

## Someone Inspirational.....

I was asked in school to write about someone who is inspirational to me and I chose Dr. Trish Scanlan.

She definitely made an impression on me – I first remember meeting her when she was bald! I was about 5 years old, so was very confused when she went from bald to long hair to short hair very quickly – but I'll tell you more about that later on...

Trish was born on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1973. She was born in Dublin, but moved to Bray in Co. Wicklow at a very young age. She went to UCD (University College Dublin) to study medicine from 1991 to 1997.

She spent time in Kenya as a student in 1996. She stayed in Maua, a tiny village in North Kenya. Back then, there were a few roads, no clean water, no meat and the electricity was very limited. This is where her dreams of working Africa were born.

In the year 2000, she went to Ethiopia for a year, and then moved to Vietnam. After that, Trish came back to Ireland for 4 years, to complete her training as a paediatrician. In 2005 and 2006 she completed her Masters' in International Health. This involved spending 3 months each in Berlin, Bergen, Capetown and Tanzania. She then returned to Crumlin to complete her final year training as a paediatric oncologist (Children's cancer doctor).

Trish returned to Tanzania in August 2007. She stayed there until 2012, working in Ocean Road Children's Cancer Hospital, which was then moved to Muhimbili Hospital.

Trish unfortunately then was sick and she diagnosed with breast cancer. She came home to Ireland to get treatment. In September 2013 she returned to Tanzania to establish a Masters' programme to teach Tanzanian doctors how to treat children's cancer.

In 2011, to support her work in Africa, she set up her own charity, called TLM - Their Lives Matter - or Tumaini La Maisha. This is a charity that is based in three countries – Tanzania, England and Ireland.

Since she started work in Africa, she has increased the survival rates of children with cancer from less than 10% to over 50% long term! Now if that's not inspirational, I don't know what is!

By Cathy Connolly age 11yrs

**WE ARE**

