



Providing financial assistance
for critically ill children

Patron: Miriam O'Callaghan

Butterfly Inspirations

'There was never a cloud so dark the sun could not shine through'

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Cliona's Foundation Annual Buster night

Following on from the 2013 Inaugural Buster Race Night at Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Cliona's Foundation hosted their second Buster Race Night on Saturday April 19th. Kindly sponsored by Deloitte along with media partners – The Limerick Leader, The Limerick Post and Limerick's Live 95fm. The Buster race raised much needed funds for families with critically ill children in Ireland. The Con and Annie Kirby Memorial 525 Puppy Sweepstake semi final was held on the same night, sponsored by JP and Noreen McManus, with a prize fund of €80,000.

First race was at 7.45pm, tickets were €10 which included a race programme and entry into the Buster draw which resulted in a very happy attendee win the top prize of €500. Kids were kept amused on the night by Giggles the clown and her friends Mickey and Minnie Mouse and the Easter bunny. The free Easter eggs on the evening went down a treat with the children.

Dinner guests were entertained in the restaurant with an exclusive raffle and live music after the races. Cliona's Foundation is already looking forward to next year's race night!

Brendan Ring (Cliona's Foundation), Giggles & Niall Gleeson (Deloitte) at the launch of Cliona's Foundation Annual Buster Race Night.



Welcome to the first issue of Cliona's Foundation news. Let us tell you a little about Cliona's Foundation. Firstly Cliona is our daughter.

Brendan and I set up the charity following Cliona's death in 2006 from an inoperable brain tumour. Over the years, as she underwent numerous different hospital treatments, we were struck by the number of families blindsided by non-medical expenses piling up. We saw at first-hand the enormous toll it took on these families, already struggling to cope with the nightmare of having a seriously ill child. We had to take action and do something to help other families consumed by spiralling financial woes associated with having a critically ill child. We were offered the proceeds from a CD that our friends and family produced, and with these funds we were able to form Cliona's Foundation - Registered Charity No. 18127.

Welcome from Brendan & Terry Ring continued page 2...



Terry & Brendan Ring

The Olde Hollywood Ball

The Olde Hollywood Ball is being organised by three very enterprising young ladies from Limerick - Pharmacists Sarah Brennan and Jessica Hanley along with Dentist Catríona Kennelly who were living together as students when they saw the first run of the RTE 1 Secret Millionaire documentary in September 2012. Business man Richard Mulcahy profiled Cliona's Foundation during his undercover week in Limerick. The three girls were so moved by the programme and by Cliona's Foundation that they decided to organise a fundraiser to help other families with critically ill children. With an equine background the girls decided that a Black Tie Ball with a horse racing theme would work and felt that Champion Irish jockey, Davy Russell would be a very fitting guest personality for the night. The event is being hosted by TV3 celebrity Leanne Moore and Richard Lynch of I Love Limerick.

The Olde Hollywood Ball takes place on Saturday April 26th. Drinks reception at 7pm and four course dinner to follow in the Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick. Special room rate applies for ticket holders on the night. Contact John Shovelin on 061 605900 for more details. Tickets for the Old Hollywood Ball cost €65 per person for drinks reception, dinner and music. Contact Sarah on 087 923 6915 for tickets. Tables also available.



L-R : Richard Lynch, Sarah Brennan (Olde Hollywood Ball), Davy Russell, Leanne Moore, Brendan and Terry Ring.



www.facebook.com/Clionas-Foundation

"There was never a cloud so dark the sun could not shine through"

What's ahead for Cliona's Foundation 2014

Upcoming events

- Olde Hollywood Ball – Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare Saturday April 26th
- Great Limerick Run Sunday May 4th
- Harvest Festival, Meanus, Co. Limerick Sunday August 10th
- Cliona's Foundation annual charity cycle Saturday August 30th
- Adare to Survive, Clonshire Equestrian centre, Adare Sunday September 28th



Miriam O'Callaghan pictured (above) with Brendan and Terry

Miriam O'Callaghan

Moving into my second year as Patron of Cliona's Foundation, "I have felt truly honoured to be part of this wonderful charity. Witnessing their transformational work and meeting those whose lives are changed by the charity has been inspiring and humbling in equal measure." As awareness of the charity grows, so too has the number of requests for financial assistance from families across Ireland. Your support can help make a real difference to the lives of thousands of children who have a serious illness. It's the real and tangible lifeline that Cliona's Foundation gives to families going through unimaginable pain that keeps me involved. I hope that I can motivate you to get involved with this inspiring charity in the future, whether as a volunteer, donating much needed funds or by simply spreading the word about Cliona's Foundation. I would like to encourage you to support the charity and help it continue to do the wonderful work it does in our communities through its financial support for sick children and their families.

Miriam O'Callaghan is a Broadcaster with RTE

Continued... Welcome from Brendan & Terry

There is no support available to families for purely non medical expenses and we knew from our experience that a huge need existed and that's how it started - we set up Cliona's Foundation - a charity that uniquely provides financial assistance to families with critically ill children.

We have an intimate understanding of the stress brought upon these families that explains the diversity of expenses covered by Cliona's Foundation - from rent, food, utility bills to transportation for chemotherapy or alternative therapies, to a treat for a sibling and even covering the cost of a child's funeral.

Since its founding in 2007, Cliona's Foundation has raised in excess of €500,000 and has helped more than 200 families across Ireland. Funds have been raised through a wide range of events - cycles, walks, bake sales, tractor runs, coffee mornings and more.

Your support now and in the future is very much appreciated. We are acutely aware of the negative publicity concerning a number of high profile charities in Ireland recently. It is generally agreed it is not a good time to be fundraising in Ireland but children are still getting sick and more often than not, have to travel long distances for treatment yet families with critically ill children need support which is why Cliona's Foundation will adhere steadfastly to its mission - **to provide financial support for families with critically ill children.**

From Brendan and I, on behalf of the families you have and will help, we are truly grateful from the bottom of our hearts.

Terry & Brendan

Did you know? Cliona's Foundation has raised in excess of €500,000 and helped over 200 families all over Ireland.

Can you help? Cliona's Foundation receives no state funding and rely on the generosity of YOU and fundraisers to support Cliona's Foundation in providing financial assistance to families who desperately need some support. If you would like to organise a fundraiser, please contact us, we can help you help us!

Have you completed The TAXBACK GOOD FORM? With your help today, Cliona's Foundation can claim a **45% tax refund** from Revenue on donations from supporters like you who give €250 or more in any given year. Now we can reclaim tax no matter whether you are PAYE or Self-Assessed! This charity tax refund can have such a big impact on charities like Cliona's Foundation - many Irish charities have come together to highlight how important this form is. *The Taxback Good Form* is so easy and can do so much good. To enable Cliona's Foundation to claim this relief, all you need do is complete a simple form CHY 3, also known as The Good Form that covers any year in which you donate €250+. Contact us today - we can send this form to you.



THE TAXBACK
GOOD FORM
GIVE AGAIN FOR FREE

2013 was a really busy year for Cliona's Foundation



Cliona's Foundation Inaugural Buster Race Night at Limerick Greyhound stadium in April - hugely successful and fun night and raised almost €16,000

Clonshire equestrian centre held a fundraiser and presented Cliona's Foundation with a cheque for €2000



Jean Tierney Charity Boxer - Feisty Jean won a boxing competition in Newcastle west raising much needed funds for the Foundation. Jean also organised a big fry up breakfast at her home to raise funds.



Adare to Survive - a fairly tough obstacle event! With their inaugural event in September, the organisers partnered with Cliona's Foundation in a bid to raise awareness of families with critically ill children needing financial support.

David Crowe, a keen motor cyclist enthusiast, headed off with a group of like minded enthusiasts on a 300 mile trip around the Mid West Region. Over €2000 was raised for Cliona's Foundation.



Meelick Scouts club raised €220 for Cliona's Foundation, thank you!



The Great Limerick Run was an incredible success for Cliona's Foundation with over €15,000 raised for the Foundation from friends of the McCarthy family & Boher cycle who ran the GLR in memory of Ciara McCarthy. Employees from Rexel Industries also ran the GLR on our behalf raising €3840 for Cliona's Foundation.

Carol O'Neill looking happy after her GLR run.



Cliona's Foundation had participants in the Connemara Marathon, Dublin mini marathon, Dublin & Cork marathons last year.



Cliona's Foundation annual social evening in Bulgaden, Co.Limerick in January 2013 raised in excess of €16,000. Terry and Brendan Ring here pictured with Richard Mulcahy of the RTE 'Secret Millionaire' documentary.



Rose of Tralee - Limerick Rose finalist Lisa Falvey wore a sash for Cliona's Foundation and also ran the Tralee women's 10km on our behalf.



Cliona's Foundation annual cycle 2013 - this annual cycle is run by Cliona's Foundation Cycling Club CFCC - the cycle is part of Cycling Ireland calendar and a great social event. Attracting family, social and keen cyclists, it was a fun day with Leanne Moore, David Wallace and Joy Neville braving the cycle for a good cause!



Paul Leonard and friends climbed Carrauntoohill on a very wet day in June and raised over €700

In April Eimear Weekes volunteered to do a Parachute jump with funds going to Cliona's Foundation.



The Limerick Invalid fund partnered with Cliona's Foundation for their fundraiser cycle which took the group to Lourdes in 2013. Brendan Ring of Cliona's Foundation rose to the challenge and the event raised €25,400 for the charity.



Harvest Fair - An annual country event in Meanus organised by Kieran Lillis & the Greybridge Classic club which raised over €6,500 in 2013 and over €30,000 in the past 5 years for the Foundation.

For their annual fundraiser for charity, the Limerick Adult Education centre chose Cliona's Foundation as their beneficiary raised in excess of €700 from a pub quiz.



Miriam O'Callaghan, MC - Stars, Choirs and Carols

Stars Choirs & Carols

Guinness World Record attempt Croke Park Dublin 2013

Stars Choirs & Carols came about after Cliona's Foundation was profiled in September 2012 and again

in May 2013 by the RTE 1 television documentary 'Secret Millionaire' which featured a number of charities from Limerick. The Secret Millionaire, Business man Richard Mulcahy, was so taken with Cliona's Foundation that he offered to mentor the Foundation and project manage a huge fundraiser - which would also be a Guinness World Record attempt in Croke Park Dublin on December 19th last....to 'have the most people singing Christmas Carols together.' Whilst the World Record wasn't broken, it certainly set a new Irish record and catapulted Cliona's Foundation onto an all Ireland audience and further afield. Miriam O'Callaghan, probably Ireland's most well known TV & Radio personality, who had agreed earlier in the year to be our Patron together with Louis Walsh hosted the evening and along with a number of well known musicians, entertained over 11,000 people on the night.

As Patron of Cliona's Foundation, broadcaster Miriam O'Callaghan led the record breaking event. 'Stars, Choirs and Carols', featured choirs and singers performing alongside The Celtic Tenors, soprano Celine Byrne, Lisa Hannigan, The Dublin Gospel Choir, RTE's Cór na nÓg, Tallaght Choral Society, The Army Number 1 band....and no stranger to the world of music - Louis Walsh loaned his hand to the proceedings on stage with Miriam.

REMEMBERING RACHEL

Rachel Cronin was just 15 years old when she passed away in August 2013. Rachel had Cystic Fibrosis, and although during the last five years she was very poorly, she never let it stop her getting on with life. She left notes describing her outlook on life and her philosophy was very much to live each day to its fullest and enjoy every moment without regrets.

Rachel spent a lot of time in Cork University Hospital in her final three years and when she was there she received all manner of treats such as phone credit, iTunes cards and shopping vouchers, all of which were funded by Cliona's Foundation along with covering the cost of an assessment for a double lung transplant in Newcastle in England. The last thing any family with a very sick child needs are additional worries, and the Cronin family were extremely grateful to Cliona's Foundation for their help and support, and always said they would like to give something back if they ever could.

That opportunity came about in March 2014, when Cappabue National School, where Rachel had been a pupil, offered their help, along with the support of friends, neighbours and the wider community. The time, assistance and encouragement offered was overwhelming, and to date the family have raised €6,130 from the 'Remembering Rachel' 5 and 10 km run which was held on March 2nd. Rachel's friends from Coláiste Phobal Banntraí also raised €900 by being sponsored to participate in the 5km Meallagh Valley run.

We will never forget Rachel and her bubbly, happy smile - her parents John and Mary, and her three brothers Damien, Declan and Eoin would like to sincerely thank Cliona's Foundation, and all those who helped in any way to organise the 'Remembering Rachel' event.

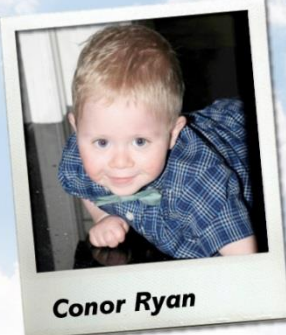


Rachel Cronin R.I.P August 2013

Families helped...

Cliona's Foundation helped the Ryan and Cronin families.

Conor Ryan (R.I.P.) October 10th 2011 - January 14th 2014



Conor Ryan

"Conor was born a little fighter from the very start coming into this world 10 weeks early with Hydrocephalus. He spent 102 days in hospital between the Neo Natal unit in Limerick's Maternity Hospital, Temple Street Children's Hospital in Dublin & Limerick's Mid Western Regional Hospital. It took a whole month before we knew if he was going to survive or not and he fought endless battles that no parent should have to see their child go through to finally get to come home. Conor's development was delayed both physically & mentally but he managed to smile every step of the way and brought so much happiness to everyone he met, even when he was admitted back into hospital to have major surgery, he always had a smile for you.

In his short two years, we as a family have done fundraisers for those hospitals to thank them for everything they done for our brave son and this year was going to be no different. Unfortunately Conor was taken from us way too early at the start of this year and we are still absolutely devastated not to wake up to his beautiful smile every morning. We want to carry on saying thanks to those who helped us and to try help others in similar situations. This year we will be fundraising for the amazing charity Cliona's Foundation. This charity helped us financially when Conor was up in Dublin for 5 weeks for non medical expenses such as accommodation, food and day to day expenses for which we are extremely grateful. We have set up a MyCharity page for those who expressed an interest to donate to a charity. We really want to keep Conor's memory alive through fundraising and we would be so grateful if people could donate to this charity. Every donation counts no matter how big or small and will go towards helping other families who unfortunately have to go through what we went through. Having a sick child in hospital for long periods of time is stressful enough without having to worry about the financial cost on top of everything else.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and on behalf of every family that will benefit from your kindness!"

Lisa, Gerard & our beautiful angel Conor xx

You can donate to Conor Ryans MyCharity page using the following link:
<http://www.mycharity.ie/event/conorryan/>

The Pride of Ireland

Congratulations to Sarah Crowe who has been shortlisted in the Pride of Ireland awards under the Child of Courage awards. The Award ceremony will be held in June. Sarah has defied all odds and overcome many battles in her ten years.

Sarah is 10 years old and was diagnosed with a Mitochondrial Disease, specifically Alpers' Disease for which there is no cure. Sarah cannot dress, feed or bathe herself. Her movement is slow and most times she is confined to a wheelchair. She cannot write, speak or walk unaided. The prognosis for children diagnosed with Alpers is not good, with death usually occurring in the first decade of life. However Sarah's parents were over the moon to be able to celebrate Sarah's 10th birthday this year. Sarah is the oldest surviving person of this disease in Ireland.



Miriam with Sarah Crowe



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