



## PRESS RELEASE

### **AbbVie's Sligo Employees Help Transform St Edward's National School During Their Global Volunteering Week**

- 250+ employees from AbbVie's two manufacturing plants in Sligo will help to transform St Edward's National School, Ballytivnan during the company's annual volunteering initiative
- Approximately 8,000 colleagues in more than 50 countries – including more than 350 in Cork, Dublin and Sligo – will give 36,000 service hours to address challenges facing the underserved – especially in the area of education.

AbbVie, a global biopharmaceutical company with two manufacturing plants in Sligo, marked the fifth anniversary of its *Week of Possibilities* volunteering programme with a facelift project at a local Sligo 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.

AbbVie employees from the company's medical devices centre in Ballytivnan and from their pharmaceutical plant on the Manorhamilton Road contributed more than 1,000 hours refurbishing St Edward's National School in Ballytivnan. St Edward's is close to both AbbVie sites in Sligo and the aim is to help modernise and improve the overall look of the school

The volunteer efforts will include the complete redecoration of the interior and exterior of the building and landscaping of the grounds to create the ideal learning environment for users of the Ballytivnan facility.



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 **Jean McGowan, Principal of St Edwards’s National School** said: “We were thrilled when we heard that AbbVie had decided to refurbish St. Edward's NS during their *Week of Possibilities* initiative. Their employees’ hard work reflects the vibrancy, enthusiasm and energy of its pupils and staff. We are not in a position to do this by ourselves as the resources are not available to us. We are so grateful to our wonderful neighbours, AbbVie, who are contributing so much to this community.”

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 Sligo project **Darragh Pattwell, Site Director, AbbVie Manorhamilton Road** 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.”

**Columba McGarvey, recently appointed Site Director at AbbVie’s Ballytivnan Site** said: “The Week of Possibilities initiative is a great example of how non-profit organisations and the private sector can work



together to make a positive difference. It is incredibly satisfying to see our employees embrace this project so passionately, reflecting AbbVie’s culture of giving back to our communities.”

**###ENDS###**

**Media Contact:**

**Media:**

Andrew Shaw

Communications Manager

AbbVie

+353 (0) 87-7525-445

[andrew.shaw@abbvie.com](mailto:andrew.shaw@abbvie.com)

**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.

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#### **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).

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