



LauraLynn IRELAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

Our Journey Together

Annual Report 2011



Caring for children with life-limiting conditions & their families

* Respite & Crisis * End-of-life care * Home support * Transitional Care



CEO & Chairman Overview

Welcome to our 2011 Annual Report for the Children's Sunshine Home including LauraLynn.



Philomena Dunne
Chief Executive Officer

We embrace life and aim to help make the most of every precious day for every child and family in our care.

2011 was a very special year. LauraLynn House - Ireland's First Children's Hospice was officially opened in September 2011 by President Mary McAleese. With over 1,400 children with life-limiting conditions and over 300 child deaths a year, a Children's Hospice was desperately needed. Since September, LauraLynn House has cared for over 106 families. It's an amazing legacy to Lynn & Laura, and was made possible by the tireless fundraising of their parents Jane and Brendan McKenna.

OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER



David Andrews
Chairman

We have 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.

Children's Palliative care is a rollercoaster journey for families of a child who has life limiting conditions. Learning that your child has a condition which has no cure is devastating. It's a time when families need care, support and information so that they don't feel isolated or alone.

Year after year, we go from strength to strength as a result of our long lasting (and new) relationships with families, volunteers, local community, statutory agencies, health professionals and corporates.

Together we can build awareness of the need to support sick and dying children.

Together we can work to address the lack of suitable community based-services to support families.

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

Together we can give families more choices.

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

We look forward to 2012 and onwards. Our goal is to provide respite, end-of-life, transitional and home support care to families across Ireland.

Philomena Dunne - CEO

David Andrews - Chairman

Financial Report

We are deeply indebted to the many individuals, companies, trusts and groups who have fundraised and made donations to our work. Thanks to them - Ireland's First Children's Hospice is a reality.

Children's Sunshine Home continues to receive funding from the Health Service Executive (HSE), although declined significantly in recent years.

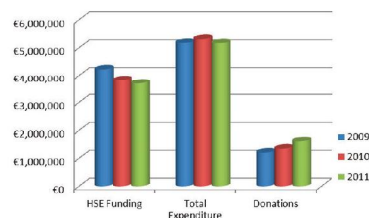
CSH received total income of €5,149,255, €3,695,204 was provided by HSE. We are in continuous discussions with HSE regarding ongoing funding for LauraLynn.

Our operational costs were €5,168,670 comprising payroll costs of €3,846,932 and non-staff costs of €1,321,738, a reduction of almost 3% on previous year due mainly to prudent cost management.

Targets 2012 & Onwards

Continue to develop our income streams for our future sustainability and gain commitment from HSE.

Significant cost savings to meet day to day funding deficits from HSE..



Board of Directors

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



Highlights & Milestones

The highlight of 2011 was the official opening of LauraLynn House which took place on Tuesday 27th September by President McAleese. It was an amazing day and a wonderful milestone for Children's Palliative Care. Thank you to everyone who had any part to play in this wonderful day of celebration.



We had lots of special visitors in 2011 from the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children, Mitch Winehouse, our patron Miriam O'Callaghan, Ray D'Arcy, Ministers and Health Professionals from across Ireland.



L-R Dr Hugh Monaghan, Medical Director, Philomena Dunne, CEO, Dr Joanne Balfe, Consultant Paediatrician, Dr Mary Devins.

Dr Mary Devins was appointed as the Children's Palliative Care Consultant on 16th May 2011, operating primarily out of Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin. An Education Open Day for Health Professionals was held on 15th June 2011 in which Dr Devins and Dr Joanne Balfe presented.

Priorities for 2011

- Publish the Needs Assessment in partnership with IHF for Respite Care.
- Attract appropriately trained staff.
- Open LauraLynn House - custom built paediatric palliative care unit.
- Continue to highlight the needs of adults who survive childhood with the HSE and DOHC.
- Continuously review standards of care and make improvements where required.
- Ensure that integrated care planning is in place for all children and young people and appropriate transition planning takes place.
- Review of Strategy for LauraLynn going forward.
- Major upgrade of existing facilities as part of the overall development programme.

We are delighted to say that we achieved all of our key priorities in 2011.

In 2011, in conjunction with the Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF) the Needs Assessment Report found that there are 749 children with life limiting conditions in Dublin-Mid Leinster and Dublin-North-East. Of these 749 children it is estimated that 411 had an active palliative care requirement in 2011. This number is set to increase to 479 children by the year 2021.

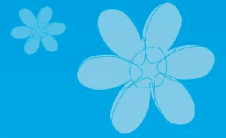
As part of our vision for Children's Palliative Care, we are expanding our community family support programme is ongoing with excellent additional professionals coming on board to enhance our team keeping with our Vision –

All children who need us can access us.

We will ensure that LauraLynn is available into the future, to give that much needed break for parents – often as simple as a decent night's sleep. We will also support healthy siblings, who are very much left out, when a sick child needs 24 hour care.

LauraLynn will continue to offer families a choice when the end comes and ongoing support for the family when the child has died, for as long as needed, which is hugely important, as life can

Putting Life into a Child's Day, not Days into a Child's Life.



Precious Moments



“Thank you for all the love and care you gave to us, especially to little Victoria. Victoria was shared with all of you and you all became her family too. Please know that we are forever close to, grateful for, and passionate about our haven, LauraLynn, and all who are there. What you did for Victoria, and do for all the other children there, will earn you your wings some day” Sharon, Victoria’s Mum.



“Our long journey with Ellie’s illness is a rollercoaster – LauraLynn is our seat belt – you mind, care and protect us in every way possible..” Amy, Ellie’s Mum.

“It’s an oasis – where you can be with your child, play or sing with your child and just be a mum. I would never have believed I could laugh so much in the midst of it all” Oonagh, Alec’s Mum.



Family, Life & Care are our Core Values.



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