

# HEART OF THE MATER

Look at the lifesaving difference you make!



## Behind-the-scenes special edition: COVID-19 recovery



### "Thank you from the frontline." Stephen

- ▶ **You were there for 34-year-old Stephen, at the height of the crisis, when he was in the eye of the storm.**

Caring for people is more than a job. It's a vocation and Stephen has it – caring for critically ill patients as part of the nursing team in the ICU. Despite following safety procedures, Stephen fell ill. His only symptoms were aching muscles and a chill. So when he was tested for COVID-19, he was sure it would be negative. But it wasn't. And Stephen went from working in the hospital to being a patient.

But just like the doctors and nurses, you were always by his side.

With your support, Stephen made a full recovery and learned a great deal from his time in hospital.

Find out more inside...

***During the crisis, you helped people like Stephen receive urgent, lifesaving care. Please will you continue your support?***



» **Pg 3**  
How you helped fund vital equipment



» **Pg 4**  
You helped 88-year-old Liam get emergency treatment during the crisis



» **Pg 7**  
Thanks to you, patients like Betty are making a faster recovery



Mary Moorhead  
Chief Executive, the Mater Foundation

## A message from Mary Moorhead

Thank you – from the bottom of my heart.

Over the last year, you've helped provide over €2 million to projects across the hospital, including research and robotic cancer surgery. And when the COVID-19 crisis began, your amazing generosity meant we could immediately set up a €50,000 emergency fund to support frontline workers. We're now moving forward with plans to improve dining and relaxation facilities for staff.

During the crisis, the list of equipment needs changed daily, but with your support, we were able to help (see p3).

From the hospital cleaners and porters, to the doctors and nurses, everyone worked together to save lives. And so did you.

We thought we were facing a short-term emergency, but COVID-19 is still here. I hope your support will continue.

Mary Moorhead  
Chief Executive, Mater Foundation

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**“I was delighted to get back to work...”**

▶ **With your support, Stephen is more motivated than ever to care for others.**

After a spell in hospital, Stephen was ready to return home and isolate for 14 days. An app was used to monitor his recovery – giving him reassurance he wasn't alone.

As soon as he was well enough, he was keen to get back to the hospital and restart his work. But, in just a few weeks, the hospital had changed in response to the pandemic.

*“It took a few days to get into the new routine but it felt great to be back working. A lot changed in those weeks but what remained the same is the dedication to care shown by all working at The Mater.”*

Stephen has become even more dedicated to his role - inspired by the care he received himself from the team around him at The Mater Hospital.

**Life can't go back to normal at The Mater Hospital - COVID-19 is still here. We need to continue providing world-class care. We know we can with your continued support.**

# YOU HELPED FUND VITAL EQUIPMENT AND SAVE LIVES...



You've helped provide vital equipment including this Doppler being tested before use with patients on life support.

As you know, COVID-19 attacks the lungs first. People who are in a serious condition need to be in intensive care – sometimes for weeks. The equipment you are helping to buy is key to providing the best care possible for COVID-19 and other life threatening conditions.

### 1. Respiratory equipment

*“Thanks to the kindness of Mater Foundation supporters, you have enabled us to invest €250,000 in urgently needed respiratory equipment to help patients with COVID-19 and other respiratory symptoms”*

says Andrew Kennedy, Head of Clinical Engineering and Technical Communications Department.

### 2. Doppler Machine (x3)

*“A Doppler machine is used with patients on life support to measure blood flow in blood vessels - in particular arteries”*

explains Dr Colman O Loughlin, Specialist in Anaesthesia, Critical Care & Extracorporeal Life Support.

*“During the global pandemic – with the risk of cross-infection – we urgently needed more”*

Thanks to your generosity we could buy these vital pieces of equipment. In addition to these, your support also funded a much needed bladder scanner and biopsy probe.

### 3. Bladder scanner

A bladder scanner is a safe, non-invasive way of determining whether patients, often elderly, are retaining urine.

### 4. Biopsy probe

One in seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. The biopsy probe is a new, safer way to carry out prostate biopsies - reducing the risk of infections.

**Your gifts mean we can stay at the cutting-edge of medical technology and provide world-class care for all our Mater family.**

# “AS A FAMILY, WE ARE BEYOND GRATEFUL FOR THE WORLD-CLASS CARE DAD GOT.”

Liam's daughter, Sinead

## When 88-year-old Liam was rushed into The Mater Hospital for emergency treatment, his family was desperately worried.

- ▶ **Liam is an 18-year survivor of pancreatic cancer who was admitted during the COVID-19 crisis.**
- ▶ **Your generosity helped Liam receive world-class care.**
- ▶ **Liam's daughter, Sinéad, tells his story.**

When Dad rang me in the middle of the night saying he was sick, I didn't hesitate. I called The Mater.

Dad knows everyone at the hospital because 18 years ago, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer – a very aggressive cancer. Against the odds, he survived. The Mater saved his life and he's been going back for check ups ever since.

COVID-19 meant everything had changed. Dad was critically ill and he was taken straight in, but of course I couldn't go in with him. The staff were brilliant though, sending me updates at every stage.

As a family, we are just beyond grateful for the world-class care Dad got.

He was in the High Dependency Unit for three days and in hospital for two weeks in total. He had two nurses looking after

him 24/7. Kindness is so important in the care of a vulnerable, older patient like Dad. When he was well enough to leave, the staff lined the corridor to clap – he was thrilled!

***Kindness comes from our staff, and from you too. Thank you for helping give people like Liam the best possible care.***



Liam, 88, leaving The Mater Hospital, after receiving world-class care during the height of the pandemic.

# YOU CAN HELP SAVE MORE LIVES TODAY

- ▶ **With your support, two new units are being developed.**
- ▶ **We urgently need your help to fully equip them.**
- ▶ **Please will you send a gift to buy essential equipment?**

## The Acute Medical Short Stay Unit (AMSSU)

The Mater's Emergency Department is one of the busiest in Ireland with a new patient arriving every six minutes in 2020. To reduce overcrowding and waiting times, a new 26-bed state-of-the-art Acute Medical Short Stay Unit is being developed to provide short-term care for patients who will then move to a specialist ward or return home.

Equipment that's urgently needed includes cardiac monitors, pumps, beds and other medical essentials.

## The Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU)

Every year, 6,000 to 8,000 people have an acute stroke – it's the leading cause of acquired disability in adults. To prevent lifelong consequences, patients need appropriate care without delay. The Mater is developing the new Hyper Acute Stroke Unit to care for people who've had an acute stroke, but we now urgently need to fully equip it.

Equipment needs include beds, monitors, IV pumps, hoists and a defibrillator to restart a patient's heart.

Your gift today could help make sure this new unit opens as soon as possible.

## Help prepare for increasing COVID-19 cases.

We also need to prepare for increasing cases of COVID-19. Both of these Units are vital to this. With your support, the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit could quickly be converted into an additional ICU. While the AMSSU will help us to deal with COVID-19 patients coming into the hospital. But we need to move fast.

***We have to be ready. Please send an urgent gift to help save lives.***



You've helped protect frontline staff including cardiology doctor, Dr Andrew O'Cionnaith.

# FAMILY HEART SCREENING CLINIC UPDATE

▶ **Thanks to you, families who may have a hidden heart condition have continued to receive support throughout the crisis.**

▶ **You've given the Family Heart Screening Clinic the most incredible support.**

*“All the equipment has been funded by you and we're eternally grateful”*

says Dr Joe Galvin, Cardiology Specialist.

Each week in Ireland, one person under the age of 35 passes away from an inherited heart condition such as Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) or Long QT Syndrome.

When COVID-19 struck, the team had

to move fast to protect patients and staff. Although some tests can only be carried out at the hospital, many consultations were moved online and onto the phone.

*“It's been really successful, and something we'll continue even though we're getting more families into the clinic again”*

The latest equipment you've helped buy are new Holter Monitors. Given to patients to wear for 24 hours, this vital piece of equipment monitors their heart rhythms and detects abnormalities. The new models – called '12-lead Holter Monitors' – come with advanced technology that hasn't been available before in Ireland.

By investing in cutting-edge technology, you're helping to save lives, and prevent another family going through the sudden loss of a loved one.

## Thank you for your kind heart...

**Do you remember Maurice? Last Christmas, he asked all his family and friends to support the Mater Foundation ahead of a special anniversary...**

“This year's been very difficult. I've had to cocoon because COVID-19 is a huge threat to me, but I couldn't let the 25th anniversary of my heart transplant, which I had when I was 25, go by without marking it. I come from a big family, who've seen me bounce back from life-threatening illnesses since I was 12 years old. The only reason I'm still

here today is because of the incredible care I've had at The Mater.

I need to say a big thank you to every one who donates to help buy equipment and provide lifesaving care for patients like me.

**Your kind gifts help save lives, and keep loving families together. Please give generously today.**



# YOU'VE TRANSFORMED CANCER SURGERY FOR PEOPLE LIKE BETTY...



Betty, a former cancer patient at The Mater Hospital, benefitted from lifesaving robotic surgery thanks to you.

**During the last 12 months, you've helped invest €2.5 million in robotic surgery, which has huge benefits for patients like Betty.**

With robotics, the surgical tools are held by a four-armed robot, which the surgeon and an assistant control. The surgeon sits at a console where they have a highly magnified view meaning they can work with much greater precision.

Betty, age 73, had a hysterectomy as part of her treatment for endometrial cancer.

In the past, a hysterectomy would require an incision virtually from hip to hip. Betty would have been in hospital for a week, and it would have taken months for the wound to heal.

*“I had five separate little puncture incisions for my hysterectomy. And no stitches. The wounds healed within three weeks”*

Betty spent only two nights in hospital and has recovered extremely well. So far 223 people have been operated on using robotics. Many more are now set to follow. Less invasive. Greater accuracy. A faster recovery. These aren't the only benefits of robotic surgery. Since it was introduced, over €1.3 million a year in savings have been made for the hospital, and can now be directed to other essential areas of care, all thanks to you.

**Thank you for making state-of-the-art robotic surgery available to patients like Betty.**

# With a gift in your Will, you could support a future project like the transformation of St Anne's Ward



Leaving a gift in your Will is a wonderful way to have a lasting impact and support future projects like St Anne's Ward for patients with dementia.

A fireplace. A piano. A Dublin bus stop. You wouldn't expect them in a hospital, but you'll now find them at The Mater. That's because – with the support of generous people like you – St Anne's Ward is now a dementia-friendly environment.

*“ Many of our patients have lost their short-term memories. They don't know where they are, but they're happy in the past. Now, even though they're in hospital, their surroundings can stimulate happy memories ”*

During the pandemic, another huge change took place.

*“ St Anne's Ward was temporarily used for COVID-19 patients, many who are elderly ”*

explains Mary Duffy, Clinical Nurse Manager.

*“ We were caring for people who were very frail and vulnerable. It's all about having compassion and understanding ”*

Mary and the team have now gone back to looking after patients with dementia in a space specially designed for their needs. So many acts of generosity have gone into making this amazing care possible. Leaving a gift in your Will to the Mater Foundation can play a vital role in improving the care of our patients.

Many of us think long and hard about what arrangements to make – taking care of our families first, but there's also a chance to remember families throughout our community. Just a small % of your estate could help transform the care available to future generations.

**To find out more about how you can remember the Mater Foundation in your Will, you can visit [materfoundation.ie](https://materfoundation.ie) or contact Tom Hickey, Head of Fundraising, at [thickey@materfoundation.ie](mailto:thickey@materfoundation.ie) or (01) 830 3482.**

**PHONE** (01) 830 3482

**EMAIL** CONTACT@MATERFOUNDATION.IE

**ONLINE** MATERFOUNDATION.IE

**POST** The Mater Foundation, 53-54 Eccles St., Dublin 7, D07 KH4C, Ireland

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