**Applications open for the final round of the BAM Ireland new children’s hospital Community Grants Scheme**

**Funds available for community groups, local projects and social enterprises, as part of BAM Ireland’s new children’s hospital Community Benefit Programme**

Applications are now invited for what will be the final round of the BAM Ireland new children’s hospital Community Grant Scheme as part of its Community Benefit Programme. Funds are available for groups, projects and social enterprises based in Dublin 8 and Dublin 12; the areas neighbouring the new children’s hospital.

The BAM Ireland new children’s hospital Community Benefit Fund is a €500,000 voluntary corporate social responsibility contribution made as part of BAM’s tender for the construction of the new children’s hospital and developed in tandem with the project’s Community Benefit Oversight Group, which is made up of statutory, local development and community representatives and who were responsible for the establishment of the Community Benefit Programme.  The purpose of the Community Benefit Programme is to ensure that people living close to the hospital benefit from its development in their locality.

Since the inception of the BAM Community Grants Scheme for the new children’s hospital €150,000 has been awarded to 68 community groups, voluntary and resident associations, schools and sports clubs in the area from the 163 applications received. Some of the community groups which have previously received funding through the BAM Ireland new children’s hospital Community Benefit Fund include:

* **Recovery through Art, Drama and Education (RADE),** in Dublin 8. RADE supports people struggling with substance dependency and help them to improve their quality of life and address their sense of isolation through the use of cultural activities. The group received €3,000 in funding, which helped in purchasing materials for RADE’s garden project, Ó Liath go Glas, which over the course of spring and early summer 2023, transformed RADE’s courtyard into an urban oasis.
* **Mother Tongues,**a social enterprise working to promote multilingualism and intercultural dialogue in Ireland in Dublin 8, received €7,000 which was used to support the group’s Language Explorers programme, a multilingual programme that places a strong emphasis on art and creativity to promote language development, parent-child communication and literacy. Language Explorers welcomes multilingual children, including migrants and Irish bilinguals, to share their experiences and work creatively with their parents or guardians and other children, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all languages.

An educational bursary scheme was also established for students hoping to pursue a career in either healthcare or construction.  Following the final round of funding in the academic year 2023/24, a total of 13 students have been awarded bursaries of €2,000 per year for undergraduate degree courses another 13 young people were awarded bursaries of €2,000 for their one-year post-leaving certified studies.   A further seven students were awarded one-off grants to support initial educational costs.

**Denis McCarthy, Director of BAM Ireland said:**“Over the last three years, the BAM Ireland new children’s hospital Community Benefit Fund has had a direct positive impact on 33 students and 68 voluntary groups, not to mention the people and communities they work with. As the Fund nears its conclusion, we are delighted to invite applications for the final round of the Community Grants Scheme.

“Through our time working on the new children’s hospital project and immersing ourselves in the community, we have been impressed by the community spirit of this area and have witnessed how the BAM Ireland Community Benefit Fund has helped and supported community and voluntary projects”, he added.

**Ingrid McElroy** **Head of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement, CHI and Community Benefit Manager, NPHDB said:**“As the new children’s hospital nears completion, it’s inspiring to already see the legacies forged by groups and individuals who have been recipients of the BAM Ireland new children’s hospital Community Benefit Fund. Whether it is local enterprises or students pursuing their studies, their positive impact on our community is apparent in the thriving areas of Dublin 8 and 12.

“The BAM Ireland new children’s hospital Community Benefit Fund has gone from strength to strength since it was launched and we are delighted to extend the opportunity one more time”, she added.

The deadline for application is **Friday 11th April 2024**.  For more information and to apply, go to: <https://www.newchildrenshospital.ie/community-benefit/bam-community-benefit-fund-for-the-new-childrens-hospital/>

**ENDS//**