

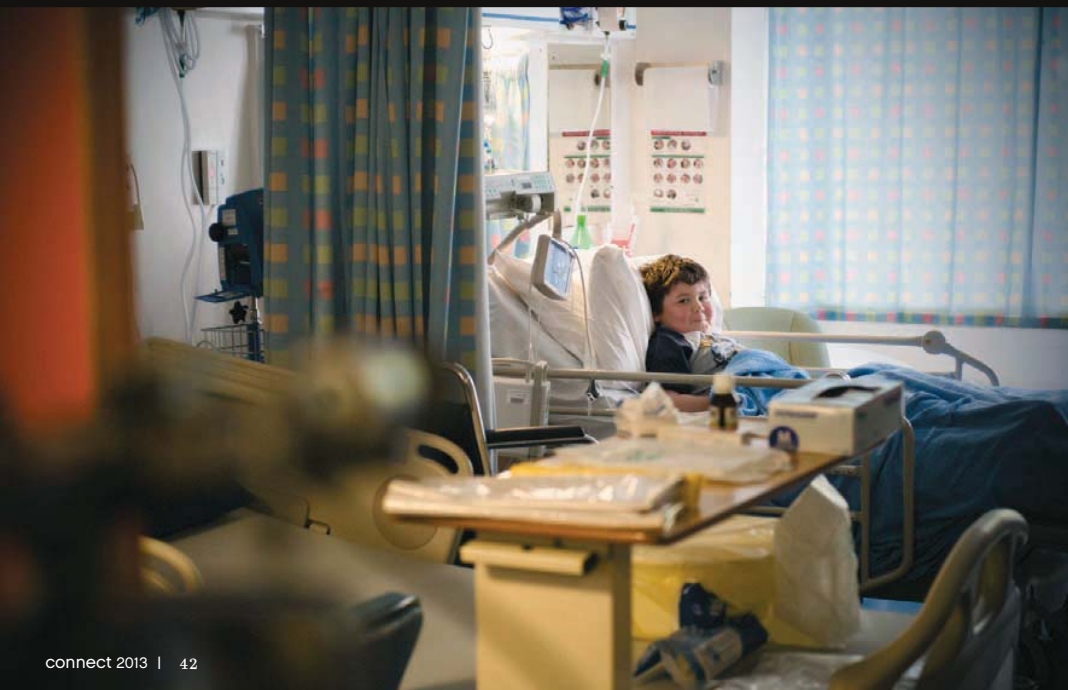
THE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

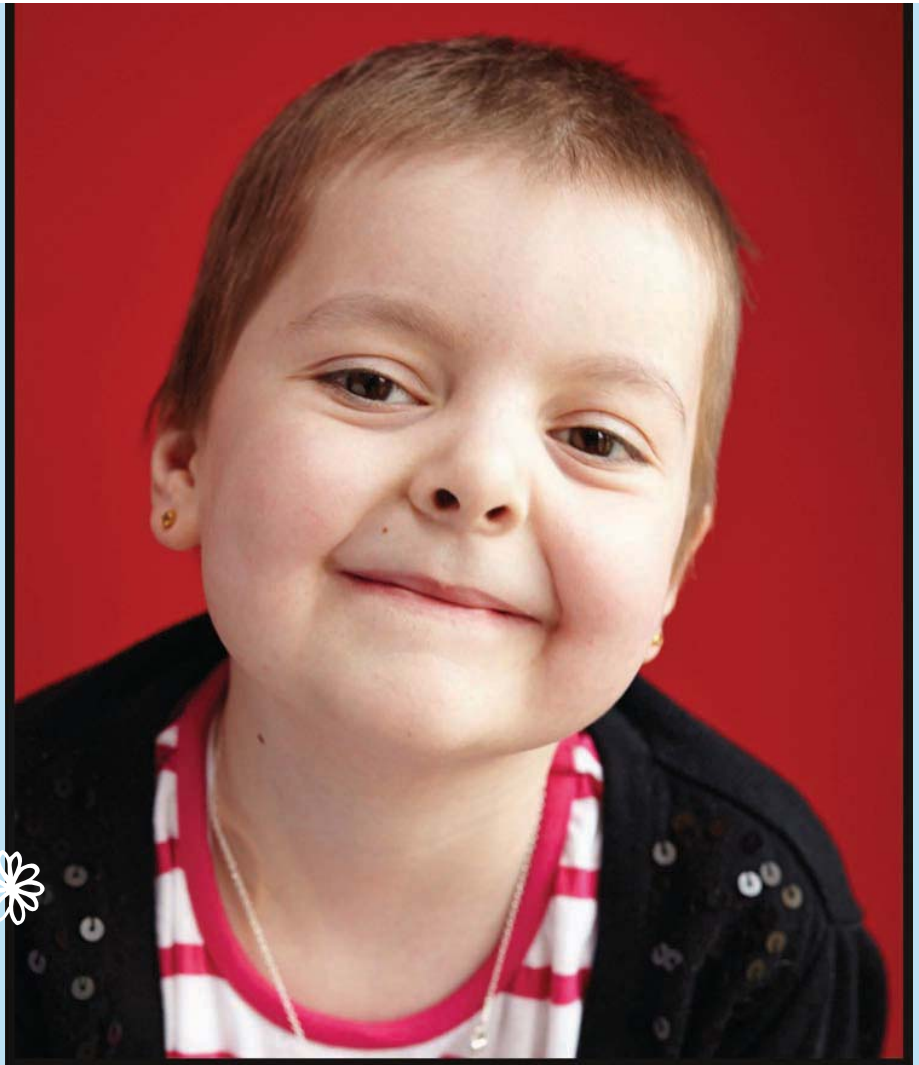
Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin

HEALTHIER
CHILDREN,
HAPPIER
LIVES



Today, The Ireland Funds are helping Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin out of its previous dark, cramped, substandard space built in the 1950s, to a modern world-class facility serving Ireland's families.






LOUISE'S DAD, KEVIN, remembers the moment he heard the word that strikes fear into the hearts of parents the world over—Leukemia—"I slid down the wall and put my head in my hands." Suddenly an ordinary family was about to embark on a journey of extraordinary emotions in a battle to save their little girl's life.

Less than 24 hours after Louise was diagnosed she was in a bed in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin braving her first dose of chemotherapy. Unfortunately it would be the first of many intensive treatments, including multiple blood transfusions and heavy doses of steroids. The staff there and the treatments are the best in Ireland, but the infrastructure of the ward itself has long been lacking.

"You've got the best team in the world playing in substandard conditions," says Louise's dad Kevin as he explains the reality of life in the hospital.

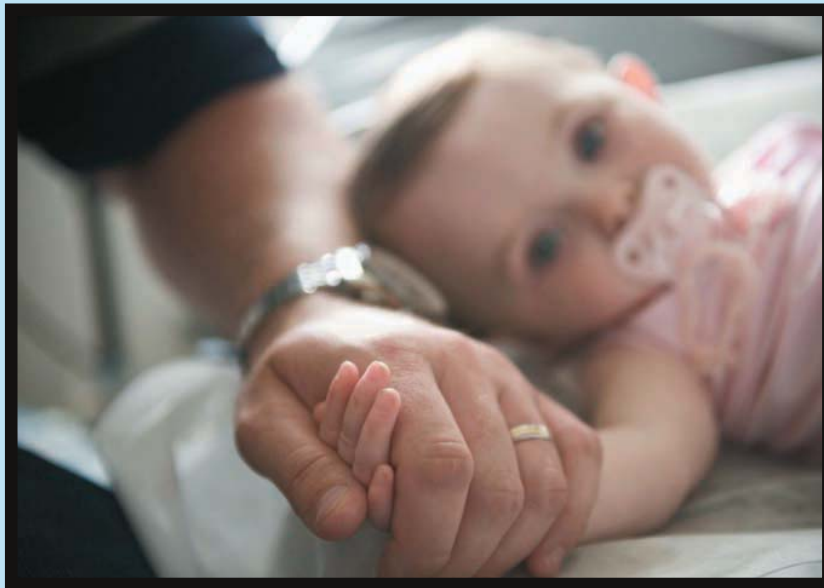
Today, The Ireland Funds are helping Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin out of its previous dark, cramped, substandard space built in the 1950s, to a modern world-class facility serving Ireland's families.





“We were able to go to supporters and say ‘We have The Ireland Funds helping us’ and that was a great start,” explains Joe Quinsey, Chief Executive of The Children’s Medical & Research Foundation. “But more importantly than that, The Ireland Funds have stayed with us and allowed us to connect with the broader network so we can sustain and grow. What I saw through our work with The Ireland Funds was it wasn’t about the organization, it was about the cause. They had an immediate and passionate connection to what we are representing here which is improving the lives of sick children and their families in Ireland. That is the support we received in spades from The Ireland Funds.”


THE Children’s Medical & Research Foundation is the driver behind these improvements. As the body that fundraises for Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Crumlin, it is helping the Hospital build a new pediatric cancer ward and a new cardiac wing. “Over the years, the technology and chemotherapy here had advanced but



what really hadn’t advanced was the infrastructure. It was no longer acceptable to be treating children in the space we had,” says Professor Owen Smith, a member of the team that diagnoses and treats cancer in children as well oversees stem cell transplants. “It was small, dark, cramped, and had a high risk of infections as 19 children were sharing two bathrooms. The new facility has restored dignity to their cancer journey. The psycho-social benefits are fantastic. We have a school room for the children and adolescents have their own space as well. Parents can now stay with their children in single rooms that are healthy light-filled spaces with en suite bathrooms. The funding for this facility is absolutely essential.”

It is the only facility in Ireland that diagnoses and treats children with cancer and currently provides all cardiac services across Ireland for children with heart disease. Phase I that delivered these improvements is now complete and Phase II which will continue to improve the medication/treatment room, create a new play zone, redesign a school room and improve staff space is underway.

RESEARCH = REAL RESULTS.



Research is another pillar of what The Children’s Medical & Research Foundation does for Ireland’s children. In 2009 a major renovation of the National Children’s Research Centre (NCRC) was undertaken and today the research into pediatric conditions such as autism, obesity, cancers, diabetes and others is

shared not only with Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital but other pediatric research groups across Ireland. It receives no Government funding relies entirely on philanthropy. “For a small country the amount that we have contributed in terms of surgical research into birth defects is enormous,” says Professor Prem Puri, President of NCRC. “If you go into any part of the world and talk to a pediatric surgeon they will know of the NCRC because they will have come across the work that comes out of here.”

**THE IRELAND FUNDS—
A LINK TO THE BROADER NETWORK**

Although the hospital is well known in Ireland, the needs and the call for fundraising has up until now not been as well known outside the island. The Children’s Medical & Research Foundation approached The American Ireland Fund for advice on fundraising and received much more than just a check. The American Ireland Fund assisted the Foundation in 2013 by helping to coordinate a New York City fundraising Gala that raised US support for the rebuilding of their cancer and cardiac improvements.



AND SO, THE WORK CONTINUES TO HELP CHILDREN LIKE LOUISE AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE IRELAND FUNDS ARE PROUD TO BE A SMALL PART OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO AN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SERVES IRELAND’S CHILDREN AT A TIME WHEN THEY ARE MOST VULNERABLE AND IN NEED.



A new state of the art treatment space thanks to the improvements undertaken by The Children's Medical & Research Foundation.

