



Charity No: CHY12405



Jack & Jill News



Updates on
www.jackandjill.ie

May 2014

Medical Cards Crisis



Like many of you, I watched in horror but not surprise, as Annette Kinne and Declan Coyle from Bray poured their hearts out to Brendan O'Connor on RTE's Saturday Night Show, exposing how their son Alex has had his medical card axed by the HSE. Into studio they brought with them just one week's supply of medical equipment for Alex. A cocktail of syringes, feeding pumps, nappies, medication and, with dignity and pride, talked about their daily routine caring for Alex around the clock. It brought back memories of my own family's experience caring for our son Jack Irwin at home until he passed away in December 1997. Fast forward to May 2014 and I'm so disheartened that we are still in this dark place where parents have to fight for every little thing.

The real shame however is that Alex's story is not isolated. Parents around the country are being strangled by the red tape around medical cards. Asked to jump through hoops in terms of the information requests and none of it medical related, all financial. Embarrassed to ask the doctor for yet another letter of support. Exhausted. Being tortured into submission by the HSE – that's what it feels like. I know. I've been there. So have many of our readers. And our Jack & Jill nurses hear the stories every day.

What's more, the 'lucky' ones who do get the medical card, get temporary 6 or 12 month medical cards. Living in dread of the whole form filling torture to begin again. Parents are worried out of their mind. Many afraid to speak out in case they lose what little they have.

Meanwhile, there's not a parent in the Country who wants a free GP card for their youngster, while children like Alex are refused medical cards.

Young Alex Kinne Coyle may not have a voice, but he, like hundreds of other children, has feelings; he has rights and he deserves better. It's time to end this medical card nightmare, once and for all. Our call to action is simple to the Minister for Health, wider Government and to all the hopeful candidates for local and European election:

Review and redesign this system of discretionary medical cards. Recognise the child in his or her own right. The system is broken and we need you to fix it now.

Jonathan Irwin

How We Make a Difference

Our Mission

We endeavour to help improve families' lives by engaging with the child and family to empower them and give them the choice to care for their child at home, often in extraordinary circumstances with extraordinary responsibilities.

In Home Respite for children with severe neurological conditions 0-4 years

- A specialist liaison nurse available to each family referred.
- We assess the child and family's individual needs and set up our service immediately.
- Listen, advocate and help co-ordinate families' wishes.
- We offer a donation towards the cost of in-home respite care for families to source competent nurses/carers.
- We provide a flexible family-centred service.

End-of-Life Care for children 0-4 years

- A specialist Children's Nurse available to each family referred.
- We offer a donation for up to 80 hours nursing care in a month.
- Nursing care in the home within 24 hours.
- Listen & help co-ordinate families' wishes.
- Daily review of child and family's needs.
- 24-hour crisis care & telephone contact.
- Communicate and liaise with appropriate agencies.
- We facilitate Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF) and HSE funding for additional nursing care at home.
- Offer bereavement support and liaise with expert counsellors.



Old Phones Can Save Lives!!



NEW! The Jack & Jill Children's Foundation are pleased to announce that we have launched a new "Old Phones Can Save Lives" mobile phone recycling campaign

Jack & Jill in association with Swapkit aim to give away 1,000 defibrillators across Ireland over the next 12 months.

We are offering Irish sports clubs, schools, companies and parishes the opportunity to gain a free lifesaving ZOLL Automated External Defibrillator (AED), worth €2000, in exchange for the collection of ONLY 400 old mobile phones. Did you know that an estimated 5,000 people died from sudden cardiac arrest in Ireland last year? You can help reduce this number next year by simply joining in our "Old Phones Can Save Lives" campaign. By doing this you are not only supporting a great Irish children's charity but you are also helping to provide these lifesaving machines for your local community. All you have to do is **Register Today** your school, club, company or parish name, address, phone number and contact person.

To register please send your details to defib@jackandjill.ie or Phone: 1800 30 33 76

Black Betty has moooved to pastures new!!



Congratulations to Joe Griffin, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway who was the lucky winner of Black Betty our gorgeous limousin heifer. The winning ticket was pulled by Denis Naughten, T.D. at Millars Bar, Ballydangan, Co. Roscommon on Saturday, 15th March. A great night was had by all. Our sincere

thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket and to local Ballydangan man Charlie Nevin who donated Black Betty to us for this unique fundraising campaign. A total of €12,700 was raised for our very fragile babies.

Jack & Jill Annual Golf Classic



The Jack & Jill Annual Golf Classic will take place again this year in the beautiful surroundings of Mount Juliet. Teams cost €1024 (equivalent to a months nursing care for one Jack & Jill baby.) If you would like to take a team, please contact us on 045 894538.

There are only a limited number of teams still available.

Nicky Paper Towels support Jack & Jill



This year Nicky Paper Towels part of the Sofidel Group – one of the main household paper brands used by Irish families - marks their 10th celebration by supporting the Jack & Jill Children's Foundation! Look out for the special branded stock in stores now!

The Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby Ball

Join us on the eve of Ireland's premier horse race for a sumptuous dinner and superb entertainment

Tickets €125 each / Table of 10 €1,250 include:

- Pre dinner drinks
- 4 course meal prepared by the K Club's award winning chefs
- Spectacular entertainment

Drinks reception @ 7pm. Dress code: Black tie

FOR DETAILS & TICKETS PLEASE VISIT

www.jackandjill.ie or contact

- Edelle Monahan (Jack & Jill) on 045 894538/660 | edelle@jackandjill.ie
- Aileen O'Brien (O'Brien PR) on 045 446422 | aileen@obrienpr.com

Jack & Jill Fashion Show



On the 15th May Jack & Jill are hosting their first Fashion Show in the wonderful Killashee House Hotel. This glittering affair will have fashion from beautiful boutiques in Newbridge and Naas and will also feature outfits from our own Charity Boutique in Newbridge. The event will be hosted by Fashion Stylist Marietta Doran and should prove to be a wonderful evening out. Tickets cost €20 each and are available from participating shops and our own Charity Boutique. For

more information logon to our website.



Egg Hunts Worldwide



The success of the Irish Big Egg Hunt in 2013 followed by the success of this year's Starship New Zealand Egg Hunt is made all the more poignant by the tragic death of Mark Shand

who with ourselves was responsible for bringing these two events to Ireland and New Zealand. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends at this very difficult time.

Horse Show Ball



Following the discovery last year by our CEO Jonathan Irwin that there was little or no entertainment in the Four Seasons hotel after the day at the Horse Show in the RDS, we have now decided to host a Jack & Jill Horseshow Ball on Friday, the 8th of August. The proceeds of the event will go to Jack & Jill with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Injured Riders Fund.

The evening will kick off with a drinks reception at 7pm followed by dinner and dancing into the small hours of the Saturday morning. It should prove to be a glittering night of wonderful food, entertainment and dancing, recalling the wildest Horse Show Balls of Yesteryear .

Tickets are priced at €150 each or a table of ten for €1500 and can be purchased from the Jack & Jill Office on 045 894538 or logon to www.jackandjill.ie.

Welcome to Krystle



We would like to introduce you to Krystle Foley, a new Jack & Jill employee who has come on board as the PR and Corporate Relationship Manager. Krystle will be looking after our Corporate relationships going forward. Krystle formerly worked for Applegreen and was one of the driving forces behind

Applegreen's charity programme – one of the best in the Irish marketplace – which had an extremely successful partnership with Jack & Jill in 2012/13.

Needless to say, we are delighted to have someone of Krystle's calibre and experience on board to drive our Corporate programme in the future. If you have any contacts in the Corporate World that Krystle could follow up please feel free to contact her on Krystle@jackandjill.ie

OPEN GARDEN

Longstone Beacon Garden, Whitehills, Grangecon, Co. Wicklow

www.longstonebeacon.com



SUPPORTING THE JACK & JILL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Saturday 26th July, 12pm - 6pm

Sunday 27th July, 2pm - 6pm



PAUL DOYLE GARDEN DESIGN



Room to Improve

Diarmuid Gavin added to the excitement of the draw by picking the winning ticket for our Living Room Makeover which took place on Sunday 13th April at the RDS Ideal Home Show. Congratulations to Carlow lady, Sarah Wright, the lucky winner who scooped this fabulous prize! Anne Marie Hamill was delighted as she sold the winning ticket at the Hamilton Interior/Jack & Jill stand. Many thanks to everyone who

supported this campaign and to Anne Marie for sponsoring this fabulous prize which raised over €13,000 to help us bring our babies home.



Come along and visit The Jack & Jill Children's Foundation Garden at Bloom 2014 from Thursday 29th May to Monday 2nd June. The garden has been designed by renowned Garden Designer Paul Doyle.

We would love to see you all there.





DIT Fashion Show

A big **'Thank you'** to everyone involved in the Vodafone DIT Fashion Show which took place in Vicar St. on the 3rd of April.



The student organisers of the Fashion Show chose Jack & Jill as their charity partner for the Vicar Street show and the stylists and show directors visited the Jack & Jill Charity Boutique in Newbridge to meet the Jack & Jill nurses and Charity Boutique Manager Joan Kehoe and to check out the style for the catwalk. On the night the Charity shop showcased a number of outfits which gave the audience a clear idea of the calibre of clothes in the Jack & Jill Charity Boutique. We are very grateful for this exposure for the shop and the night was a great success raising much needed funds for Jack & Jill.



Please send us your Dublin Bus refund tickets Split 50/50 with Temple St.

Save the Date
13th September 2014 Jack & Jill

Join us again this year for our 3rd annual Jack & Jill Cycle to Kilkenny. Destination The Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny, for plenty of R&R after the 100km trek through the meandering backroads from Wicklow to Kilkenny. For further information see www.jackandjill.ie.

Volunteers needed

Jack & Jill Needs Volunteers to help out at Fundraising Events. If you have a spare couple of hours, a couple of times a year to help out selling tickets or help to man a fundraising stand, please contact us on info@jackandjill.ie

Charity Shop



The Jack & Jill Charity Boutique in Newbridge, Co. Kildare is growing from strength to strength. We have a large band of loyal volunteers and customers. If you are looking to get a great bargain why not drop by or if you are doing a spring clean why not donate your new or nearly new clothes, bags, books or other items. We will turn these preloved items into nursing hours for our very sick babies nationwide.

Money raised locally stays locally

| County | 2013 Total County Cost | Current cases | Cases since 1997 | County | 2013 Total County Cost | Current cases | Cases since 1997 |
|----------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Carlow | €11,358 | 2 | 27 | Louth | €29,476 | 7 | 47 |
| Cavan | €7,562 | 3 | 28 | Mayo | €43,092 | 9 | 69 |
| Clare | €30,388 | 6 | 45 | Meath | €66,928 | 10 | 72 |
| Cork | €119,908 | 28 | 201 | Monaghan | €6,720 | 3 | 23 |
| Donegal | €29,752 | 10 | 38 | Offaly | €26,000 | 3 | 25 |
| Galway | €72,599 | 18 | 111 | Roscommon | €19,200 | 4 | 21 |
| Kerry | €33,187 | 11 | 48 | Sligo | €18,880 | 4 | 22 |
| Kildare | €64,476 | 10 | 95 | Tipperary | €41,618 | 7 | 43 |
| Kilkenny | €22,984 | 8 | 37 | Waterford | €45,040 | 12 | 59 |
| Laois | €39,298 | 7 | 32 | Westmeath | €10,560 | 3 | 37 |
| Leitrim | €6,912 | 2 | 9 | Wexford | €100,361 | 13 | 88 |
| Limerick | €60,866 | 15 | 86 | Wicklow | €36,660 | 6 | 36 |
| Longford | €7,296 | 2 | 15 | Dublin | €226,391 | 63 | 438 |

If you do not wish to receive the Jack & Jill Newsletter in the future, please email us to info@jackandjill.ie