



'Friends of Aengus – Bring Him Home' continue their €50,000 fundraising initiative with Knocknarea Challenge on Saturday 29th September

Aengus Lyons is from Ballygawley, Co. Sligo. Aengus is passionate about Sligo Rovers and Sport, he is a graduate of IT Sligo with a degree in Web Development. He loves music and has a keen interest in amateur dramatics.

In February 2014, Aengus was playing indoor football and his life changed forever. Aengus slipped and hit his head against a wall and he snapped his spinal cord. Aengus suffered cardiac arrest; luckily, one of his teammates was able to resuscitate him. He was transferred from Sligo University Hospital to the Mater Hospital, Dublin. Aengus spent the next 4 and half years in the Mater Hospital, the National Rehabilitation Hospital and Sligo University Hospital. As a result of the accident, Aengus is now a quadriplegic, paralysed from the neck down.

In July of this year, 2018, after 4 and half years, Aengus left the hospital system. Aengus now resides in Woodhaven Therapy Centre on the Strandhill Road, Sligo.

'Friends of Aengus' is a group of Aengus' many friends who came together in November 2014 with the intention of fundraising for Aengus. To date they have successfully raised much needed funds for him which has so far allowed Aengus to purchase his own wheelchair accessible van. The group of friends raised this money by completing a 'Twin Peaks Challenge' in 2015 which saw them scale the heights of Mount Snowdon in Wales and Mount Errigal in Donegal. In 2016 they held a successful 'Mystery Movie Night and Giant Raffle' and there have been table quizzes, and other events as well as on-going online donations through www.friendsofaengus.com.

It is thanks to the amazing generosity of the people of Sligo, Ireland and across the world that Aengus can begin the process of building his own purpose built house. Friends of Aengus have come together once more with the intention of raising €50,000 which will 'Bring Him Home'. This is the title of Friends of Aengus latest fundraising campaign.

'Friends of Aengus – Bring him Home' kicked off on the 23rd August when two Friends of Aengus cycled 650 km from Mizen Head to Malin Head. The cycle was done over 3 days from the 23rd to the 25th August.

Their next event is the Knocknarea Challenge. One of Aengus' friends has designed and constructed a wooden platform on top of which a replica house will be placed bearing the 'Friends of Aengus - Bring Him Home' branding. The wooden structure will be the equivalent weight of Aengus. It allows 4 people on either side, 8 people in total, to carry it at any one time. On Saturday 29th September the Friends of Aengus will carry the structure up the 2.5km route to the summit of Knocknarea, Co. Sligo. The group will take it in turn amongst themselves to successfully complete their latest challenge. Support on the day is welcome to cheer on the group as they climb to the top.

Friends of Aengus ask you to support their latest fundraising challenge with the aim of reaching their target of €50,000 which will enable Aengus to move into a new purpose-built home.

Since 'Friends of Aengus - Bring Him Home' started they have raised just over €12,000 in 4 weeks. Through local fundraising, along with online donations via their GoFundMe page (www.friendsofaengus.com/donate), the Friends of Aengus hope the Knocknarea Challenge will bring them even closer to that all-important €50,000 target.

Each and every donation no matter how big or small will help 'Bring Him Home' and is very much appreciated by Aengus, his family and the Friends of Aengus.

Donations can be made via www.friendsofaengus.com/donate
Stay up-to-date via www.facebook.com/friendsofaengus
www.twitter.com/friendsofaengus