

PRESS RELEASE
17 December 2007

Susie Long Hospice Fund Fun Run raises EUR2,500

The Fun Run in aid of the Susie Long Hospice Fund, which took place yesterday (Sunday), raised EUR2,500.00. An enthusiastic crowd of over 100 children, adults, babies and grandparents, as well as some serious athletes, gathered at the Dublin Road roundabout at 12 noon for the official start, where they were put under starters orders by Cllr Marie Fitzpatrick, Mayor of Kilkenny, and Cllr Tom Maher, Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council. The participants then ran, jogged, walked, pushed buggies and roller-bladed their way from the Dublin Road to the Castlecomer Road, and back, with all participants returning by 2pm. Sincere thanks to all who gave up their time to take part and support the fund.

The first man home was Niall Lacey from Dunningstown Road, with a time of 31 minutes, while the first woman athlete to finish was Linda Delaney from Beechlawn. Tom Kennedy from Kilmanagh, who is visually impaired, along with his running partner Teresa Daly from Cuffesgrange, were among the first ten athletes to finish the run.

The brainchild of Labour Councillor Sean O hArgain, the Fun Run was co-ordinated by members of the organising team of the Smithwicks road races, led by Paddy Neary, and the Susie Long Hospice Fund Committee. The run was kindly supported by Kilkenny County Council and the Order of Malta, with sincere thanks also to Regan Civil Engineering Contractors and John Mulholland, Director of Services (Roads) at Kilkenny County Council.

The Fun Run is one of many events taking place over the Christmas season in aid of the Susie Long Hospice Fund. Other events include:

Kilkenny College Carol Service, St Canice's Cathedral: Tuesday 18th December 10.30am

Cabaret, Old Charter House, Callan: Sunday 23rd December at 9pm

Sponsored Walk at Gathabawn: St Stephen's Day at 12 noon, organised by North West Kilkenny. Meet from 11.30am at Mackey's Bar in Gathabawn. Two walks, one will be a leisurely four-mile walk, while the other will be a more rigorous eight-mile cross-country walk. Sponsor cards and further info available from Paddy Fitzpatrick (087) 2481710.

New Year's Eve disco in Cleere's with DJ Willie Meighan: Tickets EUR10.00, available from Cleere's.

Bag-packing: Sincere thanks to all who assisted with bag-packing at Dunnes Stores, MacDonagh Junction last week, and to all who donated so generously.

Christmas Cards: The Susie Long Christmas cards have almost completely sold out. The last remaining cards are available in the following outlets:

The Book Centre, High St

Khan's Books, James St

Porter's Newsagents, High St

Rollercoaster Music, Kieran St

The Good Earth, Kieran St

Gardenia (The Garden Centre), John St

Blueberry, Market Yard

The Pumphouse, Parliament St

KCLR96fm

Loughboy Shopping Centre (various outlets)

If you would like further information about any of the fundraising events, please contact the Susie Long Hospice Fund Committee on (087) 1238209.

The Susie Long Hospice Fund has been set up in memory of the late Susie Long 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 increasing awareness of the need and benefits of local hospice care and by lobbying Government for support.

Donations:

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

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