

MAKING MEMORIES

SUMMER 2023

YOUR SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER



Kira always smiles when she's in LauraLynn.

“LauraLynn came into our life when we were struggling to see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

- Your kindness means Kira's family can receive LauraLynn care in the community since moving to West Cork.
- Kira enjoys her visits with Lisa, LauraLynn's music therapist – *“she loves the nursery rhymes, the singing and dancing, all of it!”*
- Another family like Kira's needs the joy and support you can give them.

Kira loves water, music, dancing, and picking flowers. Thanks to you, she enjoys all of these things in LauraLynn.

Kira was born with congenital heart disease, and needed multiple surgeries. Tragically, after her second surgery, Kira suffered a stroke, which

left her unable to walk or talk. She needed round-the-clock care.

“She was like a newborn. But a newborn could eat. We had to tube feed Kira. She had to be fed 22 hours a day with a pump”.

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LauraLynn
IRELAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

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From the time she was brought home after her surgery, you and LauraLynn were there for Kira and her family.

"I was grateful when the nurse from LauraLynn would come for a few hours. As soon as she came, I'd go up to bed. I knew if Kira had an episode, the nurse would be there to do what needed to be done."

Kira loves her time in LauraLynn. She and her family have benefited from weekend stays in our Dublin Hospice, which her mum, Oana, says it is like a 'mini vacation' for her daughter.



Kira and her mum in LauraLynn

And now, thanks to generosity like yours, LauraLynn can provide even more support to Kira and her family.

"Recently, we moved to West Cork and even here they continue to support us - a breath of fresh air they are."

Thank you for all you do to support children like Kira and families like hers. Your gift today will help another family like them.

It's your kindness that allowed us to expand our community services into Cork!

CONGRATULATIONS to our Summer Raffle winners

Thanks to all of you who bought or sold raffle tickets.

Here are the winners:

1st PRIZE: Brian Wilson

2nd PRIZE: Liz O'Riordan

3rd PRIZE: Nuala Spainhower

SELLERS DRAW: Aileen Reynolds

Taking part in our raffle is another way you support families like Nova's.



You helped Nova discover her inner artist!

"Being part of this LauraLynn family has given us the chance to enjoy special moments that make Nova smile."

Nova's mum

When you support our raffle, families like Nova's are the ones who win BIG!



LauraLynn
IRELAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

Your love is reaching more children nationwide

- **DOUBLE** the number of referrals from families in Cork and Kerry to our Community Team based in Mallow last year.
- *“Thanks to our supporters, we’re reaching families we would never have been able to help before.”* Marie Lynch, Team Lead.
- As LauraLynn expands its services to Limerick, the number of families being referred to us continues to increase.

70 families have been supported by our Mallow based team since the launch of *LauraLynn in the Community* last year. And it's all thanks to you!

Now your generosity will reach even further with LauraLynn's exciting new expansion, helping children with life-limiting illness and their families in Limerick, says Marie Lynch, Team Lead.

“We have eight families in Limerick that would already attend LauraLynn in Dublin for different services. So we'll be able to help them now through our Community Team based in Mallow.”

You're allowing us to support families locally in their community, and in their homes, which makes all the difference.

“We can't take the burdens away from families. But we can make the journey a little easier.”

These are families who are getting support from *LauraLynn in the Community*, that they wouldn't have two years ago. You made this happen – thank you!

We foresee an increase in referrals in Limerick over the next few months, now that we're locally available to families.



Your generosity today will help us continue to expand our services, so we can reach more families, no matter where in Ireland they live.



You gave Katie precious moments with Grace

For the 18 days Grace lived, her family made the most of every moment –

THANKS TO YOU

- The money you helped us raise at Christmas will benefit more families like Grace's.
- Mum Sharon says thank you, and hopes you'll continue to support LauraLynn.
- Kindness like yours helps families make the most of short and precious lives.



"The moments we had with Grace will stay with us forever." Katie, parents Colin & Sharon, and baby Grace

Sharing baby Grace's story with you at Christmas time fulfilled two important things for her family.

It ensured that Grace would never be forgotten. And it showed caring supporters like you the vital part you play in helping families who are going through a heartbreaking journey.

Grace's memory will live on in the hearts of all of you who read her story and donated at Christmas. Thank you so much.

Grace's mum, Sharon, wanted to thank you herself.

"We are so grateful to everyone who supported Grace's Christmas Appeal and would hope dearly for continued support for LauraLynn."

Your love for children, and your support for families like Grace's helped make last Christmas especially meaningful for her family.

"This Christmas felt special because we felt our precious little Grace had touched the hearts of so many."

You are there for the saddest and the happiest moments for families like Grace's. You make everything we do possible.

Thank you for donating to our Christmas Appeal and helping families like Grace's.



The **LOVE** you have for children.

The **KINDNESS** you've shown to families.

The moments of **JOY AND LAUGHTER** you've created.

You can ensure these things are never forgotten.

Your caring nature, your deep love for children, and your compassion for families who are going through the toughest journey of their lives. These are the qualities I believe all of our supporters share.

These are things that should never be lost or forgotten.

Through a gift in your Will to LauraLynn, you can continue to bring joy to short and precious lives, long into the future.

More supporters like you are choosing to make a gift like this. It costs nothing now. And I imagine it's something that brings people comfort, this small act that cements for them the values and causes that have shaped them.

A gift in your Will can mean that you're there for a key moment for a child in the future. Their first moment in LauraLynn, their final moments, or the moments in between.

If the moment is ever right for you to consider a gift like this, I'd love to

talk to you, and say thank you for the difference you make to children and their families.

We've had supporters leave us gifts of all sizes. Every gift is important, all gifts will help a family of a child like Kira or Grace in the future.



**My name is Ruth Rowan,
Special Gifts Manager in LauraLynn.**

I'm here if you'd like to have a confidential chat about what leaving a gift in your Will to LauraLynn would mean for you.

You can reach me on 01 289 3151 or email me at rrowan@lauralynn.ie



"The satisfaction I get from supporting LauraLynn, it beats anything!"



It's wonderful to have this service here in Ireland, so we need to keep supporting it!

Like you, Alan is dedicated to helping families who need LauraLynn.

I'm a furniture maker from Navan. About 20 years ago, I was out making a delivery of chairs to the Children's Sunshine Home. I saw first-hand the unbelievable care being provided. My memory leaving there was the faces of the seriously ill children.

I said, 'If it's the last thing I do I'm going to get my act together and do some fundraising for LauraLynn'.

I've been running a fundraising event for LauraLynn every year ever since. I absolutely love doing it.

The support from all over Ireland is incredible. And now they've opened a new service in Cork.

It's great that families across Cork, Kerry and Limerick no longer have to drive to Dublin to access LauraLynn. I know some of the mams and dads who have availed of the service. It's invaluable work that LauraLynn do.

I do what I do for the children and families that LauraLynn care for. I'm lucky. I've a wonderful family, and we've been blessed with good health.

But there are parents out there who have children who have a life-limiting illness. They deserve a shot at the best life possible.

**People like you and Alan are the heart of LauraLynn!
If you can today, please will you send a gift
to support a family who needs our help?**