

**Irish Wheelchair Association announced as charity of choice for this year's
Roscommon Lamb Festival.**

20th April 2011: Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) were recently announced as the supported charity of choice for the Roscommon Lamb Festival 2011, which takes place on the May bank holiday weekend from Wednesday 27th April to Monday 2nd May. The festival which is now in its fourth year is a celebration of family fun, great food, farming, crafts, heritage and community spirit in County Roscommon. Members of IWA will be participating in many of the events which take place over the six days, including the attempt to break the world record for the largest group of knitters in one place.

Over 1000 knitters are required to knit simultaneously for 15 minutes in order to beat the current record. All items created during this time will be donated to IWA's Resource and Outreach Centre (ROC) located in Roscommon. Members of IWA Roscommon will then transform all knitted squares into cushion covers, scarves, blankets and tea cosies and sell them from their Resource and Outreach centre (ROC). In addition IWA volunteers will be selling raffle tickets for the Associations' annual *Super Ford Focus Car Draw* and all proceeds raised during the festival will be used to purchase a new accessible bus to enable IWA members to access services throughout Roscommon.

Angela Gavigan, IWA Roscommon, explained the significance of this partnership for IWA:

"We are delighted to be part of this years' Roscommon Lamb Festival and to be selected as charity of choice for 2011. IWA will benefit greatly from a partnership with the largest festival in Roscommon. I would like to thank the festival committee who have kindly agreed to support the services the Association provides to people with disabilities living in Roscommon. This is also an excellent opportunity for IWA to showcase the supports the Association provides throughout the county."

IWA has a large presence in Roscommon providing supported holidays from IWA's national holiday centre Cuisle, which is located within the 50 acre site of Donamon Castle. The Association which has 20,000 members also operates day centre services from the Roscommon Resource and Outreach Centre which is also situated at Cuisle.

Commenting on the announcement of the new partnership, chairperson of the Roscommon Lamb Festival, Gerry Browne said:

"We are delighted to be affiliated with IWA, the designated charity for the Roscommon Lamb Festival 2011. We are urging people to support their fundraising efforts and purchase a €2 raffle ticket for the Associations' Car Draw.

It is fitting that IWA has been designated charity of choice for this years' festival, as the Association has a significant presence in the county, with both Cuisle the national holiday centre and the Roscommon Resource and Outreach centre based at Donamon Castle, from which essential services are provided to people with physical disabilities."

ENDS

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Notes to Editor:

The Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) was founded in 1960 by a small group of wheelchair users committed to improving the lives of people with physical disabilities in Ireland.

IWA has gone on to become an important provider of quality services to people with limited mobility throughout the country, since its establishment in 1960. Today, our Association is made up of a vibrant network of 20,000 members and 2,300 staff, as well as many dedicated volunteers.

Driven by the needs of our members, IWA is constantly developing and piloting new concepts of service delivery. In all areas of service provision, we are committed to developing and adhering to standards of best practice.

IWA's range of services and programmes includes:

- Advocacy
- Assisted Living Services
- Resource & Outreach Centres (ROCs)
- Independent Living Apartments with support services
- Motoring Advice, Assessment And Tuition
- Parking Permits
- Transport
- Training & Education
- Wheelchair Sales, Rental & Repair
- Sport
- Respite & Holidays
- Housing Support
- Information & Publications
- Youth Services