

# Safety Net Hospital CEO and Godfather of Chicago's Mobile Healthcare Programs Adds To His Family... and This One is Pink!!

By Nikia McGee

On Chicago's far Southside, the person some call an "Unapologetic Irish American" is trading in his favorite green for "passion pink" this October to expand his mission-driven life.

Tim Egan (pictured), Chairman and Founder of the Chicago Irish Brotherhood, established in 1996, and President and CEO of The New Roseland Community Hospital since 2013, will unveil a Mobile Mammography Unit in October in an effort to combat the rising breast cancer morbidity rates for African-American women on the Southside of Chicago.

The New Roseland Community Hospital made local, national, and international headlines during the height of the COVID Pandemic due to Egan's dynamic leadership and the creation of the first drive-through and walk-up COVID testing programs on the Southside. Overcoming the tremendous obstacles of a lack of funding and staffing, the Safety Net Hospital was able to test over 80,000 people.

"We were the tip of the sword in the battle against COVID in the communities we lovingly serve," Egan said. "Now we are ready to bring the fight to breast cancer by creating one of the most aggressive and coordinated early detection and treatment programs in Chicago."

During his decade of service, Egan faced the challenge of inheriting \$35,000,000 in debt, a political stalemate that almost ceased funding to all hospitals in Illinois, a cyberattack, and an ever-changing healthcare funding landscape.

"Never give up is our mantra," Egan said. "Some Englishman had a version of that saying, but we've perfected it."

The New Roseland Community Hospital is a 134-bed Safety Net Hospital that was founded in 1924. Egan was tapped by then Illinois Governor Pat Quinn to restructure the debt-saddled hospital that was on the verge of closing in 2013.

"There will never be an easy day at a Safety Net Hospital," Egan said. "When the alarm clock goes off it's the sound of another round in a fight that will never end. You either believe in the mission or you simply will not last another round."

As a servant leader, Egan received the Neighborhood Hero Award from Roseland's most respected leader and CNN Hero, Diane Latiker, and her Kids Off The Block organization in June, 2023. Egan has also received the Far South Community Action Council Humanitarian Award (2018), Chicago State University's Leaders In Motion Award (2023) and during his time as Vice President at Norwegian American Hospital, was awarded the Youth Service Project Community

Service Award (2013).

It was at Norwegian American Hospital where Egan developed his passion for mobile medicine. "Standing with my mentor, Jesse White, so many years ago, we cut the ribbon on the Care-A-Van program in Humboldt Park and it changed my healthcare career," Egan said. "We knew we would alter the lives of many kids with what we achieved. This achievement created a feeling in my heart that there was so much

life - service to others. He links that passion to his Irish heritage and longtime dedication to sports. After a 4-year college basketball career, Egan began a rugby journey that took him all over the world, including two tours across Ireland. Although he grew up on the West Side of Chicago and Cicero playing 16-inch softball during his summers away from basketball, rugby took him to Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Fiji, France, Spain and New Zealand. Ireland, however, is where Egan's

parents and loved listening to their musical Irish brogues. They sang me songs, taught me poems and I learned some jokes and limericks that didn't please the nuns at Mary Queen of Heaven School."

Pride in his Irish roots led Egan to create the Chicago Irish Brotherhood and during its tenure, the organization has raised charitable funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Youth Burn Camp, Father Flanagan's Boys Town, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls,



more to be done."

In 2014, as President and CEO of Roseland that "so much more" came rolling into the Southside in the form a full-service dental mobile with two operatories that has served thousands of kids, seniors, and veterans. "On the day of the dental van ribbon cutting Mr. White was standing by my side again," Egan said. "My four sons were there to see the unveiling of the dental van and I introduced the program as my fifth child."

This month, Egan leaked the news that his "sixth child" was on the way and this one would be pink. Grants awarded by the Washington Square Healthcare Foundation and the Michael Reese Healthcare Foundation have funded Fuji 3D mammography units for inside the hospital and on the newly created Mammo Mobile. "A life without passion is a slow way to freeze to death," Egan said. "If we can save one woman's life with a mammogram, that woman may turn around and make the difference in someone else's life. In my healthcare career and in my life, it's never about just helping one person. We make sacrifices and fight battles so we can help future generations."

Egan has steadfastly relied upon passion to power his mission in

heart lies outside of the Southside of Chicago. While Egan has several titles including 2nd Ward Democratic Committee person, Roseland Medical District Commissioner and Commission Secretary, and Board member of the Old Town Merchants and Residents' Association, one title means the most: Father. Egan's sons' Wedge Donovan (20), Tadgh Liam (19) and twins Chance Connor (12) and Cormac Conran (12) are his life blood.

Wedge is a sophomore at University College Dublin making Egan's travels to Ireland more than cultural but paternal, and easier now that Egan obtained his Irish Citizenship in May of 2023.

Egan's maternal grandparents hailed from Leighlinbridge, County Carlow. His grandfather, Thomas Conran, was a member of the Irish Republican Army. Thomas' discharge orders are a family heirloom. His grandparents emigrated to Chicago through Canada and set up residence on Chicago's Westside. A framed picture of the 1933 Chicago Gaelic Athletic Association Champions featuring Egan's grandfather hangs above a fireplace in Egan's home.

"I loved Ireland before I ever knew where it was on a map," Egan said. "My parents both worked very hard to take care of our family. So, I spent a lot of time with my mother's

Misericordia and many other well deserving institutions.

Egan and the C.I.B. have hosted tours to Ireland and organized events in Chicago for the first female President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, as well as helping promote a docudrama about the 1916 Uprising: A Terrible Beauty. In September, Egan represented Irish Patriot Kieran Doherty at an event hosted at Chicago's Gaelic Park during the 42nd Anniversary 1981 Hunger Striker Remembrance.

Said Egan, "I am a student of Irish History. I am driven by my Grandfather's service and the sacrifices of Irish patriots throughout history. I get the chills every time I'm in Kilmainham walking into the 'yard' where the leaders of 1916 were executed."

The New Roseland Hospital will be hosting a fundraiser for the new Mammo Van on Thursday, October 26th at the Tinley Park Convention Center from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. For sponsorship and ticket information, please email [nglenn@roselandhospital.org](mailto:nglenn@roselandhospital.org).

"Irish hero Bobby Sands said; 'Our revenge will be the laughter of our children', and I believe our Safety Net Hospital will help generations to come," Egan said. "I hope my children's children get to hear that laughter."