

HEART OF THE MATER

A look at the life-saving difference YOU make!

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2024

How Your Kindness Brought Tara 'Back from the Brink'...

It was 'just the flu'. Or so Tara thought. A few weeks later, she'd lost her right leg and very nearly her life. But despite everything, Tara feels 'lucky' — lucky to be alive and to have been blessed with your kindness when it mattered most...

It was in the back of the ambulance on the way to the Mater that Tara suffered her first of **eight** cardiac arrests.

She doesn't remember much after that...

Tara had 'myocarditis' — an inflammation of the heart. And she went downhill fast with double pneumonia, organ failure and sepsis. Tara was so ill she was placed on an ECMO machine to take over her heart and lung function.

Her family were called in to say their final goodbyes to Tara.



It's in desperate moments like this that your compassion means so much.



“You brought me back from the brink... and even though I had my leg amputated, in a lot of ways it's been a positive experience because it's given me a new appreciation for life...

Thank you!”

— Tara —

Because it's your generosity that puts the very best, life-saving equipment into the hands of Mater nurses and doctors. and gives people like Tara a fighting chance.

Without your love, Tara might not be here today.

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Page 3: Can you imagine an Ireland without the Mater? How kindness like yours came to the rescue 100 years ago...

Your kindness gives people like Tara the best care they could hope for when they need it most... Thank you!

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A second chance, thanks to you...

For days Tara showed no signs of improvement. **But just when all hope felt lost, Tara rallied.**

She was alive. But it wasn't all good news...

Tara had developed clots in her legs. And while doctors managed to save the left leg, the right one had to be amputated.

Ever the optimist, Tara says her amputation was like a new start — "I felt like I was being reborn... it's given me a new appreciation for life that I didn't have before."

The friend you'd never forget...

Your kindness helped save Tara's life, and she was determined not to waste a single second.

She's travelling the world and not long ago, **Tara sent photos of an extra special friend, Mosh...**

...the first elephant in the world to be fitted with a custom-made prosthetic leg.

When Tara heard about her, she travelled to Thailand to



A meeting of hearts, minds and prosthetic legs...! Thank you for saving Tara's life and for bringing these two beautiful survivors together...

meet Mosh...

Tara wanted to share this special moment with you, and to thank you for helping to bring her 'back from the brink.'

For giving Tara a second chance to travel the world, meet friends like Mosh...

Your Love Heals Hearts

Husband. Violinist. Marathon runner. Well now Ray can add 'open-heart surgery survivor' to his long list of achievements, thanks to you...

When Ray's heart murmur turned into a critical emergency, your kindness helped provide the very best rehabilitation and aftercare that helped him heal after life-saving surgery.

For your love and thoughtful support of the Mater, Ray is so very grateful...



"Cardiac rehab at the Mater helped rebuild my life - I'll be forever grateful. Thank you!"

Thank you for protecting precious hearts like Ray's!



When the Mater Was Saved By Her Patients...

The 1920s were a turbulent time. By 1923, the Mater — which had stood as a reassuring presence to the people of Ireland for generations — was in financial difficulty. This is how caring people like yourself came to the Mater's rescue...

The Mater cared for hundreds of injured soldiers during the revolutionary wars, but by 1923 it faced financial collapse. By then, our doors had been open 62 years. But in her hour of need, it was the people of Ireland who rallied to save their beloved hospital.

A 'monster carnival' kicked off the fundraising efforts—sweepstakes,

concerts by the Dublin Philharmonic, and even a performance by the Vatican choir.

When John McCormack, a celebrated Irish tenor living in America, heard of the Mater's trouble back home, he wrote — "I intend to arrange a concert solely on its [The Mater's] behalf. God bless the Mater. It is a gift to the Nation."

It's a story of love and resilience that speaks to one of our most fundamental and enduring values here in Ireland — *caring for people when they're sick.*

It was generosity like yours that saved the Mater 100 years ago. And it's your kindness that makes the Mater what it is today...



Mater Misericordiae Hospital.

...The Next 100 Years and You
If you'd like to learn more about the history of your hospital, and how you can consider a gift to the Mater Hospital Foundation in your Will, tick the 'YES' box on your reply form.



A few Minutes with the Mater's Mental Health Team...



St Aloysius team, L - R: Aideen McDonnell, Aideen Kelly, Siobhan Keeney, Brendan Culleton.

The team at the Mater's St Aloysius Ward care for people with some of the most severe mental health issues in the whole of Ireland — patients suffering from severe depression, schizophrenia and psychosis.

“We have a lot of patients that would have been in institutional care, either as a child or even as an adult,” says mental health nurse, Aideen Kelly. “So we try to create an environment as different as possible to that — homely and comfortable with sofas rather than hard waiting-room style chairs.

And that's especially helpful for nurses. “Being able to sit next to your patient on a sofa — somewhere comfortable, not clinical. It helps when they're distressed. It's sensory. When you're comfortable, you feel calmer, don't you?”

Understanding of mental health issues has come a long way. But still today, people face stigma.

Aideen and the team are grateful beyond words for the understanding and compassion you show for their patients. Thank you! ❤️

St Aloysius's *Wish List*

The team is desperate to refurbish their activities room. Will you help transform this room from clinical to comfy, calming and cosy?

- ✓ 1 x Comfy Three-Seater Sofa for the Day Room — €1,048
- ✓ High Back Armchair (2 needed) — €1,000 each
- ✓ Dining chairs (16 needed) — €95 each



↑ This is the room that could use your magic touch

Enclosed is a reply form and freepost envelope, or go to materfoundation.ie/donate — Thank you for giving if you can!