

LIVABILITY IRELAND

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**FRIDAY 24th
SEPTEMBER
2010**

**ANNUAL
FUNDRAIS-
ING DINNER
DANCE**

Livability Ireland is hosting a Fundraising Dinner Dance in the Westville Hotel, Enniskillen on 24th September 2010 commencing at 7:30pm. Music will be provided by the Ernesiders Jazz Band and Sally's Hoodz and the evening will include a 4-course meal.

All funds raised through the event will be used to support disabled people in South Asia through our work.

Tickets for the event are priced at £40 / €50 and are available from the Enniskillen office located in Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Place and online through

http://www.mycharity.ie/event/annual_dinner_dance/

A raffle will also take place during the evening with a Dell laptop computer as first prize.

If you require any further information or wish to purchase tickets please contact Heather Gott on 028 66320091 or Maggie Muldoon on 07889166613 or email info@livability.ie

GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE FISHER FOUNDATION



Recipients of the Fisher Foundation Awards 2010 presented by Lauri McCusker, Fermanagh Trust

L-R James Arnold, Hannah Steward volunteering with Kindfund in Kenya, Lauri McCusker and Maggie Muldoon, Livability Ireland

Livability Ireland is delighted to announce that we were successful in our application for funding to the Fermanagh based Trust, The Fisher Foundation. The Fisher Foundation was established by Fisher Engineering as a permanent memorial to the lives of Mark, Emma and Bertie Fisher who died following an air accident on the 21st January 2001.

It seeks to commemorate Bertie and Mark's interest in rallying and Emma's interest and commitment to supporting poor people in the developing world. Emma spent the summer of 1996 volunteering with the Leprosy Mission in India. A grant of £2,000 has been awarded to Livability Ireland to support the work of our partner organisation in Bangladesh, the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP).

Following 30 years of service provision to people with disabilities in Bangladesh, many of whom are very often the poorest of the poor, CRP is now looking to the next 5 years. In particular how it can continue to develop and provide essential rehabilitation services in an environment where demand is increasing and funds decreasing. From its humble beginnings, today CRP provides on average, treatment and rehabilitation to 1650 adults and children as in-patients and up to 20,000 out-patients each year. It also runs a training institute and a large community based rehabilitation programme. Livability Ireland has worked with CRP since 1995 and we are grateful to The Fisher Foundation for helping us to help CRP to continue to develop the exemplary work it is carrying out for the disabled and poor people of Bangladesh.



Kanak Mani Dixit, Founder, SIRC, Nepal on the right

PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR CHAIRMAN OF SIRC, NEPAL

We are delighted to share with you the news that the Founder of the Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre in Nepal, Mr Kanak Mani Dixit, has been awarded the prestigious Prince Claus Award of Holland. Kanak received the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to public debate and for creating opportunities that enable South Asians to connect, interact and network on both a national and international level.

Kanak is a recognised journalist and activist in Nepal and the founding editor of a prestigious cultural journal in Nepal entitled "Himalaya".

A keen mountain walker Kanak had an accident whilst walking in the Annapurna region in August 2000 and suffered a spinal injury. Although Kanak made a good recovery from his injury, his accident exposed to him the lack of facilities available to those sustaining a spinal injury in Nepal. In 2001 Kanak with some friends and colleagues came together and formed the Spinal Injury Sangha, a non profit organisation offering services to those with a spinal injury in Nepal. It was apparent that there was a need for a rehabilitation centre in order to improve the quality of life for those with a spinal injury and their families. This led to the opening of the Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre (SIRC) in 2002, a rehabilitation facility offering occupational therapy, physiotherapy, vocational training and other services which enable patients to reintegrate successfully back into their communities.

SIRC provides an essential service in Nepal, benefitting many people throughout the country who without the facility would be unable to have such a good quality of life.

It has taken a strong team of dedicated people to achieve all that has been accomplished to date and make the Centre so successful. However, Kanak has been the driving force behind the provision of facilities for people with spinal cord injuries and remains a strong influence in pushing the Centre forward. We congratulate Kanak on winning this prestigious award that has recognised his contribution to Nepal society. Well Done Kanak!!



FOCUS ON MAN KRISHNA KHAYAMALI, EX-PATIENT OF SIRC

Man Krishna Khayamali in his candle making business

Man Krishna Khayamali from Bhaktapur, Nepal was a small-scale farmer who supplemented his income by working as a labourer. On 9th November 2007, while working at a construction site, Man Krishna fell from a height and injured his spine. After the accident he was taken to a hospital in Kathmandu where he underwent preliminary treatment for his spinal injury. He was then referred to Livability Ireland's partner organisation, the Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre (SIRC) and was admitted to the Centre on 12th December 2007.

When Man Krishna was admitted to SIRC he was in poor physical condition with a grade II pressure sore, bowel and bladder management problems, and on complete bed rest. He was also suffering from depression as he knew that he would not be able to continue working as a farmer and labourer and therefore would be unable to support his family.

However, after two months at SIRC, with a programme of intensive treatment and rehabilitation, his condition improved considerably and he was discharged on 11th February 2008.

At the time of leaving SIRC he was wheelchair mobile, his pressure sore had healed, he had received bowel and bladder training, he was able to walk short distances and he had also attended vocational training in candle making.

Last year on 24th June 2009, SIRC's social welfare team visited Man Krishna as a part of the Centre's Home Visit Programme. SIRC learnt that Man Krishna has been able to successfully reintegrate into his home environment returning to live happily with his family. Following his discharge from SIRC Man Krishna has utilized the vocational training skills he learnt as a patient there, and has set up a small-scale candle-making business. He also supports this income by knitting and selling woollen hats and sweaters. Physically, Man Krishna was also doing well. He had no pressure sores or other such complications, and while dependent on his wheelchair for most activities he was able to walk around his home. Despite his initial worries, Man Krishna has been able to start life anew. Man Krishna has been able to reintegrate into his community fully and support his family through the efforts of SIRC. It is apparent that without the treatment that Man Krishna received the outcome following the accident would have resulted in him leading a very different life.



L-R Maggie Muldoon, Patience Holt, Valerie Taylor and Dorothy Pendry

AN EVENING WITH VALERIE TAYLOR, OBE



The Ernesiders Jazz Band with Valerie Taylor

Livability Ireland hosted an evening of awareness raising on 18th June 2010 at Fermanagh House with Miss Valerie Taylor (OBE), Founder and Co-ordinator of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) Bangladesh.

The evening commenced with Stephen Muldoon, Head of Overseas Development, providing an overview of Livability Ireland's involvement with CRP. As many supporters are aware Livability Ireland has worked in partnership with CRP for many years developing rehabilitation services, and it was at CRP in Bangladesh where Stephen and Maggie Muldoon first began their overseas work. Since that initial visit in 1995, Livability Ireland has continued to support the work that CRP carries out, helping them to develop their rehabilitation services, organising staff training and helping with fundraising.

After Stephen's introduction Valerie gave a presentation on the history of CRP and how it has evolved in recent years. The presentation was extremely informative and showed how far the centre has come and the impact that the services now available have had for the people of Bangladesh sustaining a spinal injury and other disabilities.

Following a question and answer session, Lauri McCusker, Director of Fermanagh Trust, in his closing remarks paid tribute to the work of Livability Ireland in bringing global issues to a local level. Supporters then enjoyed refreshments and music was provided by the Ernesiders Jazz Band. Greetings cards produced by patients at CRP were sold, together with plants and homemade preserves, which were kindly donated by Mrs Dorothy Pendry and family.

The evening was a great success and through donations received on the evening and the sale of goods, we raised a total of £699.20 which will be used by CRP to provide services for poor people. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the event and for making the evening such a success. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Ernesiders Jazz Band for the entertainment and everyone who donated refreshments for the event. It was a real pleasure to meet up with Valerie during her busy fundraising tour of UK.

NEW E-LEARNING PROJECT WITH ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE TRUST DENMARK

We are delighted to announce that a joint funding application to Access to Healthcare, Denmark made by Livability Ireland and our partner the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre in New Delhi, was successful we have been awarded a grant of €200,000 to develop a spinal cord injury (SCI) management e-learning resource in India.

Throughout Asia there is a lack of awareness and knowledge among medical professionals about the basic principles of comprehensive management of SCI. This is particularly so in rural parts of the country. Practitioners in India have limited access to good quality, up to date teaching and educational materials and resources about comprehensive SCI management and rehabilitation.

This 2 year project aims to develop a web based teaching and educational resource which will educate and increase the skills of those responsible for patient management.

By developing this resource it will inevitably lead to improved services for patients with SCI throughout India. It is estimated that there are 40,000 people a year sustaining spinal cord injury in India.

The e-Learning project will allow professionals working with people with SCI across India to improve their knowledge and skills in a most cost effective and practical manner considering that the internet is now widely available across India in both urban and rural settings.

It is envisaged that when this e-learning resource is developed and piloted in India, it can then also be rolled out and used in other developing countries.

This collaborative project between Livability Ireland, ISIC New Delhi, University of Sydney Australia, the Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN) and the International

MYCHARITY.TY.IE

Livability Ireland has recently signed up to www.mycharity.ie - a fundraising website for supporters, volunteers and sponsors.

Using mycharity.ie is one of the easiest, straightforward ways of fundraising for the charity. All funds raised through mycharity.ie will come directly to Livability Ireland to support our overseas work with disabled people in Asia.

For further information or to sponsor Livability Ireland visit us via the link

www.mycharity.ie/charity/livabilityireland



IN MEMORY GIFT

Livability Ireland gratefully acknowledges receipt of a donation of £2,000 in memory of David Newnham, from his family. David, who passed away on 30th September 2009, was the founding Chairman of Livability Ireland (formerly John Grooms Ireland). Having worked with disabled people for most of his career, David was instrumental in developing the overseas programme and played a pivotal role in its development and growth. Over the years, David visited the overseas projects in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam and attended the annual ASCoN Conferences on a number of occasions.

On these overseas visits, David spent much time with staff and patients learning of their needs, their culture and their families. He could also see the real and tangible benefits of the working partnership of Livability Ireland with local organisations and partners in Asia.

David was particularly encouraged by the work being carried out by our partners in Bangladesh and Nepal for people living with spinal injury there. The Newnham family's In Memory Gift will be used to enable poor patients in Nepal to receive comprehensive rehabilitation services, so that on discharge they can return home to their families and as valued members of the community. We take this opportunity to thank the Newnham family for this generous donation and fitting tribute to David.



David Newnham (right) with David Constantine (Motivation UK) performing at the cultural event during the 5th ASCoN Conference held in Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam in 2005

FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

Livability Ireland would like to thank Maxwell Concrete for their kind donation of a cattle trough which was raffled at the Fintona Show earlier this year. A total of £390 was raised for Livability Ireland's overseas programme. Congratulations to Mr Desmond Knox, winner of the cattle trough

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th September 2010	Fundraising Dinner Dance and Grand Draw, Westville Hotel, Enniskillen
29th - 31st October 2010	Joint 49th ISCoS, 9th ASCoN and 10th SCS Annual Scientific Meeting New Delhi India
1st - 3rd November 2010	Workshop on Comprehensive SCI Management New Delhi India
3rd - 5th December 2010	Abara Disability Film Festival, Dublin and Enniskillen

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