

## Evening Echo



Emer Keohane, Carol Crowley, Christine Bartley, Sally Anne Irwin and Anne Moynihan from Mercy Foundation at The Mercy Stars Awards in Cork City Gaol. Picture: Gerard McCarthy

# Mercy Foundation honours volunteers

By DAVID LINNANE

**THE Mercy Hospital Foundation has honoured its brightest stars.**

The Mercy Stars Awards were organised to recognise staff and volunteers who help fund the Mercy Hospital. The award recipients were nominated by patients, their families and staff.

The ceremony was held in Cork City Gaol and the awards were presented by former *Dragons' Den* star Norah Casey. Each winner was presented with a specially commissioned Mercy Star from Keane's Jewellers.

CEO of the Mercy Foundation Michael Sheridan said: "The awards were a huge success. We had so many nominations, making it a real celebration of the individuals that work tirelessly at the Mercy Hospital for patients and their families in Munster.

"We were thrilled to be able to honour the winners on the night, as the roles they play are so important," he added.

- Doctor of the Year: Dr Carl Vaughan, Consultant cardiologist, MUH.
- Nurse of the Year: Peggy O'Keeffe.
- Student Nurse of the Year: Karen O'Halloran.
- Allied Health Professional of the Year: Avril Hallahan.
- Healthcare Team of the Year — Clinical: Nurses of the Warfarin Clinic.
- Team of the Year — Non-clinical: Canteen Team in the Catering

He also thanked the volunteers at the Mercy Hospital Foundation, who he said "give unselfishly of their time to fund raise for the hospital".

"It is through their dedication that funds are raised to support the invaluable work in the hospital," he added.

Among the award winners were Doctor of the Year, Dr Carl Vaughan, Consultant Cardiologist in the Mercy, Denis O'Donovan from Blarney was named as the Volunteer Fund-raiser of the Year, who has raised thousands for

Department — Cork.

- Patient Services Ambassador of the Year: John Mescall, Portering — Cork.
- Volunteer Fund-raiser of the Year: Denis O'Donovan — Cork.
- Volunteer-organised Event of the Year: Make Your Mark on Cancer Walk.
- Our Hero of the Year: Brendan Heffernan.
- The Catherine McAuley Lifetime Achievement Award: Sr Felicitas.

the hospital since his retirement.

Brendan Heffernan from Kerry was named Our Hero of the Year. Sadly, Mr Heffernan passed away earlier this month. The award was collected by his sister, Siobhán Donaldson.

Student Nurse of the Year, Karen O'Halloran, was also presented with a €2,000 bursary provided by Mercy Hospital Foundation chairman Jerry Flynn. The awards were sponsored by Quintas Wealth Management and TOSHMedical.





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Ann Cummins, Kinsale, Susan Walsh, Shanagarry and Emer Daly, Midleton. Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Jennifer, Yvonne and Susan Callanan from Glanmire. Picture: Gerard McCarthy



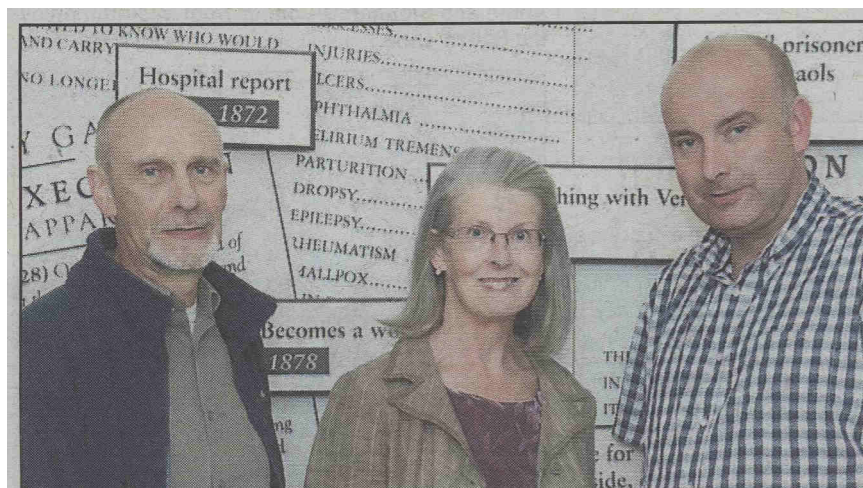


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Sara Morgan, Andrea Murphy, Catherine Barret and Jackie Naughton from the Mercy Hospital.

Picture: Ger McCarthy



John and Rose Meskill with Brian Murphy from Lisgoold.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy