

PRESS RELEASE
03 September 2010

Mayor has high praise for contestants and charities involved in Stars on the Night fundraiser
Cllr Martin Brett, Mayor of Kilkenny, had high praise for the local musicians and singers who are gallantly taking on famous roles for the forthcoming **Stars on the Night** fundraiser in aid of three charities: The Susie Long Hospice Fund, The Hope Foundation and the Niall Mellon Township Trust. The Mayor was speaking at the press launch of the event at Langtons last night. **Stars on the Night** takes place at The Set Theatre, Langtons, John Street, Kilkenny on Sunday 3rd October at 8pm. Tickets cost EUR10.00 and are available from Rollercoaster Records, Langtons Hotel and on the door. Further details are available from www.susielonghospice.com

Similar to the well-known 'Stars In Their Eyes' television show, each participant will appear in the costume of a well-known singer to perform one of their most famous songs in what promises to be a great night's entertainment. There will be four acts representing each of the three charities, in all 12 performers, with an overall prize for the 'best in show' on the night. In addition, as each contestant has undertaken to raise at least EUR500.00 for their chosen charity, a special prize will be presented to the performer who has raised the most funds.

While the full line-up for Stars on the Night is being finalised, it has been confirmed that Cllr Malcolm Noonan, whose most recent role was as Mayor of Kilkenny, will be swapping his robes of office for the signature black of Johnny Cash for his rendition of 'Cry, Cry, Cry'. A group from a well-known bank are going all Rocky Horror with their version of 'The Time Warp', while 'Eminem' promises to 'Lose Yourself'. Reincarnations will also be in abundance, with performances by 'June Carter Cash' and none other than The King himself, 'Elvis Presley'. With 'Bruce Springsteen', 'Tina Turner' and 'Shirley Bassey' also in contention, this is a night not to be missed.

Participating contestants include:

For the Susie Long Hospice Fund: Malcolm Noonan as Johnny Cash; Ellen Stapleton as June Carter Cash; Kevin O'Dwyer as Elvis and Shane O'Dwyer as Bruce Springsteen.

In The Hope Foundation corner will be Clare Kilkenny as Irene Cara, Niamh Holland as Sarah Brightman, Willie Welsh as Phil Lynott and Amy Mulholland as Shirley Bassey;

For the Niall Mellon Township Trust, performers will be: Fergal Miller as Eminem, Cathy Fitzgerald as Tina Turner and a group from Banking 365 as the Rocky Horror Show.

MC for the night will be the inimitable George Candler.

At the launch, some of the participants gave the crowd a sample of what to expect on the night, with impromptu performances by Willie 'Phil Lynott' Welsh, Shane 'The Boss' O'Dwyer and duet from Johnny and June Cash, aka Malcolm Noonan and Ellen Stapleton.

Speaking at the launch, Cllr Martin Brett, Mayor of Kilkenny had high praise for all those involved: "It always surprises me the lengths people will go to and the amount of effort ordinary people put in to help others. Whether at home or overseas, with The Hope Foundation who are doing great work in Calcutta, the Niall Mellon Township Trust in the townships of South Africa, and the Susie Long Hospice Fund here in Kilkenny, the service that all of you give is worthy of our thanks. I really believe that the work that you do for the benefit of others will come back to you one hundred-fold. My congratulations to you all and my very best wishes for great success with Stars on the Night".

The **Susie Long Hospice Fund** (SLHF) was set up in October 2007 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, for the people of Kilkenny and Carlow. The Fund is meeting this challenge through fundraising, increasing awareness of the need and benefits of local hospice care and by lobbying Government for support. Donations can be made directly to the fund at AIB, High St, Kilkenny, Account No: 3462705, Sort code: 93-31-98. The Susie Long Hospice Fund is a registered charity, number CHY17950. Further details from www.susielonghospice.com

The Hope Foundation was founded in 1999 to help the street children of Calcutta, who are born into extreme poverty. Many are abandoned and/or abused. The Hope Foundation works with these children and their families, providing safe and caring homes, schools, crèches, clinics and a Children's Hospital, as well as providing vocational training, coaching centres and HIV/AIDS programmes. See www.hopefoundation.ie

The **Niall Mellon Township Trust** was set up in 2002 to build quality social housing for impoverished families living in shacks in the townships of South Africa. The Trust operates a year-round house building programme and is now the largest charity provider of social housing in South Africa, having built 15,000 homes to date. Over 10,000 volunteers from Ireland and South Africa have taken part in the building blitzes and in 2009 the Trust initiated a skills development programme, training young people from the townships in a wide range of construction disciplines. Further details are available from www.nmtownshiptrust.com