

HEART OF THE MATER

A look at the life-saving difference YOU make!

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023

“By the time I was having symptoms, it was too late...”

You never know what's around the corner — “One day I'm hiking in the mountains, the next I'm on a transplant list,” says Martin. But, he says, when his life hung in the balance, your kindness was at his side every step of the way. And for that, he feels forever grateful to you...

Martin knew something wasn't quite right. But at just 27, this healthy young man couldn't have been prepared for his devastating diagnosis.

“I had a dry cough,” says Martin. “I went to my GP, and he sent me straight to hospital.”

It was cirrhosis of the liver. He needed an urgent, life-saving liver transplant.

But that wasn't even the worst of it...

“Just like that, I'm very sick...”

“My failing liver was putting pressure on my heart. The damage was so severe they told me I'd need a liver **and** heart transplant.”

You can imagine Martin's horror at the news that TWO of his vital organs were failing. “My heart could have stopped, or I



Martin was in hospital for 8 months. But today, thanks to you, Martin is the picture of health. See for yourself, over...

could have had a heart attack at any moment,” says Martin. But even then, he says he felt in safe hands. Wrapped in the care and attention

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your generosity helps provide, he could see the dedication of the Mater's incredible doctors and nurses.

“

At the Mater, I feel safe... the nurses, doctors and every single person there is amazing...

If it weren't for them, it could have been completely different..."

Ten and a half hours

Martin had already been in hospital for months when he received the news — *a suitable organ donor had been found.*

It was an incredibly serious

operation. It had never been done in Ireland before. It took a huge amount of planning and coordination. And it would go on for ten and a half hours...

... but Martin's complex heart and liver transplant surgery was a complete success.

He woke up in intensive care two days later. Groggy but alive, your love right beside him.

You gave Martin his, 'second chance at life'...

Still now, Martin is a regular at the Mater, "I go for ECGs to check my heart. This is all equipment funded by the kind people who support the Mater Hospital Foundation. I'm grateful for that..."

Martin says he's been given a 'second chance at life'. And he's grateful to everyone who helped him on this journey — the

"I'm extremely thankful to every person who helped me..."

surgeons, doctors, nurses, every person who was kind to him at the hospital, the organ donor, their family, **and to you...**

For your love and loyalty that makes the Mater so special... Thank you!



Anne's Best Birthday

If you've ever been a patient at the Mater, you've felt the love between these walls. Anne tells of the thoughtfulness she'll never forget, and how your kindness is as present on our wards now as it was 20 years ago...

I was admitted for a procedure on my 50th birthday so I was feeling a bit sorry for myself...

Another patient asked me to go and have a cup of tea in the Day Room. When I got back to my bed, it was covered in fairy lights and a big "Happy Birthday" sign!

The ward staff had pizza delivered, and we had a little party — myself and a group of strangers, in hospital, having the craic — all because one nurse noticed my date of birth and cared.

20 years later, and I still remember it

— my best birthday!

Thank you for your compassion, your empathy, and for being the heart of our hospital.



A Change of Heart...

It's almost 40 years since Ireland's first heart transplant was performed right here at the Mater Hospital. And now, just as it was then, your kind support makes life-saving medical advances like this possible... Thank you!

It was probably a Tuesday like any other for you. But on 10th September 1985, Dr Maurice Neligan, a pioneer of Irish medicine, performed alongside fellow surgeons the first heart transplant in our country's history. *That day would see the first of*

many lives saved...

Like Eddie from Co Louth who was one of the first people to have this groundbreaking surgery. And Patrick from Dublin, who was just eleven when he became the youngest person to have a heart transplant.

Since then, more than 420 lives have been saved here with your help, thanks to heart transplant surgery.

From the very first heart transplant patient to people waiting for a new heart at this very moment... thank you! ♥



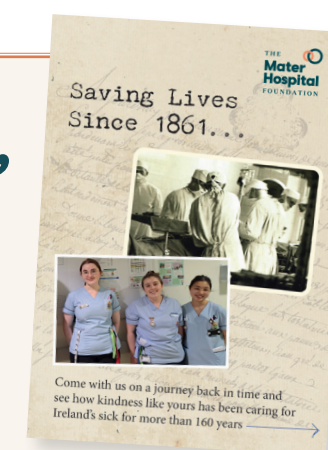
Dr Maurice Neligan, sadly no longer with us. But the Mater is still the scene of many groundbreaking 'firsts', thanks to your generosity!

Your Hospital, A History...

Want to hear more about the Mater's deep roots in the story of Ireland?

Caring, generous people like you have been the very heart of the Mater since it first opened its doors in 1861.

Tick the 'YES' box on your reply form to order your legacy pack with a FREE bookmark, and find out how your empathy can live on between these centuries-old walls for the next 100 years. Thank you!



Thank you for supporting the Mater's doctors and nurses —

3 Minutes With... Nurse Ciara

Tell us about your role...

I'm an oncology nurse on the cancer ward at the Mater. I'm here about seven years now...

What do you see as the most important part of your job?

We give a lot of emotional support to patients... You're not just their nurse. You're their advocate, their friend, someone they can talk to — you'll do literally everything and anything for your patient.

And the most difficult part?

Getting to know patients, and then losing them. We treat our

patients like family... it could be your own family one day. Losing someone, it's not something you're ever OK with... it's never easy.

What's your message to supporters of the Mater?

I see the incredible difference you make for the ward and our patients. From new equipment to things like an exercise bike for patients who are going crazy stuck in bed... and even weddings sometimes for our end-of-life patients —

the Mater Hospital Foundation's supporters make it all possible!



"I feel very grateful to every person who supports us, and our patients."



One Simple Wish

Recently, Nurse Orla contacted us for help to provide every one of the Mater's resuscitation stations with a simple piece of equipment that could help save lives... Will you help answer her call?

What Nurse Orla is asking for sounds complicated — 'Intraosseous needle insertion sets' — but put simply, it gets the medicine where it needs to go... fast. And when you're talking about someone who's having a heart attack... **every second counts.**

❤️ **31 x Needle Insertion Kits — €549 (each)** ❤️

Could you chip in and help bring even one more kit to the Mater? Your kindness today could give someone in a critical condition the best possible chance of survival. **Give using the reply envelope enclosed or at materfoundation.ie/donate — Thank you.**



Thank you!