



Baby Arthur
from Co. Offaly

THE IRELAND FUNDS + CHILDREN'S
MEDICAL & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

BY LISA-NICOLE DUNNE, CEO OF CHILDREN'S MEDICAL & RESEARCH FOUNDATION CRUMLIN

**Making an impact for sick children –
today, tomorrow, forever.**

WHEN A CHILD IS SICK, YOU WOULD GO TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH FOR THEM, TO FIND OUT WHAT IS WRONG, TO HELP PROVIDE COMFORT AND SUPPORTS ON THEIR JOURNEY, TO FIND TREATMENTS AND HOPEFULLY A CURE.

At CMRF Crumlin, we are committed to supporting Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin who see 120,000 children in a typical year, and the National Children's Research Centre (NCRC) who contribute to the global effort to finding transformative treatments, discovering cures and preventative breakthroughs of the future. Our goal is to help save and improve young lives, and to enhance the experience of children who are sick through improving their physical and support environment through philanthropic partners. We fund initiatives, and research that span each little patient's journey.

GREATER CARE WITH GREATER DIGNITY: OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, CRUMLIN

The hospital in Crumlin is more than 60 years old and some parts really feel it. In the past five years CMRF Crumlin have provided significant philanthropic investment into developing and enhancing the cardiac and gastroenterology wards, with support of The Ireland Funds and through our Best of Ireland dinner partnership with The Ireland Funds in New York.

These transformation projects provide greater dignity to children and their families who attend with chronic illness, providing en suite rooms, greater use of modernized spaces and now including play facilities, parental kitchens, breakout facilities and improved technology and workspaces.

Before the upgrade of the gastroenterology ward took place, children with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and other gastro-intestinal and liver challenges had no access to single en suite rooms, as the few available en suites were required for other children who needed isolation (cancer care, cystic fibrosis etc). En suite rooms offer more than comfort and dignity; they prevent the spread of infection and exposure to public germs. The new ward also reduces anxiety, improves comfort and enhances safety and clinical care.

"Happy times with your baby are transformed into hospital visits, being taught to do physiotherapy, and learning all about medication and dietary requirements. I like to be well-informed, so it was very scary stuff. We're so lucky though. Alfie has a team which includes a specialist Cystic Fibrosis nurse, a dietician, a physiotherapist, a social worker and a psychologist. To have a team like that, just a phone call away, is unbelievable."

GEMMA DARDIS, ALFIE'S MUM



**Alfie & his mom
Gemma**

"CF is a lifelong genetically inherited disease that currently has no cure. CF mainly affects the lungs and digestive system, causing difficulty breathing, repeated infections and malnutrition. Children with CF have to take tablets with every meal, do breathing exercises, and have physiotherapy daily. Support from The Ireland Funds allow us to learn more about this disease that has a mutual benefit for both countries."

PROFESSOR PAUL MCNALLY, CRUMLIN HOSPITAL



SUPPORTING KEY RESEARCH: THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S RESEARCH CENTRE (NCRC)

Additional support from The Ireland Funds has enabled great inroads to be made in cystic fibrosis research following significant support from an Ireland Funds' donor in 2013 and 2014.

The new children's hospital and new era of paediatric healthcare offers great opportunity, and the bar has now been set based on what has been made possible by these projects at Crumlin. Equally, we have a significant job to do in the coming years to increase the investment into paediatric research so that the 600,000 children who come to Crumlin between now and then don't have to wait for clinical trials, breakthroughs, and progress and to build the capacity and community of world-class researchers at the NCRC preparing for the increased capacity and opportunity at the new children's hospital from 2022.

There are exciting developments in psycho-social supports for children who are ill. CMRF Crumlin and our donors are supporting sick children and their parents across the patient journey with play therapy, distraction technologies, psycho-social supports and complementary therapies. There is much more to do now and into the future in this area.

With 1 in 100 globally still born with structural heart defect, 250 heart transplants a year in Ireland, 40,000 children in the US undergoing cancer treatment in a year, and rare and complex diseases stopping children surviving and living to their potential, we are committed to significant further investment in innovation, and tackling rare and complex diseases so that every child has the best possible outcomes.

1 IN 19 PEOPLE CARRY

THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS GENE IN IRELAND (1 IN 27-PEOPLE CARRY THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS GENE IN THE UNITED STATES)

70 TRIALS AND STUDIES

ARE UNDERWAY AT OUR LADY'S, CRUMLIN AND NATIONAL CHILDREN'S RESEARCH CENTRE INTO CHILD HEALTH MARKERS, NEW DRUGS, NEW APPROACHES, NEW MEDICAL DEVICES, AND OTHER INNOVATIONS



1800 CHILDREN
WILL BENEFIT FROM THE NEWLY
UPGRADED GASTRO WARD

"As CEO of CMRF Crumlin I would like to extend thanks to The Ireland Funds, and our supporters. Thank you for sharing our vision that every sick child deserves every chance, and for making an impact for children's health today, tomorrow and forever."

LISA-NICOLE DUNNE