

For immediate release

The Friends of Marymount University Hospital and Hospice Chosen as MSD in Brinny's 'Neighbour of Choice'

- Hospital fundraisers to receive funding of €12,000 to enhance charity shop

19th February 2015: Cork fundraising group *The Friends of Marymount University Hospital and Hospice* has been chosen to receive funding as part of MSD in Brinny's Neighbour of Choice initiative, part of the company's dedicated corporate responsibility programme. *The Friends of Marymount University Hospital and Hospice* will receive €12,000 to improve their charity shop at 87 Oliver Plunkett Street.

MSD's Neighbour of Choice programme is a global initiative that provides support to projects that address the needs of local communities. A core part of MSD's employee volunteer programme, Neighbour of Choice demonstrates MSD's ongoing commitment to the communities in which it operates.

The Friends of Marymount University Hospital and Hospice is a team of 32 unpaid volunteers who fundraise to develop the facilities of the hospital and hospice and maintain essential patient services. The charity shop on Oliver Plunkett Street is a vital part of the group's ongoing fundraising efforts. The funding will enable the charity to expand its shop by purchasing a dedicated charity van, which will be used to promote the charity and a practical resource for use at events and collecting charity donations.

Speaking at the presentation of the grant, Daniel Cowman (Chairman - The Friends of Marymount) said, "This generous contribution from MSD will enable us to purchase a much-needed van for your charity shop, and ultimately, raise more money to support patients at Marymount University Hospital and Hospice and their families. All funds we raise are given directly to the hospital and hospice, so we would be unable to purchase the van without their support. For this, we would like to say a huge thank you to MSD."

Matt Corcoran, Site Manager of MSD's facility in Brinny, said: "We are delighted to support such a wonderful organisation that provides much needed support to the patients of Marymount University Hospital and Hospice and their families. MSD is committed to helping improve health and wellbeing in our communities, and together with our employees and local partners, we are privileged to support projects that will make a real difference now and into the future."

As a global leader in healthcare with a strong presence in Ireland, MSD is committed to leading in the implementation of best practice by addressing critical social, environmental and economic challenges both nationally and internationally. In recent years, MSD has become a leader in corporate responsibility in Ireland through a focus on four priority areas - Access to Health; Environmental Sustainability; Employees; and Ethics & Transparency. Over the past two years alone MSD has contributed over €4 million to support worthwhile and sustainable causes in these areas.

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About MSD

MSD, known as Merck in the United States and Canada has operations in more than 140 countries. In Ireland, MSD employs over 2,000 people across its five sites in Dublin, Carlow, Cork, Tipperary and Wicklow. Its extensive Irish operations encompass manufacturing, commercial and marketing facilities.

MSD is a leader in healthcare, dedicated to helping the world be well through a wide range of innovative health solutions. This includes the development, production and distribution of prescription medicines, vaccines and biologic therapies as well as animal health products.

MSD's commitment to research and to increasing access to healthcare across the world is demonstrated by clearly focused policies, far-reaching programmes and life-enhancing partnerships.