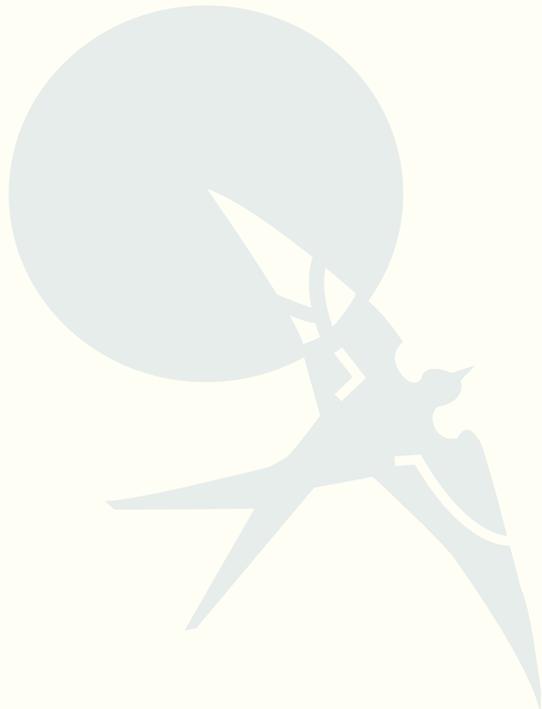


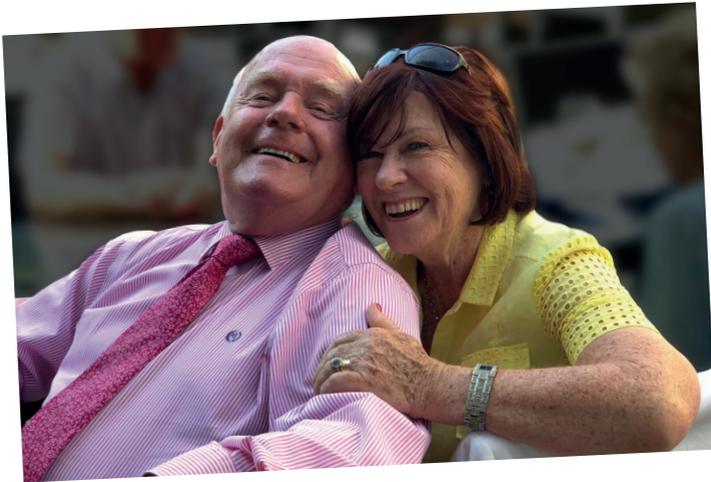


C R Y

Cardiac Risk in the Young
SO YOUNG. SO FIT. SO ACTIVE... SO SUDDEN.

THE HISTORY OF **CRY** | 2002 - 2019





Michael & Marie Greene, Co-founders of CRY Ireland

The History of CRY

So that's how it all started...

Downton Abbey star, Allen Leech, remembers fondly his friend from school, Peter Greene, from Raheny, Dublin; “My friend Pete, who passed away at 15 years of age from SADS, is never far from my thoughts, and it makes me very proud to help bring further support (as a CRY Ambassador) and awareness to this wonderful charity set up by Peter’s parents Michael and Marie.”



Peter Greene, October 1980 – June 1996

Peter’s parents sought answers and explanation as to why their healthy son died so suddenly in June 1996. They were unhappy with the lack of information they received in Ireland, and their search for a better understanding led them to the UK Charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY UK).

As their search continued, unknown to them at the time, Consultant Cardiologist Dr David Mulcahy, across the city in the newly established Tallaght Hospital around

1998, was equally concerned; “I started getting referrals of young people who had lost a family member to sudden cardiac death, with sometimes whole families referred. Some of these deaths were due to inherited heart disease, such as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy”, Dr Mulcahy recalls. “With the strain of numbers at the outpatient level, I increasingly resorted to seeing these individuals or families in the late evenings in my

office, with those generating the most worry being referred to Professor Bill McKenna, an expert in Inherited Heart Diseases, at the Heart Hospital in London.

“What was clear to me”, Dr Mulcahy concluded, “was that inherited heart disease and sudden death in young people was poorly understood, and that there were no specific resources or services to deal with such tragic events”.

Meanwhile the Greens had concluded that a service like CRY (UK) was needed in Ireland and in 2002, Michael and Marie Greene, with the support of family and friends, established CRY (Ireland).

Immediately the search for funds and premises was underway.



Dr David Mulcahy (*above*)
and Dr Deirdre Ward (*right*)



Around this time, at a meeting of Consultant Cardiologists in Fitzwilliam Tennis Club in 2004, Dr Mulcahy proposed the development of a national unit for the investigation and treatment of individuals and families at risk of sudden death, and the assessment of families who had lost a member to sudden death.

Subsequently, consultants at the Mater Hospital organised a national meeting on all the issues surrounding inherited cardiac diseases and sudden death. At this meeting David Mulcahy met with Michael

Greene for the first time, and they agreed that it would be an excellent “symbiosis” to set up a Clinical Service at Tallaght, supported by the charity CRY.

At that time, one of Tallaght Hospital’s registrars, Dr Deirdre Ward, was studying at the Heart Hospital, London, acquiring high-level expertise in all forms of inherited cardiac diseases. After a series of representations to the hospital board, Marie and Michael Greene and friends, along with David Mulcahy set about raising funds to support a new, dedicated service.

As these years of research, lobbying and fundraising continued, two women - Dr Deirdre Ward and Lucia Ebbs - emerged to shape the management and delivery of the charity’s main aims. Dr Deirdre Ward, fully trained in London, returned as Consultant Cardiologist at Tallaght, and was appointed the Director of the new service, while long-time associate of the Greens, Lucia Ebbs, was appointed Administrator (and eventually CEO).

The new service, launched in January 2007, initially operated in any spare clinic space in the hospital. Because of the specific requirements for same day investigations and lengthy consultations the service quickly moved to evening

and weekend clinics with the CRY (Ireland) charity funding Technician/Physiologist sessions. Negotiations began with the hospital to put in place a dedicated unit.

With significant donations of €200,000 from the Hospital Volunteers and €200,000 from the Adelaide Society, and with other donations, a purpose-built Portacabin to house the new centre was opened in November 2008. The Charity funded salaries for a Nurse, Cardiac Technician, Administrator, and most of the equipment for the new centre. Marie Greene, along with other Trustees, set about establishing the Family Support Programme, providing free counselling services that would be offered alongside screening and assessment. *Lift-off!*

The Centre for Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRYP) was officially opened by An Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald, on 10th November 2008.

Dr Ward and Lucia and the small team worked tirelessly and successfully to promote the services of the Centre, quickly getting referrals from all over the country. The CRY charity funded the whole programme, with most of its funds coming from families

who had availed of the charity's support.

When Tallaght University Hospital assumed responsibility for paying salaries for the medical staff in 2016, the charity felt energised to plan creatively for the future...

Since April 2012 the Centre runs a Family Clinic in collaboration with our Pediatric Cardiology Colleagues, initially Dr David Coleman, since 2015 Dr Terry Prendiville, and in 2018 augmented by Dr Mark Walsh. The Family Clinic caters for families across all age groups, and to date significant numbers of patients ranging in ages from 3 months to 60 years have been evaluated through this initiative.

This service is the first of its kind in Ireland and (as is the case with our adult service), uniquely provides a same day evaluation where all necessary tests can be performed and the results discussed with one or both Consultants at a single clinic visit.

Again, serendipity and good strategic partnership-building led to the charity's most ambitious undertaking since its inception; a fully staffed, modern, bespoke facility

to replace the aging and inadequate portacabin. An alignment of a variety of initiatives in 2017/18 has resulted in the opening of the new All Island CRY Centre at Tallaght, in November 2019.

The Private/Public Partnership of Tallaght University Hospital (funding a 10-year lease of prestigious, ground floor space), the HSE (Minister of Health, Simon Harris, committing funding for additional 7 staff), and CRY committing to raising an additional €880,000 for fit and kit out), marked a major strategic collaborative development for CRY.

The Board of Trustees welcomed the opportunity of the ground floor, prestigious location at the entrance to the Hospital, but were naturally concerned at the financial risk involved in raising such a sum in a short time. On the same day that the Trustees secured the financial commitment for increased medical staff from the Minister, David Mulcahy introduced a very generous anonymous donor whose incredibly generous personal contribution of €200,000.00 imbued the Board with the confidence to undertake the challenge.

Staff numbers have increased from 5 to 13, and the Centre is almost 3 times bigger.

Having accumulated a lamentable waiting list for both new and follow-up patients during the recession, the new expanded service should be able to abolish waiting times within 2 years.



The CRY Centre, 2019

Since its inception in 2002 CRY has raised over €2.5 million, establishing the CRY Centre at Tallaght Hospital, providing screening for over 8,651 patients and the provision of a range of counselling and support services for bereaved families.

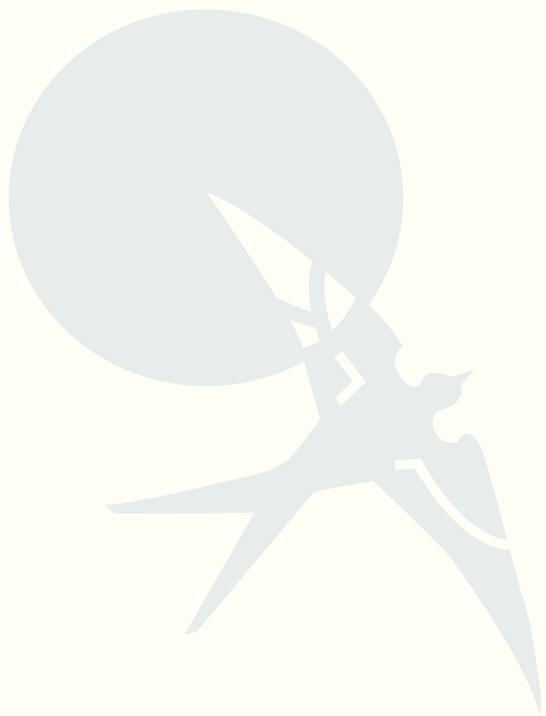
The new state of the art, bespoke centre, with increased staff, will enable CRY to provide a more welcoming environment for families seeking assessment, expert

care and ongoing family support, through an innovative partnership between CRY, the HSE and Tallaght University Hospital.

Sadly, these services will continue to be needed in Ireland, as an average of two young people per week will die of SADS related issues.

But we are indebted to the many volunteers, staff and supporters, especially families - who have worked tirelessly since the late 1990s when David Mulcahy and the Greenes joined forces to create the wonderful organisation that proudly opens its new doors today, Thursday 28th November, 2019, officiated by Minister of Health, Simon Harris, TD.

And so today we remember Peter, and all the young people who lost their lives so suddenly and prematurely, their families and three deceased Trustees - Anne Murphy, Dr Fionnuala Quigley and Tony Durkan - who were treasured members of this incredible team.





CRY

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Reg. Charity No. 14506

CRY Ireland is an autonomous charitable legal entity, entirely separate from Tallaght University Hospital.