



## WEBSITE STATEMENT – update in response to Covid-19 pandemic

**Dublin. 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.** Breast Cancer Ireland continues its work remotely, despite the challenging environment, in supporting its vulnerable community of survivors and those impacted by a breast cancer diagnosis. While the office is closed, with all staff working from home, we are continuing to do our utmost to ensure that funds will be in place when the current crisis is over.

Several major fundraising events that were in planning to support our ongoing research projects and our education and outreach service, have now been postponed. These include

### Events Update

- Battle of the Stars was Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – POSTPONED to **Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> September**
- Emma Hannigan Memorial Golf Classic was 8<sup>th</sup> May – POSTPONED to **DATE TBC**
- Leopardstown Ladies Event was Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May – POSTPONED to **DATE TBC**
- Kilmacud Crokes Mizen to Malin Challenge was 27<sup>th</sup> - 30 May POSTPONED to June **2021**
- Great Pink Run – **Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, Dublin; Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, Kilkenny** and **Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, Chicago** - [will go ahead](#)

### Breast Health Education and Awareness Programme

Our education and outreach coordinators, some of whom are breast cancer survivors, can no longer provide the complimentary programmes to schools, companies and community groups for the foreseeable future. Since September 2019, this group of six coordinators have been travelling around Ireland and have met over 11,000 women and young girls and were due to meet over 97 schools before the end of May 2020. Important to note that this programme has, over the past twelve months, resulted in four early detections of breast cancer. Plans are in place to make their presentation available online before the end of March.

We are inviting those tasked with minding our women, namely teachers, community groups and HR teams to consider booking a visit by the charity's outreach team for its free advisory service, in the autumn. In the meantime download our free Breast Aware app -it might save your life!

### Other Events

Other planned events, impacting on our ability to raise funds include the Malin to Mizen cycle challenge in collaboration with Kilmacud Crokes that has been **postponed to 2021**. The event was due to take place on the June weekend where over 100 cyclists who have been in training since January would have cycled the route raising an estimated 100k for BCI.

The VHI Women's Mini Marathon which has been postponed to the autumn will also impact on funds.

### Spring Raffle

BCI's annual Spring Raffle is currently underway. This initiative raises over €320,000 annually and we are hoping that those who support or are asked to support the raffle over the coming weeks will do so. If anyone cannot get to a post office to post back your ticket stubs and funds please go online and make your contribution referencing your name and Spring Raffle.

### Our Researchers

In line with the WHO directive BCI's research teams and research nurses cannot continue their efforts in the laboratories and in hospital settings for the moment. For some, working from home they are focusing on data analysis, curating patient databases and writing up papers. Others from the Clinical team, including doctors and nurses are registering to volunteer to assist those on front line services at this time.

### Our Community

We know these are extremely challenging times for everyone. We are currently working with supporters and partners to host some online sessions in fitness, wellbeing and cookery that will be accessible for everyone, young and not so young, to help you through these long days in isolation, perhaps at a distance from family and loved ones. Watch this space.

In the meantime, please stay safe, act responsibly and keep well