

PRESS RELEASE
15 November 2007

Susie Long Hospice Fund – public meeting in Kilkenny

The launch of the Susie Long Hospice Fund takes place at the Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel, Ormonde St, Kilkenny on Friday 16th November at 7.30pm. The launch will be chaired by Justine McCarthy of the Sunday Tribune and attended by Joe Duffy (RTE), Conor MacLiam (Susie's husband), Liz Coyle (Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross), medical professionals, the Fund Steering Committee (friends of Susie Long) and members of the public.

The fund has been set up in memory of Susie to provide the highest possible quality of end-of-life care for patients and their families through the establishment of a 10-bed hospice in Kilkenny, by raising funds, increasing awareness of the need and benefits of local hospice care and lobbying Government for support.

Susie Long died of bowel cancer on Friday 12th October 2007. The final weeks of her life were spent in the caring and peaceful environment of Our Lady's Hospice at Harold's Cross in Dublin, the supportive atmosphere of which helped Susie and her family to face the end of her life with a sense of calm.

There is no hospice in Kilkenny.

50%* of people from Kilkenny who die, do so in acute hospitals, in an environment often totally unsuitable to their own needs and the needs of their families, surrounded by noise and trauma and often in overcrowded, public settings. With the provision of a dedicated 10-bed hospice in Kilkenny, the Susie Long Hospice Fund aims for as many people as possible to have the calm, peaceful and supportive environment at the end of their lives which everyone deserves.

Announcing the launch, Sonya Lanigan, Chairperson of the Susie Long Hospice Fund Steering Committee stated "In life, Susie Long was a great campaigner for human rights and believed in access for all to our health system. In her final weeks, her family suffered the added stress of being out of home and travelling to Dublin from Kilkenny to be with her. Our aim, in Susie's memory, is to reduce the stress and suffering of those nearing their end of life, and their families, by establishing a hospice for all in Kilkenny. Every county in Ireland should have one. Some day we may all need hospice care. This is the beginning of our campaign, on Susie's behalf, for Kilkenny".

Christmas cards in aid of the Susie Long Hospice Fund, with illustrations by some of Susie's friends, will be on sale at the launch. They will also go on sale at a number of local retail outlets from Saturday 17th November.

Donations:

Susie Long Hospice Fund
AIB High St, Kilkenny
A/C: 34627051
Sort Code: 93-31-98

*NCRI 2005

ENDS