

UNIQUE VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR ST MICHAEL'S HOUSE RAISES A WHOPPING €12,000

VIRTUAL fundraiser organised in aid of St. Michael's House, one of Ireland's largest providers of community-based services for individuals with intellectual disabilities who do great work in Fingal and across the country, has raised over €12,000.

The virtual 'My Mini Marathon' fundraiser took place from 1st – 30th June, with final donations received this month.

Over 145 people signed up to complete run, walk or move 2km, 5km or 10km in one day during June making the event inclusive for all. Participants chose to raise money for a specific St. Michael's House unit or the event project.

Funds directed towards the event project will benefit the development of a Communication Technology Resource Hub for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The new technology hub will provide tablets on loan to service users to enable them to develop their communications skills and will be managed by the Speech and Language Department.

Barbara Wiseman, Head of Communications and Fundraising with St. Michael's House said: 'Like many other organisations, our fundraising has been impacted by the cancellation of events this year.

'We were delighted to see so many people get involved in our 'My Mini Marathon'. The funds raised will benefit a new communications resource facility which aims to provide suitable communication supports to enable people to communicate independently in their own environments.

'The project is very relevant as we rely more on technology to communicate with friends and family, and we look forward to integrating this training as part of an individual's Speech and Language Therapy.'

All participants received a bespoke St. Michael's House medal and service users across Dublin joined in on the virtual race

over the course of the month. At the top of the leader board was the team in the Boroimhe residential unit in Swords who enjoyed some socially distanced exercise as part of the 'My Mini Marathon' fundraiser.

Jacqui McDonnell Fundraising Executive added: 'The 'My Mini Marathon' fundraiser was very popular in our residential units and our service users really enjoyed getting involved. All eyes were on the leader board throughout June as service users across Dublin kept a keen eye on the top times for the individual races!'