

# Mars awards autism assistance charity €30k

THANKS to the dedication of a super fan of Mallow-based national charity Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland, the charity has just been awarded €30,000.

The funding came from Mars Ireland's *Play Your Part* fund.

More than 730 charities and organisations were entered into a competition to draw from the fund, but the Mallow charity came out on top.

Their ultimately successful campaign began when Joe Rossa from Dublin contacted Mars Ireland when he heard about the *Play Your Part* fund and wrote touching letters to the company praising the enormous benefits AADI and their services can bring to families struggling to deal with autism.

The charity has been in existence since April 2010 and to date has placed three trained assistance dogs and six companion dogs with children and their families who are dealing with autism.

The dogs can provide independence and safety for the children, allowing them to go out in public, act as an unconditional source of love and affection for the child and help them to improve interaction and socialisation skills.

Largely due to the nomination by Joe Rossa, the charity was this week named beneficiaries of a €30,000 fund which will allow AADI train two more dogs this year.

Director of fundraising Breeda Clancy said the funding would be a massive boost.



At the presentation of the €30,000 Mars 'Play Your Part' fund to Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland (AADI) were from left, Nuala Geraghty, AADI, with AADI volunteer Joe Rossa and Breeda Clancy, AADI, with assistance dogs, Trixie and Pearl.

Picture: Robbie Reynolds/CPR



# Puppy love

## Supporter helps Mallow charity secure vital funding

Two more dogs will be trained this year by Mallow based Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland after the charity was awarded €30,000 in prize money. A nomination by a supporter of the charity helped secure the monetary award, seeing off competition from 730 other charities and organisations for the Mars Ireland's 'Play Your Part' fund.

Dublin man Joe Rossa recommended the north Cork charity for its services to

families struggling to deal with autism. Established last year, the charity has placed three trained assistance dogs and six companion dogs with children and their families nationwide.

Director of fundraising Breeda Clancy said the funding will be a massive boost. "The cost of training a dog to such specific standards is enormous", she said. "This funding means that we can train two more dogs this year, which means easing the

Pictured at the presentation of the €30,000 Mars Play Your Part Fund to Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland (AADI) were Nuala Geraghty, AADI (left) with AADI Volunteer, Joe Rossa and Breeda Clancy AADI (right) with Autism assistance dogs, Trixie and Pearl. Picture: Robbie Reynolds/CPR

stresses of life with an autistic child for two more families."