

HEART OF THE MATER

A look at the life-saving difference YOU make!

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

“I was told we didn’t have much time... looking back, I think the doctor was talking about hours.” —



The Race to Save Alan's Life

Alan lost his voice, his hair, half his body weight, and he was hours from losing his life. But your generosity puts the very best, life-saving, cancer-fighting technology into the hands of our nurses and doctors. As dire as his diagnosis was, your kindness gave Alan a fighting chance, and he’s forever grateful...

You feel invincible in your 20s, don’t you? That’s part of the reason Alan brushed his symptoms aside for so long.

He managed his pain until he was on 12 strong painkillers just to get through the day. But when he started having stabbing pains in his stomach, his mam insisted he go to A&E.

After a few hours, Alan had enough. *“I’m going home,”* he told his mam, *“I’m fine...”*

But Alan wasn’t fine. In fact, he was the furthest from ‘fine’ you can possibly be.

Had his mam not told him — *like only your mammy can* — that he was ‘going nowhere’, Alan wouldn’t be alive today.

Because that very day, Alan was diagnosed with aggressive stage 3 testicular cancer. And it was spreading like wildfire.

“The consultant was surprised I was

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On page 3: A special THANK YOU from Nurse Pat for protecting hearts...

Alan's story, continued from cover...

still alive, after looking at my scans," says Alan.

The Fight to Survive

He was transferred to the Mater's Intensive Care Unit

refused to give up.

"My next memory," says Alan, "is waking up in ICU. I had no hair, no voice, and there were tubes everywhere."

Alan was alive, he was stable, but his fight to survive was just beginning...

Your Love In Each and Every Step...

Alan had to learn how to walk and talk again. It was a long road to recovery, but your kindness was with him every step of the way.

In December, Alan was given the all-clear.

“

I know I wouldn't be here talking to you now without the incredible staff at the Mater – they never gave up on me, they brought me back. I'll be forever grateful. Thank you!"

"My aggressive cancer was fought with aggressive chemo. I'd lost 35 kgs, and my lungs kept collapsing."

But slowly, thanks to you, Alan made progress. "The chemo was working, and I was slowly coming off the oxygen."

Alan believes with his whole heart that he owes his life to the Mater, and to caring people like you who were beside him in his hour of greatest need. And he's forever grateful.

Your love is a gift beyond all measure. Thank you!



and put on life-support.

He was so sick his family was called in to say their final goodbyes. But Alan's made of strong stuff. And his doctors

THANK YOU... For Protecting Hearts and Providing Answers

Not long ago, we asked for your help to fund a new gene-screening machine. Because of your compassion for people like Alma, who lost her son to an undetected heart condition, we're well on our way to bringing this life-saving technology to the Mater. Thank you...

"It's an emotional place," says Pat, a nurse at the Mater's Family Heart Screening Clinic.

"Many people who come to the clinic have had a sudden death in the family," says Pat. "On top of grief, they're worried they might have a dangerous gene. We had a lady recently who lost her brother. We screened the family. It turned out that she, her

mam and her sisters all have the gene which caused his heart condition. But now we know **we can protect them.**"

There are many tears here at the clinic. But there are tears of relief too, thanks to you... "It's wonderful when you can put a person's fears to bed," says Pat.

The new technology your



"Thank you, thank you for your generosity — you could be writing a cheque for 20 euro or 200, it all comes together to make such a difference."

— Nurse Pat, the Mater's Family Heart Screening Clinic



“

Without the Mater's Family Heart Screening Clinic, I don't know where we'd be... They keep us safe." — Alma

kindness is helping bring to the Mater will save lives. Because the more people we can screen, the more hearts we can protect with life-long medication and monitoring.

Thank you for protecting hearts and saving lives.



Your Hospital, A History: The Mater's First Patient

From our very first patient to the hundreds of people in our wards and waiting rooms right now — kindness like yours has been at the very heart of our hospital for more than a century...

It's 1861. A desperate time for the people of Ireland. Thousands fleeing the famine are living in Dublin's tenement slums. And, there's barely a person in Ireland with access to proper healthcare.

But on 24th September, almost 163 years ago — thanks to ordinary, extraordinarily kind people like yourself — the Mater Hospital opens its doors.

The first patient... a **Mr William Rickard**. He's aged 50, from Co. Meath, and he spends 384...

The original two-inch thick, leather-bound registry of patients from 1861



The First Patients...

William Rickard, aged 50, from County Meath, spent 384 days in hospital.

21-year-old woman from Dublin admitted with 'acute rheumatism.'

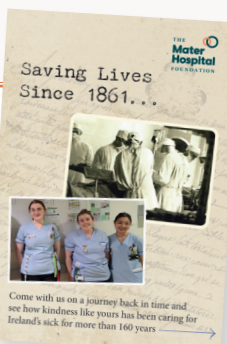
70-year-old man from Dublin admitted with 'chronic bronchitis.'

...days recovering at the Mater. He would be the first of 195 patients that first year. They were suffering from everything from bronchitis to cholera and tuberculosis.

Thank you for being the heart of our hospital, now and always.

Want to hear more history?

Tick the box on your reply form to receive your free copy of "Saving Lives Since 1861...", and find out how, with a **gift in your Will**, your empathy can live on for hundreds of years to come. **Thank you!**



Because of your generous heart...

Twelve New Ventilators at the Mater



Mother of two, Elaine, suffers from an auto-immune disease. She needed the lifesaving help of a ventilator after serious transplant surgery —
Thanks to you, she got it!

Last year, we asked for your help to equip our ICU with twelve new life-saving ventilators...

It was a call you answered with your generous heart.

Thanks to you, the new ventilators are up and running in our ICU right now — breathing life into people's lungs as we speak.

These are serious machines. Needed by only the most critically-ill patients — people who've suffered brain and spine injuries, heart attacks, stroke, collapsed lungs, respiratory failure, sepsis, and people like Elaine recovering from major surgery.

Thank you for saving more lives like Elaine's and for standing beside our nurses and doctors every day.

Springtime Wish List



We asked Mater staff like Nurse Clodhna here what would help her provide even better patient care, and this is what they're wishing for this spring. Could you help?

♥ Finger traps x 3 — €1,094 each

These tiny devices improve the care of elderly people who come to A&E with wrist fractures by preventing the need for a full anaesthetic and two nurses' precious time.

♥ Hand-held Dynamometer x 1 — €462

With one of these, nurses could diagnose 'sarcopenia' in elderly patients — a progressive disease which, *if diagnosed*, can be managed to prevent frailty and fractures.

♥ Counselling sessions x 77 — €60 each

There's no dedicated funding for this service. It's only available to patients who've received a terminal 'pulmonary hypertension' diagnosis — because of caring people like yourself.
Please will you help fund it for another year?

Use the reply enclosed to donate, or go to materfoundation.ie/donate — Thank you!