

Thank Heavens for Little Angels
Irish Wheelchair Association's Annual Fundraising Campaign ANGEL DAY

08.11.10: This November promises to be a very busy and memorable month for the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary together with launching the annual Angel Campaign. Niall Quinn of Sunderland FC, and his wife Gillian will be launching the campaign assisted by two very special wheelchair users – Zane who is 5, and Alicia, aged 7.

IWA was founded in 1960 by a small group of wheelchair users committed to improving the lives of people with physical disabilities in Ireland. Fifty years later, IWA continues to provide services nationally, including 57 resource and outreach centres; assisted living services; motoring advice, assessment and tuition; youth services; training and education; holidays; wheelchair sales and rental; peer counselling and sport.

The Association offers services in every county in Ireland. Kathleen Mc Loughlin, CEO of IWA, speaking at today's launch said: "When you support our Angel Campaign you are supporting local services in your county. We rely heavily on this fundraising to allow us to continue to provide vital services in your local community".

Funds raised will be invested immediately into essential services across Ireland. Every euro raised will help avoid dilution of critical support services for people whose lives would be adversely affected without the services IWA provides.

Kathleen Mc Loughlin continued:

"Our Angel campaign allows us to generate the funds we need to provide vital resources and services to many people with disabilities. In these tight times, with reduced funding sources, we are doing our very best to avoid cutting the services we provide to our members in their own homes and in the community. We are asking the general public to support us by buying IWA Angel Pins and Pencils. We are urging people to log on to our site www.iwa/angels.ie and make a donation during the Angel campaign"

The Angel Pins and Pencils which each cost €2 will be sold by a network of volunteers in towns and cities throughout the country. They will be on sale for the month of November and on the official Angel Day, Friday 12th November.

IWA Service User, Patricia Quinn, speaking about Angel Day said:

"I use the Assisted Living Service daily, without this service I would not be able to live the active, independent life I do. I would also be unable to continue living in my own home. With the support of IWA, I can live as normal a life as possible and not be reliant on my family. I often go to the local IWA day centre in Athy and really benefit from my breaks away to IWA's national holiday centre in Roscommon, where I can enjoy my holiday, without worrying about accessibility, assistance or support. The staff there know the level of my needs and requirements. Without the services provided by IWA, I would not have the happy, independent and normal life I do today. The best thing about IWA is the freedom and choice they provide me with".

Angel pins are distributed courtesy of DPD Ireland, the national courier service, who generously support this worthwhile campaign.

For further information or to donate online please contact the Irish Wheelchair Association on 01 8186400, www.iwa.ie or angels@iwa.ie