



## PRESS RELEASE

### **AbbVie's Dublin Employees Help Transform Walkinstown School's Autism Facilities During Their Global Volunteering Week**

- More than 50 volunteers from AbbVie's Dublin offices transform autism facilities at Greenhills College, South Dublin
- Outreach involves improvements at the school's kitchen, library and autism sensory unit
- Approximately 8,000 AbbVie volunteers in more than 50 countries – including more than 350 in Cork, Dublin and Sligo – will volunteer 36,000 hours to worthwhile community projects – especially in the area of education.

**Dublin, June 2018** – AbbVie, a global biopharmaceutical company with offices in Citywest and Santry, marked the fifth anniversary of its *Week of Possibilities* volunteering programme with a facelift project at a Dublin school. For the fifth consecutive year, AbbVie employees joined forces with nonprofit partners to enhance education through volunteerism and improvement projects.

In total, approximately 8,000 AbbVie employees in more than 50 countries will volunteer 36,000 hours assisting their local communities. Over the last five years, the AbbVie Foundation – with the assistance of AbbVie employee volunteers – has positively impacted almost 19 million people around the world.

Employees from AbbVie's offices in Citywest and Santry completed an extensive refurbishment of the autism unit facilities at Greenhills College in Walkinstown, South Dublin during the week-long initiative. A significant number of the students enrolled at the boys-only secondary school have autism needs and attend Greenhills College to avail of the school's autism resource unit. Volunteers worked alongside staff to upgrade the unit's sensory room, library and kitchen to benefit the students with autism who attend the school.



AbbVie believes in making a strong commitment to local communities. In partnership with not-for-profit groups, the company undertakes improvement projects – particularly in education – through charitable giving as well as employee engagement.

In Ireland, AbbVie has joined forces with the national volunteer development agency, Volunteer Ireland. Together, they have planned and implemented *Week of Possibilities* projects in three communities in Cork, Sligo and Dublin – locations at which the company has a major presence. The partnership with Volunteer Ireland ensures AbbVie’s efforts align with the needs of their local communities.

Speaking about the positive impact of the *Week of Possibilities* initiative **Ann Bray, Principal of Greenhills College**, said: “We would like to thank AbbVie and Volunteer Ireland for choosing Greenhills College for their *Week of Possibilities*. Through this initiative we will see our autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) Unit, sensory room, breakfast and lunchtime space and school library transformed. The work carried out this week will have a huge impact on the whole school community. Our students will now have a long awaited relaxation space and state of the art library facilities in surroundings, which will encourage improved literacy and numeracy. Without the support of AbbVie we would never have achieved this goal so soon.”

Now an annual event all over the world, AbbVie’s *Week of Possibilities* was founded in 2014. It is funded in part by the AbbVie Foundation. AbbVie employees have expanded their commitment each year, giving 17,000 volunteer hours in 45 countries in 2015; 26,000 hours in 51 countries in 2016; and 33,000 hours in 57 countries in 2017.

Commenting on the Dublin project **Todd Manning, General Manager, AbbVie** said: “*Week of Possibilities* reflects AbbVie’s commitment to transforming education for communities in need. Over the past five years, AbbVie employees have volunteered their time, talent and efforts to help improve their local communities to do what they can to support and improve the educational resources available locally.”



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**About AbbVie**

AbbVie is a global, research-driven biopharmaceutical company committed to developing innovative advanced therapies for some of the world's most complex and critical conditions. It employs more than 600 people at five manufacturing and commercial sites across Ireland. The company's commercial headquarters is based in Dublin as is a separate international manufacturing and engineering services centre. AbbVie has two manufacturing plants in Sligo and one in Cork.

The company's mission is to use its expertise, dedicated people and unique approach to innovation to markedly improve treatments across four primary therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, virology and neuroscience. In more than 75 countries, AbbVie employees are working every day to advance health solutions for people around the world. For more information about AbbVie, please visit us at [www.abbvie.com](http://www.abbvie.com). Follow @abbvie on Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn.

**About The AbbVie Foundation**

The AbbVie Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) foundation, is dedicated to having a remarkable impact on the lives of the underserved around the world through a commitment to building strong communities, sustainable health care systems and effective educational programs. For more information please visit [www.abbviefoundation.org](http://www.abbviefoundation.org).



### **About Greenhills College**

Greenhills College is a secondary school situated on Limekiln Avenue, Greenhills in South Dublin. It accommodates Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied students and offers the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme to its students. It is run by the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB) and is a non-fee paying school.

Greenhills College opened in 1970 in Crumlin, and moved to its present site in 1972. In 1973, Greenhills College offered adult education and leisure-type classes to the local community. The college also provides post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) and Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) courses for adult learners.

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