

THE WICKLOW

# HOSPICE FOUNDATION



BRINGING MUCH-NEEDED QUALITY CARE TO THE PEOPLE  
OF COUNTY WICKLOW

It is said, “You cannot be born or die in County Wicklow.”

With no medical facility there, residents have traditionally had to travel outside the county to receive medical care including hospice care.

The Wicklow Hospice believes that no one should face death or bereavement without the care and support they need. They are working to achieve dignity, comfort and choice for all people facing the end of life. When death is imminent, a very special type of support is needed. Traditionally, even if patients from Wicklow could get a bed in a Dublin hospice, family and friends still had to travel to spend their last days with them. People who had witnessed loved ones in their final stages of life having to travel for support when they had so little time left, realized a facility in Wicklow was urgent. Volunteers formed Wicklow Hospice Foundation in 2009 with the aim of bringing a hospice facility to Co. Wicklow.

Today, the people of Wicklow are celebrating thanks to the county’s most famous resident—the recently crowned three-time winner of the Academy Award for Best Actor—Daniel Day-Lewis.

A magnificent site has been donated by the Columban Sisters at Magheramore Brittas Bay. Daniel Day-Lewis came on board as a Patron of the Wicklow Hospice in 2009 after experiencing the excellent care his mother received in a cottage hospital in England during the final months of her life. He spoke movingly of this experience when he attended The American Ireland Fund 2013 New York Dinner Gala as the surprise guest.

Daniel donated the international premiere of *Lincoln* the movie, starring himself as Abraham Lincoln and directed by Steven Spielberg, to help raise funds to fund this long-awaited hospice facility. The Wicklow Hospice is preparing to break ground to officially open the new facility in 2014.



Wicklow Hospice Foundation Patron Daniel Day Lewis signs a painting by artist Eoin O'Connor at the Dublin premiere of the movie *Lincoln*.



Evanne Cahill and Sally Field at the Dublin premiere of the movie *Lincoln*.



Wicklow Hospice Foundation Patron Daniel Day Lewis at The American Ireland Fund 2013 New York Dinner Gala

# Comfort for Families

THE DIFFERENCE A HOSPICE IN WICKLOW WILL MAKE

## Marie's Story

After two days of her terminally ill mother not eating or drinking, Marie Kindlon still remembers as clear as day the words spoken to her by a consultant as she sought some sort of assistance for her dying mother.

*"There is no palliative care in Wicklow."*

Marie and her family were fortunate enough to secure a bed in at a hospice in Dublin, 60 miles from their home in Arklow. The family was relieved to be in a position to afford the opportunity for her to end out her last days with dignity. But still, the daily travel to Dublin was stressful.

However, it still rankles that owing to the fact that there was no hospital facility in Co. Wicklow, the family could not give their mother her dying wish: to end her last few days at home.

Despite what Marie had to cope with, she knows that other families had to deal with even more harrowing situations, and, in a way, considers herself lucky. Other families travel even farther, depending on where the nearest hospice bed can be found.

"We had the means to be able to travel up and down every day to see Mammy and spend time together as a family. Tragically, there are dying people in acute hospitals waiting for family members to travel huge distances to come and visit them, knowing that they are dying."

## Evanne's Story

"My own mother also had a most peaceful death thanks to hospice care. She had terminal cancer and the home care team came every day to see her and help with pain control. Nothing was too much trouble. For her final 12 hours on earth, she went into the hospice. The love, compassion and care that was shown not only to my mother but to all of us, her family was my inspiration for becoming involved in The Wicklow Hospice Foundation. My mission is to try and get the same level of care for everyone with a terminal illness, at a time when they are so frightened and vulnerable. Having experienced it first-hand, I know the incalculable difference this made for both my mother and the whole family."

— Evanne Cahill of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation



*These experiences are the inspiration driving the establishment of a new Wicklow Hospice. The Ireland Funds are pleased to be a part of bringing this much-needed care to the people of Wicklow.*

# Designed *with* Dignity

## THE FUTURE WICKLOW HOSPICE BUILDING



*The future site of the Wicklow Hospice, donated by the Columban Sisters, overlooking the sea at Magheramore just outside of Wicklow town.*

So many people have to be considered when providing care for the terminally ill – the dying person, the family and the staff. End of life experiences can be harrowing and emotional for so many of those involved. The aim of the physical building is to make it as comfortable and kind an experience as possible for all.

Wicklow Hospice Foundation have put huge time and effort into researching and designing the hospice building to ensure it is sympathetic to the ethos of hospice care: to allow people to live out their final days in comfort and dignity. The design will avoid institutional appearance and aims to create a small scale feel inside. It will be a “home from home.” Patients and families will have privacy and consideration will be made for the needs of younger family members. Staff will have space to not only work but to address the sensitivities around this nature of care.

The beautiful scenery of the County Wicklow site overlooking the sea will be exploited as much as possible so patients can enjoy the uplifting views. Dr. Cuddihy, Chairman of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation explains,

“The vital new 12-bed facility will provide a specialist service for end of life care, respite, day-care facilities and outpatient clinics for symptom control. It will also provide a program of palliative and supportive care services providing physical, psychological, social, and spiritual care for patients, their families, and other loved ones.”

“Where possible, patients should be provided with a sunny aspect and a good view to the outside. We hope to have same level double door access to a cloistered outdoor area where their beds can be wheeled out into the air if they so desire. Small alcoves, sunny corners, strategic use of clusters of seats both indoor and outdoor should be included to allow patients whose mobility may be limited to take short walks. It should function efficiently as a healthcare facility but have a homey feel.”