have made a little difference to someone's else's life; gives me satisfaction."

Thomas Begley Chaplain and Volunteer Co-coordinator



"My small donation of a few hours each week is very generously repaid by the warmth and appreciation of everyone involved with the Sunshine Home."

Sinead Hankey Volunteer



"Working in The Children's Sunshine Home is as rewarding career. Each day brings a different experience. Helping to support families and their children makes it all worthwhile"

Ann Booth Clinical Nurse Manager



"Working in The Children's Sunshine Home is a great opportunity which leaves you with a sense of achievement each day"

Priyanka Ram Michael Staff Nurse



"I feel fulfilled every day I come to work because I enjoy caring for the children and getting to know their personalities, their likes and dislikes"

Maureen O'Shaughnessy Health Care Assistant



"I always get more from giving my time here. A Volunteer's salary is paid in six figures - S.M.I.L.E.S"

Patricia Quigley Volunteer



"Do good, feel better"

Graham Donne
Facilities Manager

Financial Report

Making Donations Count

The Children's Sunshine Home receives annual statutory funding from the Health Service Executive (HSE) as well as other miscellaneous income and donations from our very generous benefactors and supporters.

The cost of running the service in 2010 amounted to €5,318,240 of which €3,995,189 represented staff costs. Non-pay expenses totaling €1,323,051 were incurred chiefly in the areas of capital improvements, medical equipment and overhead costs. The service had a total income of €4,630,477

Donations from individuals, companies, groups and trusts remain a most valuable source of funding for projects. Our Fundraising focus for 2010 was the building of LauraLynn House which was completed in Spring 2010 and will be in use from September 2011.

To request a copy of our Financial Accounts please contact Aidan Cullinan, Finance Manager at acullinan@csh.ie

Our Fundraising focus was for the completion and fit-out of LauraLynn House.



411 CHILDREN IN DUBLIN MID LEINSTER DUBLIN NORTH EAST WILL HAVE AN ACTIVE PALLIATIVE CARE REQUIREMENT IN 2011

Leading the Way



Dr Mary Devins
Paediatric Palliative Care

749 CHILDREN WITH LIFE LIMITING CONDITIONS IN DUBLIN MID LEINSTER & DUBLIN NORTH EAST ALONE

Ireland's first Consultant in Children's Palliative Care Dr. Mary Devins, delivered the keynote talk at an education evening held at the Children's Sunshine Home in June, for those working in the palliative and paediatric sectors.

Dr. Devins highlighted the differences between palliative care for children and adults, drawing particular attention to the fact that many extremely rare conditions specific to childhood are seen in paediatric cases. There are fewer children needing palliative care than adults but children often require palliative care for a much longer period of time.

Dr. Devins emphasised the importance of providing physical, emotional, spiritual and psychosocial care to children and their families, as all are vulnerable. Speaking at the event, Dr. Devins said, "Early integration of palliative care can allow children and families to make decisions about care that fit with their values and should become a standard of care for all children with life threatening illness."



Dr Joanne Balfe
Consultant Paediatrician
Caring for Children in the community both in-the-home and out-of-home is such an important development in healthcare. It is wonderful that we are moving in that direction.



Anne-Marie Carroll
Director of Nursing
We are constantly striving to improve and develop services for children and families. We have a wonderful team who are constantly building on their skills and abilities to meet needs of all our children.



Shirley Devitt
Clinical Services Manager
Supporting families - parents, siblings, grandparents is a crucial aspect of what we do and we will be further developing this aspect of the service into the future.

"Extraordinary children, extraordinary care"

LauraLynn House

Care for the Child – Support for the Family

LauraLynn House's state-of-the-art design is based on research in Ireland and abroad, with emphasis on maximising light and space. Developed on our existing site on Leopardstown Road. It is a two-storey low energy sustainable building covering 1300 sq meters.

We work in partnership with families, health professionals and the community.

We can support families by providing:

- Transitional Care from hospital to home
- Respite Care—including day/overnight
- 24 hour crisis care and telephone contact
- Children's palliative care
- A "Home from Home" atmosphere provided by a caring team
- Support for the family in their own home.
- Bespoke en-suite bedrooms & living accommodation, family rooms, quiet room, gardens, multisensory, music & therapy rooms.
- Butterfly Room providing a "resting place" and sitting room for the family of the deceased child.

- Assistance in identifying and accessing support within local communities
- Practical support from birth
- Parent training, support and education
- Accommodation for families

How will this benefit families?

- Give parents more choices than they currently have.
- When life is short two things become very important to the family: the quality of life; and the enjoyment of the time that is left.
- Caring for a seriously ill child puts an immense physical and emotional strain on the whole family.
- Ongoing support for the family when the child has passed for as long as they choose.

Development of Community Home Care Services (in-home respite) is a planned development of the Children's Sunshine Home. We want to ensure that families across Ireland are supported by either in-home respite or out-of home respite care or a combination of both in a cost effective and efficient manner. We hope to roll this out to families in 2012.

"It's about life and living. You can't change the inevitable, your situation. To me a hospice is a big home, big house with lots of life, love, support and happiness"

Jane McKenna Lynn & Laura's Mum



"Caring for child - Support for the family"

Do
GOOD
Feel
GOOD

€230,000
THE ESTIMATED
ADVERTISING
VALUE OF
THE PRESS
COVERAGE



Heartfelt thanks to everyone for all their amazing support from individuals, families, corporates, local business -

Together we are making a lifetime of difference. THANK YOU!

Fundraising - raising money through:

* **Get involved** in our fundraising events Check out our website for details of events: from balls and lunches, to 10km runs and 62km treks!

* **Individual donations:** Single or regular donations- by cheque, cash, postal order or direct debit.

* **Corporate Support: donations,** sponsoring events, Corporate Social Responsibility, volunteering, payroll giving or donating prizes for raffles

* **Online Shopping:** help us by buying a brick or bookmark (or a hundred!) or at Christmas buy our cards or decorations

Raising Awareness - Helping to ensure that everyone knows about Children's Sunshine Home and LauraLynn House. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and tell your friends!

Campaign & Lobbying - Ensuring the voice of children with life limiting conditions is heard by policy makers



"We're a small charity trying to do BIG things!"

Families and children cared for:

Respite * Crisis * Transitional * Home Support
Residential * End-of-life care

The Children's Sunshine Home & LauraLynn House

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Children's Sunshine Home
is a charity registered in Ireland (CHY2633)



*Putting Life into a Child's Day
not Days into a Child's Life*



Children's
Sunshine
Home



LauraLynn
House