

Making Memories

13TH BIRTHDAY ISSUE
SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2024



It's a kind of magic...

Read about all the special moments
you make happen at LauraLynn

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LauraLynn
IRELAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



It's time for you to meet some of the PEOPLE WHO CARE about our work just as much as you do



Starting with volunteer, Karen O'Connor

Karen loves reading to the children we care for. Now, she wants to tell you her story of volunteering at LauraLynn, and how you play your part in everything that happens here.

"Having been blessed with three healthy children, I really wanted to be able to do something to help other families. I had heard so many good things about LauraLynn, because I live locally, but I was still really nervous the first time I came in to volunteer."



"My fears disappeared the moment I walked through the door. This place is full of joy. Everyone is so welcoming – and they always have time for a quick chat, even though it's so busy."


Do you believe in fairies?

"My favourite part of the day is story time with the children. It's so lovely getting to sit down and have one-on-one time with them. If you could see the children's faces when I'm reading, you'd understand why I volunteer. But I know that it's your support that makes these special moments possible."

Open Sesame!

You'll find the next chapter of Karen's story under here





*"I really love
the annual Light Up
LauraLynn events.
They are
always magical
and emotional.
Just so very special."*

Karen O'Connor,
LauraLynn Volunteer

"You make the magic happen here at LauraLynn – and I can't thank you enough for everything you do for these children and their families."

You can help us write the next chapter

"Working with the LauraLynn team day in, day out, I see the time and effort they put in to try and grow our service. There are so many families out there who need us – but there's only one LauraLynn."

"What LauraLynn does is just amazing – and I love being able to contribute, in some small way, to help support families and children who are really struggling. If you can continue your support today, or even sometime in the future, it would be just wonderful."

**Your donations will help
write the next magical
chapter in LauraLynn's
life-changing story.**

Volunteer spotlight **Noeleen Oliver**



Why do you volunteer...

"After my long career as a childminder ended, I felt I could do more to give something back."

What's your favourite volunteer memory...

"There are so many favourite moments but I love working on our memory making projects and the LauraLynn Oscars!"

If you could travel to a fictional place...

"It would be Wonderland... with Alice."



Volunteer spotlight **Paul Markey**



Why do you volunteer...

"LauraLynn is Ireland's only Children's Hospice, doing an amazing job caring for children with life-limiting conditions."

What's your favourite volunteer memory...

"Visiting a little girl dressed as Santa last Christmas, along with Minnie Mouse and a huge elf."

Favourite cartoon character...

"Bugs Bunny."

“Your support means EVERYTHING to us”



Michelle Duggan

We welcome back the Duggan family, from our Spring Appeal, who have a very special message for you.

LauraLynn: Our Spring Appeal has raised €125,494 so far, how do you feel about that?

Michelle: We can't thank LauraLynn supporters enough. They are so generous! It takes a village to care for a child with complex needs, and this money will help more families like ours get the help they need.

LauraLynn: How is Jack? And what's next for you on your LauraLynn journey?

Michelle: Jack's doing well at the moment, but he's having issues with his feeding tube. We're hoping to start stomach feeding soon, and LauraLynn will be on hand to help us with that.

LauraLynn: That must be tough going?

Michelle: Yes, but we're looking forward to a few days break in LauraLynn House. It will be so nice to catch up with the team – and catch up on our sleep – while Jack has the time of his life. We love it there. It's our home away from home.



LauraLynn: Have you got a final message for our supporters?

Michelle: ...

“...Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. By giving to LauraLynn, you help to ensure families like ours are enveloped with the love, care and compassion that we need in our everyday lives”



THANK YOU

THANK YOU for 13 years of magical memories



Whether you're a new supporter or you've been with us from the very beginning, you're a crucial part of the magical story of LauraLynn.

Since LauraLynn House was opened in 2011, supporters like you have so far helped us care for 795 children and their families.

But this is just the beginning of our story, and we need your support more than ever right now. We're the only children's hospice in the country and there are so many families out there who need us.

You've already helped us come so far. Will you now help us bring the LauraLynn magic to even more families?

Through your amazing support, we have already expanded our services massively, providing 2,143 community visits in 2023 alone. Will you help us do even more in 2024?

For some families, who are living long distances from Dublin, reaching our Hospice isn't always possible. That's why our 'LauraLynn in the Community' team is so important.

Thanks to supporters like you, we've been able to fund support in the community in Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon and Tipperary, and West Waterford. But we can't stop there. Will you help bring the LauraLynn magic to even more children and families who need our support?

Will you donate today and help even more families make the most of the time they have together?



So, we have an ambitious growth strategy to reach even more children and families across Ireland. We're calling on you to help us make this happen, and bring the LauraLynn magic into the homes of the children and families who need us. Whether it's music therapy or palliative care, arts and crafts or specialist nursing, you can help provide the support that families need to make the most of the time they have together.

And the OSCAR goes to... Cian Murphy (Not Cillian, this time!)

Orla and Eric Murphy are Mum and Dad to Cian, who is 12 years old, and has received care and support from LauraLynn since 2013.

The Murphy family have been part of many exciting and fun LauraLynn programmes over the years – including the movie magic of the LauraLynn Oscars. As you can see from his cover picture, Cian took the red carpet by storm!



Cian loves his short stays at LauraLynn House, which also give his parents some much-needed respite. Mum Orla told us: "We wouldn't know how to exist without LauraLynn in our lives. They gives us the time we need to rest and recharge, so we can be 'Mum and Dad' and 'Husband and Wife', not just 24-hour carers."

Were you one of our SUMMER WINNERS?

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

Here are the winners:

1st PRIZE: Deirdre Carroll

2nd PRIZE: Pat McGovern

3rd PRIZE: William Martin

SELLERS DRAW: Gavin Sheehan

Thank you for being part of so many memorable moments this year. And please donate today to help us reach even more families with a little LauraLynn magic.

You can SCAN this QR code
and visit our donation page.

