



Cliona's Foundation NEWSLETTER | CHRISTMAS 2014

Working together to help struggling families in Ireland

Quarterly update

As this year draws to a close we would like to sincerely thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the amazing and wonderful support that you have shown to Cliona's Foundation this year.

It has been a fantastic year for the Foundation and one for us all to be very proud of. Up to now in 2014 Cliona's Foundation have been able to provide financial support to 47 families all over Ireland. We are currently receiving around two new applications a week for funding so we expect that by the end of the year this number will rise. It is our honour to be able to help so many deserving families and we can only hope that we can make things a little easier for them.

We greatly enjoyed celebrating Universal Children's Day on November 20th by being able to see and share so many amazing photographs and stories sent into us by families that we have helped in the past. It was lovely to learn a little more about the children, see how they are doing and to remember those that are no longer with us.

Looking forward to next year we are really hoping that we will be able to continue to support and help many more families that greatly need it. We also hope that we can continue to create awareness for the work that Cliona's Foundation does nationwide.

From everybody involved with Cliona's Foundation we would like to wish you a peaceful and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Brendan & Terry Ring

Founders of Cliona's Foundation



Joy Neville and Ireland Rugby Stars come together to support Cliona's Foundation

Cliona's Foundation was delighted to meet up with former Ireland captain, Six Nations Grand Slam winner and Cliona's Foundation supporter Joy Neville. Joy is a wonderful ambassador of Cliona's Foundation, helping the Foundation anyway that she can.

"I love being involved with Cliona's Foundation and greatly admire the much needed work that they do, I am delighted to be able to continue to help them out." - Joy Neville

Joy has also got some former and current Ireland players to come together to support Cliona's Foundation.

RIGHT: Joy Neville



BELOW: Joy Neville, Fiona Coghlan, Niamh Briggs, Louise Costello, Jeannette Feighery, Jennifer O'Leary, and Fiona Hayes. Philip Doyle, Tommy O'Donnell, Deirdre O'Brien, Niamh Kavanagh and finally Rachel Tucker.



CLIONA RING



Cliona Ring R.I.P.

As many of you may be aware Cliona's Foundation was established in memory of Brendan & Terry's daughter Cliona who passed away from an inoperable brain tumor. We wanted to tell you more about Cliona and the amazing girl that she was.

Cliona loved music. She took music lessons on the tin whistle and the piano. But any time of the day or night, she would have songs and music playing in her room and she could be heard downstairs singing along to the tunes. Several evenings a week, she would get around her dad Brendan and he would have to take her for a drive and her brother Colm & her Mam Terry would always know when they were arriving home i.e. the music in the car would be turned up full blast coming in the driveway....

While Cliona wasn't a huge fan of school, we think the only reason she attended school was for the social aspect. She absolutely loved meeting her school friends, teachers and all other staff in both her National School and Secondary School. In fact when the Teachers from St. John the Baptist Secondary School visited Lough Gur National School to inform the 6th Class of what might be in store for them going into First Year, Cliona had a very important question for Mrs. Jones. Was it possible to get an exemption from Irish and French classes? True to form, Cliona received her exemption from both Irish and French Class !!!!!

Cliona loved writing. If there was ever an issue getting her down or she had become upset about something, she would write down her feelings on a note and she made sure to leave it in a place where it would be obviously seen and read. This was her way of dealing with life. Even after her death, we found numerous notes throughout our home that she had written and for one reason or another, chose to leave them where there would eventually be found.



CLIONA'S FOUNDATION LAUNCH PRACTICAL BOOKLET Information and Financial Advice for families coping with a child with a Life-Limiting illness

A big thank you to Cliona's Foundation Patron Miriam O'Callaghan for helping us to launch our new information booklet - "Practical Financial Advice for Parents Coping with a Child with a Life Limiting Illness". This informative guide, containing practical and helpful advice was developed by Cliona's Foundation, following consultation with families, doctors, nurses and social workers. It aims to support and inform families with a child that has a life limiting illness, whether as a result of an ailment, injury or a chronic condition. This booklet will be available in all major Paediatric Hospitals around the country.

If you would like to receive a copy of the booklet you can email allison@clionasfoundation.ie



Cliona's Foundation Christmas Appeal

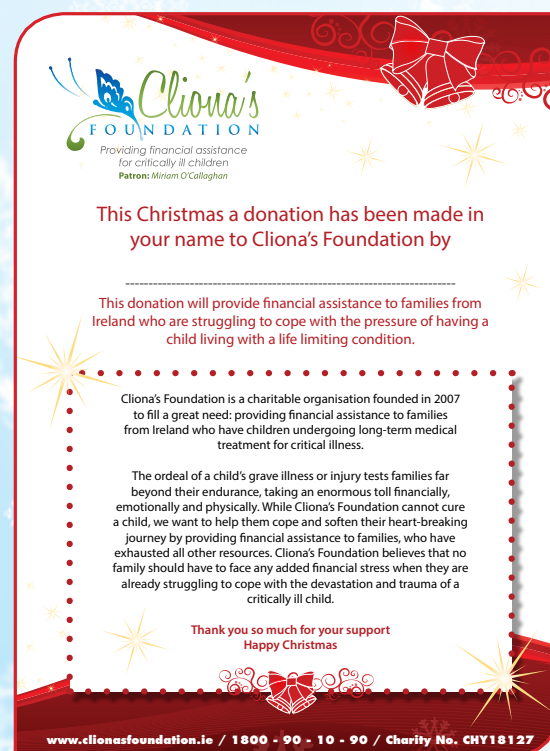
This Christmas instead of buying unwanted cards and gifts for friends and family that already have so much we would like to ask you to make a much needed donation to Cliona's Foundation.

Your donation could help struggling families all over Ireland who are struggling to cope with the financial stress of looking after a child with a life limiting condition.

Cliona's Foundation can present you with a certificate that you can present to your loved one on Christmas morning to show them that you have made a donation in their name to Cliona's Foundation.

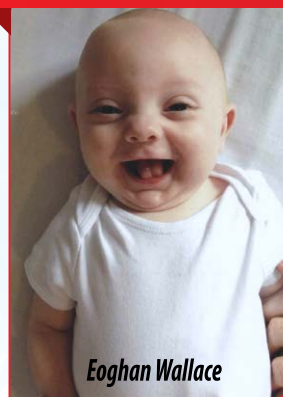
If you would like to make a donation you can visit www.clionasfoundation.ie, call 1800-90-10-90 or send your donation to Cliona's Foundation, Unit B3, Eastway Business Park, Ballysimon Road, Limerick.

Thank you so much for any support that you can give to Cliona's Foundation this Christmas.



Christmas Certificate

Eoghan, another one of Cliona's Foundation's little fighters



Eoghan Wallace

Eoghan was born last December in Limerick; he was 8 weeks premature and immediately went into respiratory failure. Eoghan stayed in intensive care in hospital for 4 weeks until it was felt he was strong enough to be able to go home, much to the relief of his mother Pauline.

Unfortunately after only being at home for a few days Eoghan developed pneumonia and had to be readmitted to high dependency. This cycle of going in and out of hospital continued for the next few weeks. With Eoghan eventually being transferred to Crumhills Children's Hospital, it was discovered that Eoghan also had a heart murmur and problems with his digestive tract – Eoghan has had to be tube fed since he was 9 weeks old.

For weeks on end Pauline would not leave the hospital, eating and sleeping there as she did not want to leave Eoghan's side, her husband stayed in Limerick to care for their other 2 year old son, Diarmuid. Pauline's husband was only able to come to Dublin to see them at weekends where he often had to make the choice to leave Diarmuid with babysitters.

Pauline's family were under severe strain emotionally, physically and financially, together with the additional costs of living in separate cities, travel, babysitters and crèche fees along with the fact of trying to keep up with their day to day fees of maintaining their home, were crippling the family.

One of the nurses in the hospital told Pauline about the work that Cliona's Foundation does and Pauline applied for financial help from the Foundation. Cliona's Foundation was able to support Pauline providing her with money to help her to keep on top of their mounting costs.

"I cannot thank Cliona's Foundation enough for the support that they have given to my family, I was able to stop stressing about how we were going to be able to pay our bills and concentrate on being there for Eoghan."

Eoghan continues to have ongoing respiratory issues but Pauline has been able to bring him home to Limerick where he is getting to know his older brother.

There are hundreds of families in Ireland who are in a similar situation to Pauline's and they need our help. When a family has a sick child they should not have to struggle under the additional stress of worrying whether or not they can pay their bills.

While Cliona's Foundation cannot cure a child, we want to help them cope and soften their heart-breaking journey, by providing financial assistance to families who have exhausted all other resources. Cliona's Foundation believes that no family should have to face any added financial stress when they are already struggling to cope with the devastation and trauma of a terminally ill child.

Cliona's Foundation Fundraisers

Over the last few months there have been some amazing Fundraisers for Cliona's Foundation. As we do not receive any state funding, Cliona's Foundation are completely reliant on fundraising events and personal donations.

If you think you would be in a position to organise a fundraiser for Cliona's Foundation we would be extremely grateful and would love to help you in any way that we can.

At Cliona's Foundation we are always happy to attend your organised event and give a short speech to show our thanks for your support and let you know how the money can help. Please let us know in advance if you would like a Cliona's Foundation representative at your event and we will do our best to accommodate you. Also if you would like us to write a note of thanks to the relevant people we would be delighted to do so.

The Foundation can provide you with the tools that you may need for your fundraiser including sponsorship cards, posters, collection buckets and stickers and information about Cliona's Foundation.

Any support that you could give to us would be greatly appreciated, as the Foundation has grown the number of requests from families seeking support has also increased and Cliona's Foundation now desperately needs to raise funds so that we can meet the needs of all of these families. If you would like to organise an event please contact Allison by emailing .

allison@clionasfoundation.ie

or call 061-400 640.

Cliona's Foundation Annual Celebratory Night



Cliona's Foundation's 8th Annual Celebratory night will take place on Saturday the 24th January 2015 at 8pm in Bulgaden Castle. It promises to be another amazing night with live music by Nightfall, finger food and fantastic raffle prizes. Cliona's Foundation will be joined on the night by a number of very special guests including:

- Television Personality **Marty Morrissey**
- Limerick Senior Hurling Manager **TJ Ryan**
- Members of the Limerick Senior Hurling team
- Members of the Limerick Women's and Girls All Ireland winning Camogie and Football Teams.

There is a major prize to be won on the night:

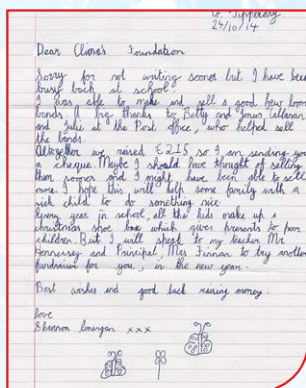
2 x Munster Hurling Final tickets and 2 x All Ireland Hurling Final tickets with accommodation included for the All Ireland Hurling final.

Tickets are €10 per adult or €20 for a family ticket. If you would like to get your tickets you can contact Alli by phoning 061 400 640 or emailing allison@clionasfoundation.ie

Recent Events



1. Thank you to all of the students and teachers at Pobalscoil Inbhear Sceine in Kenmare, Co. Kerry who had a fancy dress day at school and raised a wonderful €600 for Cliona's Foundation.



2. You may remember the very enterprising and talented young Tipp girl, Shannon, who we told you a few months ago was using her hobby to raise funds for Cliona's Foundation. Shannon is 9 years of age and sold County coloured loom bands in the run up to the All-Ireland for €2! Shannon raised an amazing €215 for Cliona's Foundation and wrote us another fantastic letter about her fundraising efforts. Congratulations Shannon.



3. On Sunday the 26th of October a coffee morning was held in aid of Cliona's Foundation in An Cuppan Tae in Emly, Tipperary. The coffee morning raised an incredible €1,700 for Cliona's Foundation. Thank you so much to everybody involved.



4. Thank you to all the ladies from Buggy Bootcamp in the Delta Sports Dome, Limerick who raised €800 for Cliona's Foundation by taking part in Adare to Survive, The Woman's Mini Marathon and by holding a very special boot camp class hosted by "Shania"!



5. Thank you to the team from the Active Ennis Leisure Centre who not only held a coffee morning for Cliona's Foundation but also some of their members completed the Dublin City Marathon. The team raised an incredible €1,452. This was just a wonderful achievement by all involved. Also a big thank you needs to go out to O'Connor's Bakery, Ennis who donated cakes and treats to the coffee morning.



6. Ann & Tony Power organised a Halloween fancy dress fundraiser in aid of Cliona's Foundation & CSPP in O'Connell's Bar, Annacotty. It was a wonderful evening and raised over €1,600 for both charities. Thank you so much to everybody who came out on the night.



7. Deirdre O'Connell and Miriam Deegan, who not only organised coffee mornings in aid of Cliona's Foundation, but also completed the Dublin City Marathon for the Foundation. They raised a fantastic €585 to help struggling families in Ireland.



8. Thank you to The Limerick Milk Market for their support in the lead up to Christmas we have so far had a bucket collection and operated a stew kitchen for charity. These two events alone have raised over €1,500 for Cliona's Foundation.



9. We would like to thank Barbara Shanahan and her wonderful Barbara's Babes who recently completed Adare to Survive for Cliona's Foundation and raised a massive €940. Thank you so much ladies this will go a long way to helping families who really are at the end of their "hope rope".



10. A big THANK YOU to everybody involved in the Harvest Fair in Meanus Co. Limerick who raised an incredible €5,000 for Cliona's Foundation.



11. Mark, Alan, Bob and Chris Ryan completed the Hell & Back challenge on Saturday to raise funds for Cliona's Foundation and Little Lifestyles. Mark completed the course in memory of his son Max who sadly passed away at 21 weeks. The group would also like to donate the money raised in memory of Conor Ryan who passed away earlier this year; Cliona's Foundation had the honour of helping Conor's family a few years ago. A thank you also needs to go to Vinny & Trina who couldn't take part on the day but who have been tirelessly fundraising for the last few weeks. Thank you so much to everybody involved.



12. Thank you to everybody at The Limerick Strand Hotel who raised a brilliant €886 for Cliona's Foundation by taking part in Adare to Survive. Thank you so much to their wonderful team.



13. Thank you so much to the members of Brid's Bootcamp who raised a fantastic €577.50 for Cliona's Foundation by taking part in Adare to Survive.



14. Absolutely HUGE congratulations to Martin Hennessy who has completed the Race the Planet Atacama Challenge in Chile. Not only did Martin complete the challenge but he also came 16th out of over 100 people, an absolutely huge achievement. Martin completed the challenge to raise awareness and funds for Cliona's Foundation. Martin raised a wonderful €2,572 for Cliona's Foundation.

Jayden an Irish warrior in Sweden



Jayden with his mam Audrey, and dad Derek.

Jayden was born on the 16th of September with a condition called CDH. This condition means that Jayden's abdominal organs were pushing up into his lungs, stopping his lungs from developing and restricting his breathing.

Immediately after being born Jayden was flown to a hospital in Sweden for surgery. Cliona's Foundation were able to provide his parents with funding so that they could be in Sweden with him and also so that they would not have to worry about bills at home.

Jayden spent weeks in Sweden on a heart and lung machine and only recently was transferred back to Crumlin Hospital in Dublin. He truly is a little fighter and has been nicknamed by the nurses - The Irish Warrior. Jayden has since been taken off the heart and lung machine and is getting stronger every day – he is even wearing his own clothes now. He still has a long road ahead of him but hopefully he will be able to come home soon. We are in regular contact with Jayden's parents and keep him in our thoughts every day.



Jayden Kirby

I LOVE LIMERICK



Brendan Ring, Allison McNamara, Richard Lynch & Terry Ring

Thank you so much to the fantastic Richard Lynch and his wonderful team from WWW.ILOVELIMERICK.COM for taking the time to film with us to launch our Universal Children's Campaign. Their support in everything that we do is greatly appreciated.



Filming for Universal Childrens Day with I Love Limerick.com



Text CLIONA to 50300
to donate €2 to Cliona's Foundation.

100% of text cost goes to Cliona's Foundation across most network providers. Some providers apply VAT which means a minimum of €1.63 will go to Cliona's Foundation.
Service Provider: LIKECHARITY.
Helpline: 01 4433890

SUPPORT
Cliona's Foundation...

www.clionasfoundation.ie

Universal Children's Day

November 20th this year was Universal Children's Day. Cliona's Foundation took the opportunity to dedicate the entire week leading up to it by celebrating all of the children that we have been able to help, those that are still fighting their battles and the children that have sadly passed away.

One of the things that we have noticed over the years is that when people talk about sick children they only ever seem to refer to the children in regards to their illnesses and never about who the child actually is. We wanted to change that by honouring the children that we have helped for who they are, not their illness.

We had an incredible response from our families who shared all of their wonderful stories and photographs with us. We wanted to share these amazing images with you too.

Cliona's Foundation are going to make this an annual event where we can celebrate all of the children that we have been so privileged to help over the years. But no matter what time of the year it is we would love you to share your stories and pictures with us. You can email them to **allison@clionasfoundation.ie** or post to our Facebook page.



Aine O'Connor



Shane Mehigan R.I.P.



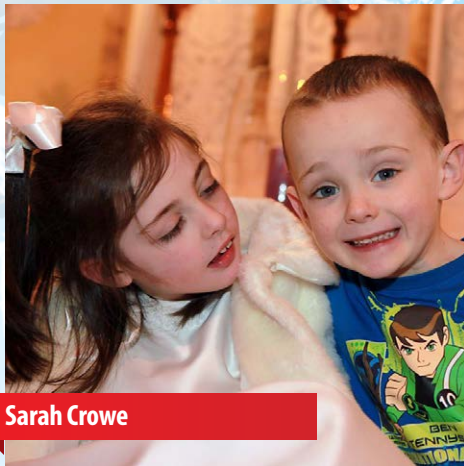
Conor Ryan R.I.P.



Ali Byrne



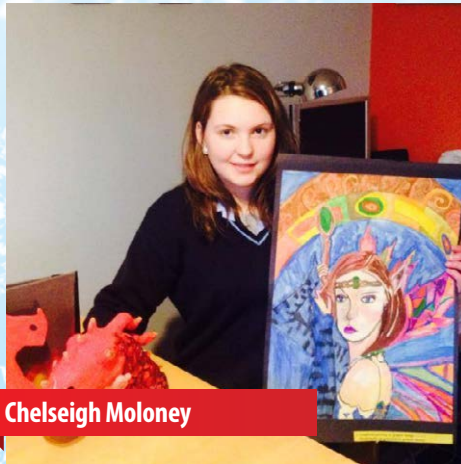
Izzy O'Connell



Sarah Crowe



Ronan Coyle



Chelseigh Moloney



Sebastian Boicova

Universal Children's Day



Katie Lonergan



Jan Chloe C. Brillantes R.I.P.



Ruby McCall



Liam Lynch



Bianca O'Brien



Presley Lysaght R.I.P.



Rachel Cronin R.I.P.



Eoghan Dunne



Keeleigh Baldwin



Emma Power


Cliona's
FOUNDATION
Providing financial assistance
for critically ill children

Cliona's Foundation
Unit B3
Eastway Bus Park
Ballysimon Road
Limerick
Ireland

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