



**Irish
Hospice
Foundation**

To die and grieve well wherever the place

“Arts & Cultural engagement builds Community?”

Compassionate Culture?

Compassionate Communities in
Palliative and End-of-Life Care Conference

Newry 2024



**Irish
Hospice
Foundation**

To die and grieve well wherever the place

**In the 2020, at the height of
the pandemic, Irish Hospice
Foundation started an Arts
and Cultural Engagement
Programme.....**

Dying, Death, Bereavement & Grief



35,477 deaths
were registered in
Ireland in 2022



83% of these
deaths are people
aged 65+



Up to **10** people are
significantly impacted
for every 1 death



Nearly **100** people
die in Ireland every day



Cancer (31%) and heart-
related disease (29%) are
the leading causes of
death



Over **350,000**
people are grieving
a death every year

Culture beats Strategy

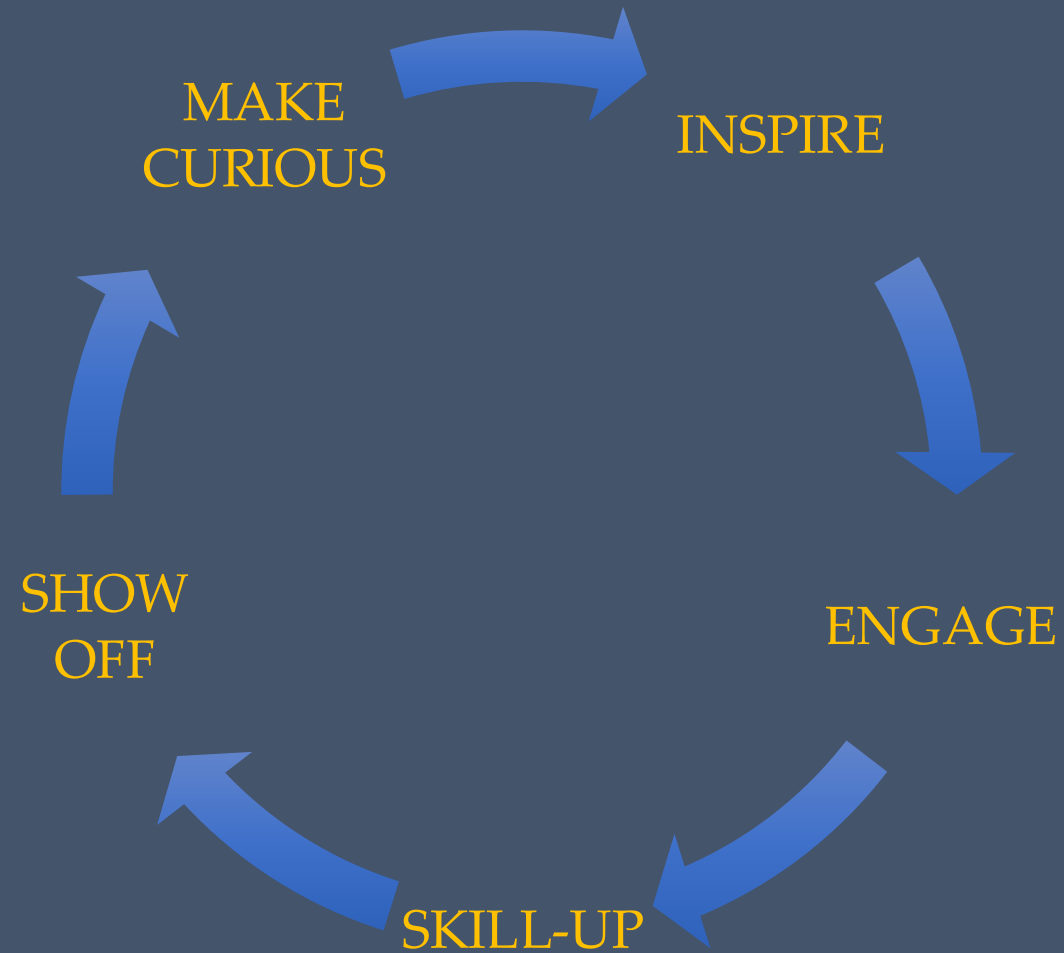
If health is about adaptation,
understanding and acceptance,
then the arts may be more potent
than anything that medicine has to
offer.

Richard Smith. British Medical
Journal Editorial, 2012



Creativity shapes Culture

2020 – 2021	2021 – 2022	2022 – 2023	2023 - 2024
11 Seed Grants	29 Seed Grants	16 Seed Grants	6 Seed Grants Caru/ Residential Care
Policy on Arts and Creative Engagement	6 Compassionate Culture Networks	5 Compassionate Culture Networks	3 Projects with 5 Local Authorities, Creative Ireland/ All Island
		Men’s Sheds project	
		Residency - Artists in Service to people at end of life in hospitals	
Book “Reflections”	Book - “Poems for When You Can’t Find the Words”	Book - HSE "Pause" Project	Books Arts By Your Side publication Arts/Professional Grief publication Education booklet
		Educational tool - Down Syndrome	Education and capacity building program
		Symposia 1 Arts	EU Grief Conference November 2024
Creative Ireland €40,000	Creative Ireland €248,000	Diversified Funding €225,000	IHF Core and earned revenue Circa €180,000



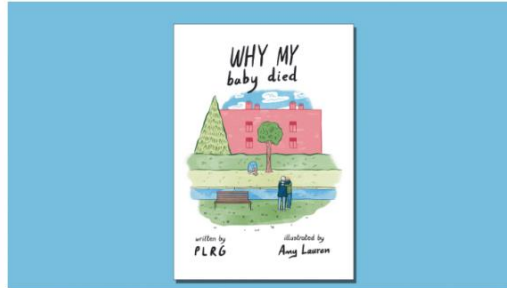
Seeds Programme

National audit of grief and loss
MicroGrants and mentorship



‘to inspire and support the work of groups, organization or individuals who wish to mark in some tangible way their response to the universal realities of dying, death, and bereavement’

- Diversity people, approach, issue
- Groundswell of conversation 2000 directly involved
Thousands more watched videos
- 62 initiatives in 3 years



Why My Baby Died: A visual narrative (Cork)



The Way Home (Dublin/Wexford)



A Wall for Clive (Dalkey, Co Dublin)



I Know The Sun Must Set (Galway)



Freebirds Film (Longford)



Resonance (Mayo)



Tonic (Wicklow)



Meala Circle Heir Island (West)



Creative Reflections (Galway)



Blankets of Hope and



Over the Bridge (Dublin)



Remembering Tree (Offaly)



Messages to the River (Tipperary/Limerick)



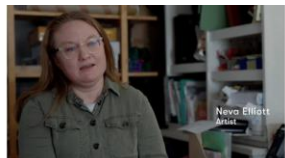
Remembering (in a Time of Change) (Dublin)



The Waking Walls (Cavan)
Cavan based audio-visual artist and



The Last Door My Father



Death of a Star (Dublin)



Good Grief: Reflections on



Memorial Garden with Mosaic



Patchwork Quilt (Tipperary)



Gone (Mayo)

Achill Island resident RAFTA winning



Acting Out (Tipperary)

Down Syndrome Tinnerary (DST) and



Time-Lapse Exhibition (Leitrim)



Is Death a Dirty Word? (Dublin)



Memories (Mayo)
Flaine Meare and Maria Murray



Brain Injury Losses - an Untold Story (Clare)



mfort Blanket (Offaly)



Talking About Cancer (Cork)



The Tightrope Walker



I Know The Sun Must Set (Galway)



Freebirds Film (Longford)



Resonance (Mayo)



Murmurations: A Song Cycle



Absent Voices (Meath)



Dying to Know (Limerick)



House of Memory (Galway and nationwide)



Sorry for Our Troubles (Limerick and nationwide)



Journey through the ritual of lament and caoineadh (Cork)



Marthaz Urns (Cork)



One story Encourages



Say It Feel It (Wexford)



Wonders of Worms (Sligo)



Beauty From Broken Glass



Teenagers On Loss (Kildare)



Creative Writing in Grief Support (Wexford)



Voices on the Bridge (Mayo)
Noel Lyons, and other members of the



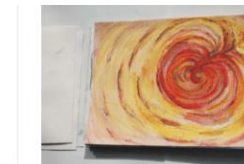
Bringing the Outside In (Louth)



The Language of Flowers (Sligo)



Children's Bereavement / Grief Support Programme

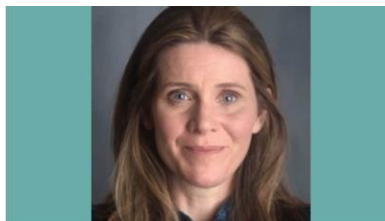


The Strength I See in You (Dublin)



Caru Seeds Projects

www.Carui.ie



Unveiling Shadows (Dublin)

Gabrielle Breathnach, a youth drama worker, will lead a series of drama and theatre classes for the staff and visitors of Anna Gaynor House, Residential Care, Harold's Cross Hospice in Dublin. These classes will offer an open space outside of work to raise and discuss issues of dying, death, grief, and loss.



Moving Forward with Grief (Cavan)

Helen Keenan, a multi-disciplinary artist, will deliver a series of phased interventions at Esker Lodge Nursing Home in Cavan. These will start with prompts and movement, then video, culminating in collating a lasting 'memento mori' for residents, staff, and loved ones.



Garden Choir (Limerick)

Activity Co-ordinator Michelle Clifford will form a new choir at Milford Nursing Home in Limerick to nurture culture change and community building. Selection of songs, choice of moments to sing, and the dynamics of singing will offer prompts for conversations about death, dying, and grief.



In My Thoughts (Louth)

Under the stewardship of Elaine Moloney, Director of Nursing at Sunhill Nursing Home in Louth, two artists will build on existing residencies using multiple art forms to act as prompts for conversations with residents, staff, and loved ones, leading to a support pack for families.



Space for Remembrance and Healing (Clare)

Artist Lisa Hester, with a PhD in engaged practice, will develop on her existing relationship with Ennis Road Care Facility in Clare to establish both dedicated group and one-to-one art sessions aimed at safely and quietly exploring grief and loss.



Roots of Remembrance (Donegal)

Artist Rebecca Strain began working with Brindley Manor Nursing Home during the pandemic. She will establish a once-a-week art room focussing on mosaics for residents and staff to encourage conversations staff rarely, if ever, have time for.

Roots and Shoots

Downs Syndrome

End of Life

Artists led

Workforce response



How can we support people who are non-verbal?

Down Syndrome Tipperary



Movement workshop
Sensation and emotion
Parent Voice

A purple poster titled "Acting Out" with the subtitle "Supporting People with Down Syndrome Through Big Emotions Seen as Loss & Grief". It lists benefits of the program, contact information, and logos for Down Syndrome Tipperary, Down Syndrome Ireland, and Irish Hospice Foundation. It also mentions it was developed by Down Syndrome Tipperary in collaboration with Emily Matthews, Dwan Academy, supported by Irish Hospice Foundation and Creative Ireland. A quote from Susanna Stokes, Senior Speech Specialist, is included.

Benefits of "Acting Out"

- Expanded emotions vocabulary
- Increased self-expression
- Prevention of skill regression
- Enhanced overall wellbeing
- Sense of oneness with peers - understanding they are not alone
- Development of real and lasting friendships

"Acting Out"

Supporting People with Down Syndrome Through Big Emotions Seen as Loss & Grief

Contact: 087 982 1047
Down Syndrome Tipperary
Email: TippAdmin@DownSyndrome.ie

"Acting Out" Developed by Down Syndrome Tipperary in collaboration with Emily Matthews, Dwan Academy, supported by Irish Hospice Foundation and Creative Ireland

Susanna Stokes, Senior Speech Specialist
11 years, Down Syndrome Tipperary

Our first Outreach Creative Ireland Program

Irish Hospice Foundation

Awareness program
Symposia

We are delighted to share this series of educational videos demonstrating creative tools designed to help support children and young adults with or without Down Syndrome address grief and loss.

The magic of these tools is they provide a variety of safe ways for self-expression and can trigger important conversations around grief and loss. They are especially helpful for persons with Down Syndrome who can often have difficulties expressing themselves verbally and channeling emotions.



Introduction to Educational Creative Tools

Drama and Movement Therapist Eilise Bailey



How Childhood Development Stages Affect Impact of Grief and Loss

Children with Down Syndrome are likely to need

6 videos of activity

Can Artists be in Service to People at the End of Life?

Artist's residency
In Acute Hospitals
with
End of Life Co-ordinator

Multiple benefits:
patients, family and staff

Report, Book, Video,
Animations

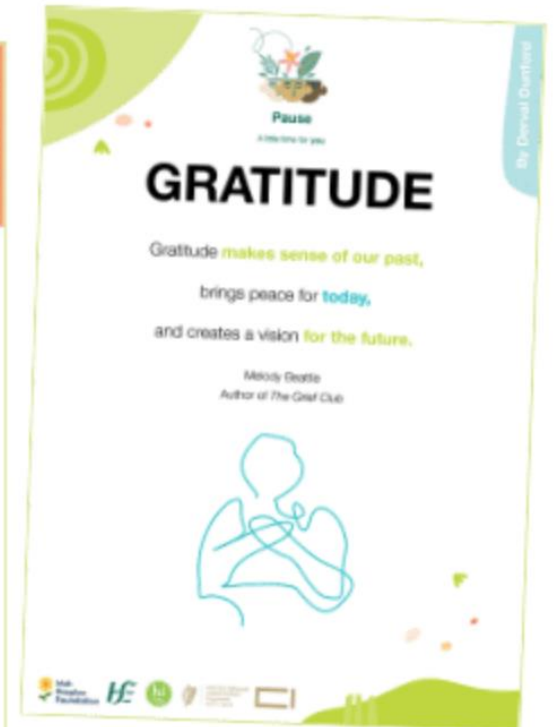
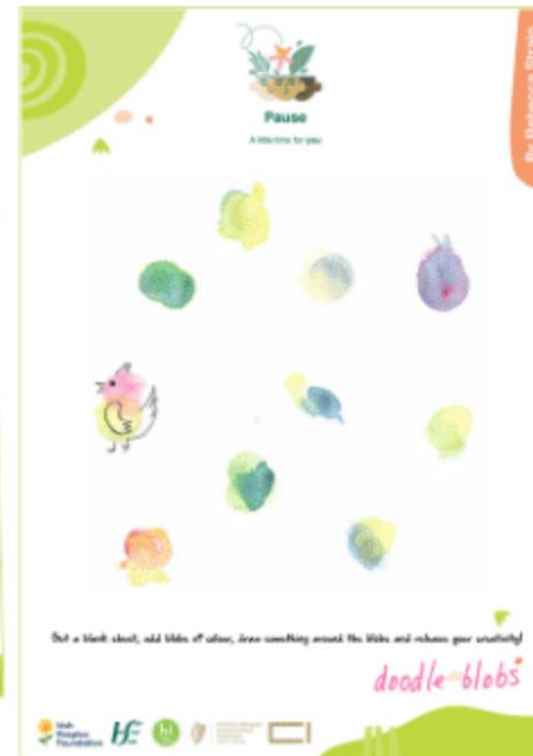
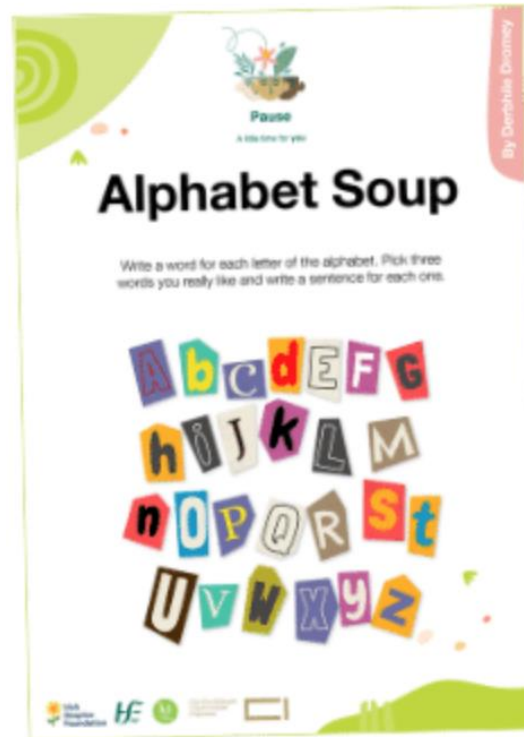


Can creativity support health care workforce?

“Pause”

- Post Pandemic
- Time poor
- Professional Grief

In progress



Make it visible:
www.HospiceFoundation.ie

Education: Telling The Story

Capacity building

Evaluations, Books, Video

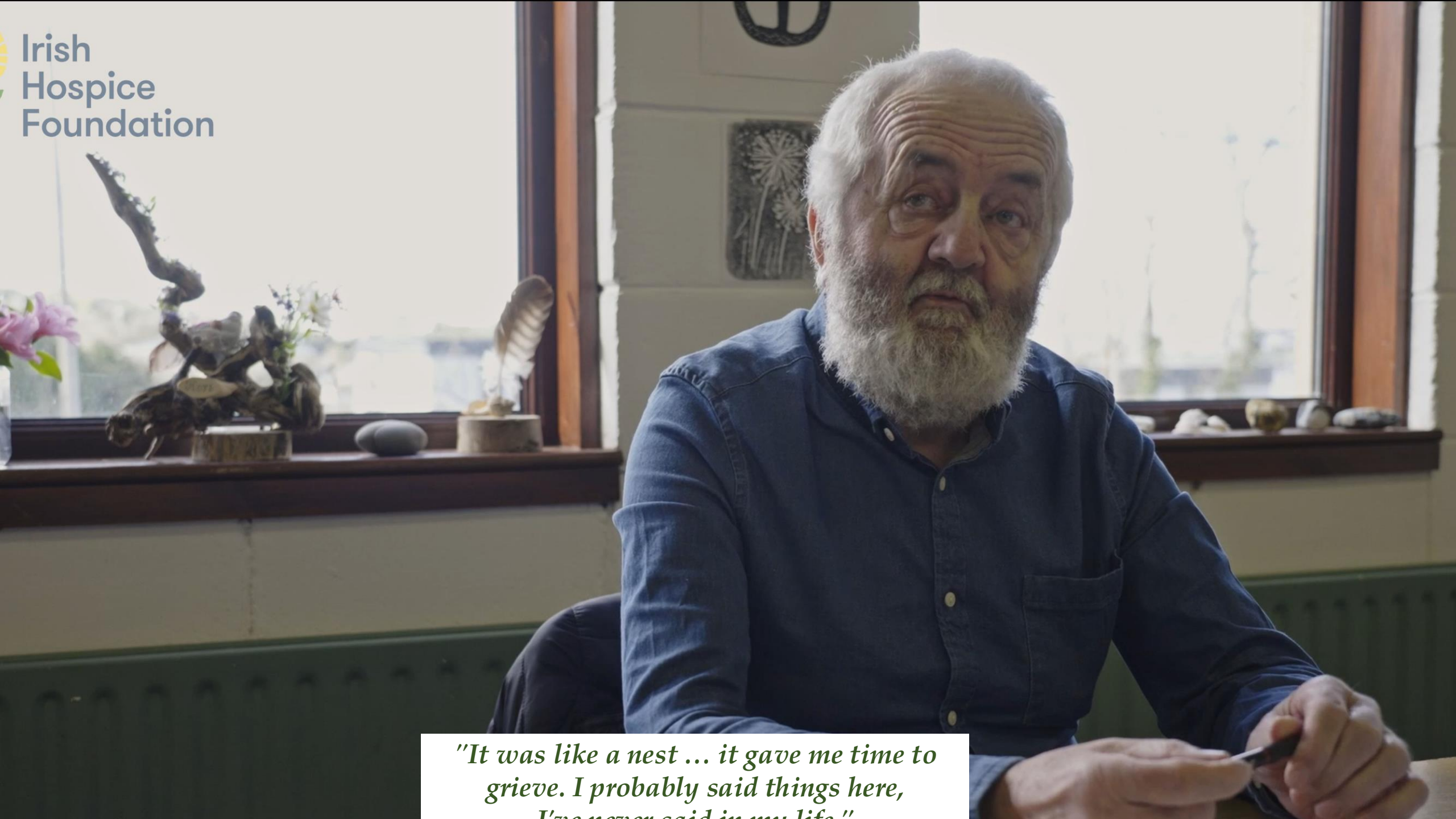


Place:
The Compassionate
Culture Network



Wexford, Tallaght, Kildare, Leitrim (2), Buncrana,
Galway, Bantry, Mallow, Limerick, Cahersiveen

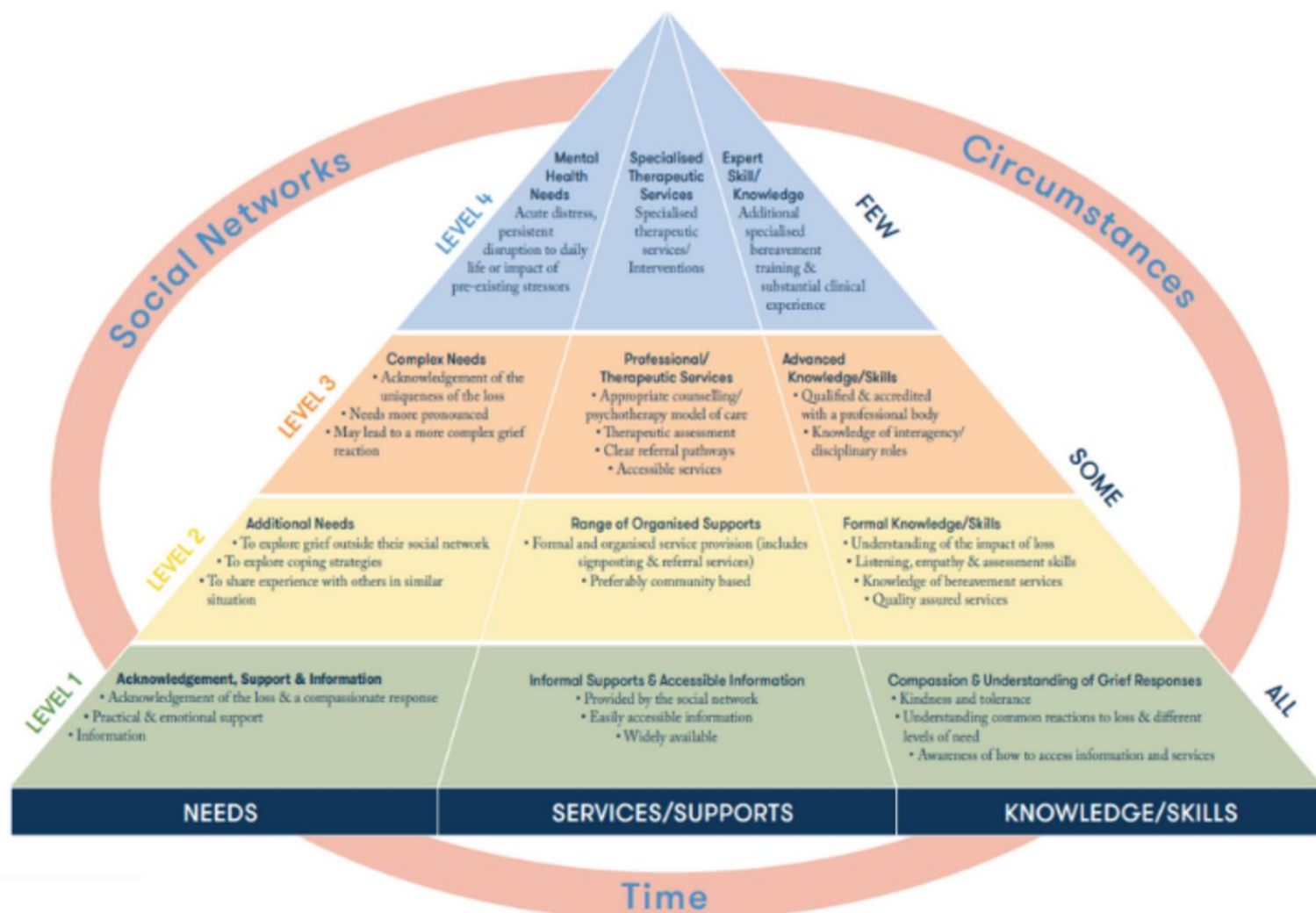
Bespoke program, made locally
Creative practice, Conversation, Signposting
18 weeks, 12 weeks face to face
Asset Based Community Development
Training and Peer Network

A man with a full white beard and a blue button-down shirt is seated at a table. He is looking directly at the camera with a thoughtful expression. Behind him is a large window with a wooden sill. On the sill, there are several decorative items: a small vase with pink flowers, a piece of driftwood, a small plant, and some smooth stones. The room is brightly lit by natural light from the window.

*"It was like a nest ... it gave me time to
grieve. I probably said things here,
I've never said in my life"*

Grief shrinks Geography (*as does dying*)
Services are universal not local
Ageing populations/Chronic conditions/Dying

Accompaniment



Animate the Culture

Compassionate Culture Network

Buncrana



Martha McCulloch









MAKE IT MEDIA CLUB

'This is an exquisite film. Extremely beautiful and helpful for anyone suffering loss or grief. An inspiration', Sir Mark Rylance
Textile artist Allan Brown spends seven years making a dress by hand just from the fibre of locally foraged stinging nettles. It's how Allan survives the passing of his wife, leaving him and their four children bereft, and how he finds a beautiful way to honour her.
Stunningly filmed by award-winning documentary maker Dylan Howitt, The Nettle Dress follows Allan's journey through seasons and years, foraging, spinning, weaving, cutting and sewing the cloth, before finally sharing a healing vision of the dress back in the woods where the nettles were picked, worn by one of his daughters.



Vimeo.com

THE NETTLE DRESS

A feature documentary by Dylan Howitt For upcoming screenings please visit: www.nettledress...

Caroline Kuyper, Grianan Swilly and 5 others

8 comments · Seen by 47



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About

Let's create a space where we can talk about loss.

Let's create a culture that has compassion at its heart.

Let's share our skills in making to create out of the destruction of absence.

Buncrana based artists Martha McCulloch and Rebecca Strain are working with the Irish Hospice Foundation on a project, Compassionate Culture Network, that aims to create a community space to explore death, grief and dying through creativity.

They meet every Wednesday at St Marys Hall, Buncrana from 12.30pm to 3pm.

Outside of that this group is for anyone who is experiencing loss and would like to find creative ways to process the complexity of emotions that come with loss.

Send us a direct message to post anonymously. We ensure complete confidentiality. [See less](#)



Private

Only members can see who's in the group and what they post.



Visible

Anyone can find this group.

[Learn more](#)



Grief Journal

"...people shared...and made suggestions...and explored...what helped them deal with loss and what might be comforting or healing

...and they made this journal for you to give you some of the space and time you need to grieve."



Before you know what kindness really is

you must lose things,

feel the future dissolve in a moment

like salt in a weakened broth.

What you held in your hand,

what you counted and carefully saved,

all this must go so you know

how desolate the landscape can be

between the regions of kindness.

Kindness by Naomi Shihab Nye



Callum Watts: beachface

Overwintering

Ongoing throughout October - March

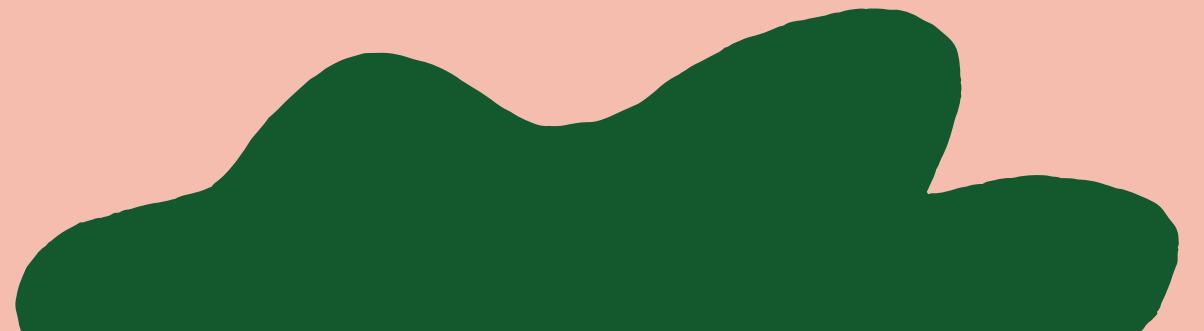






Caru Residency

Brindley Manor Nursing Home



Roots of Remembering









Get in touch.

hospicefoundation.ie

info@hospicefoundation.ie



Registered Charity Number: 20013554



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