

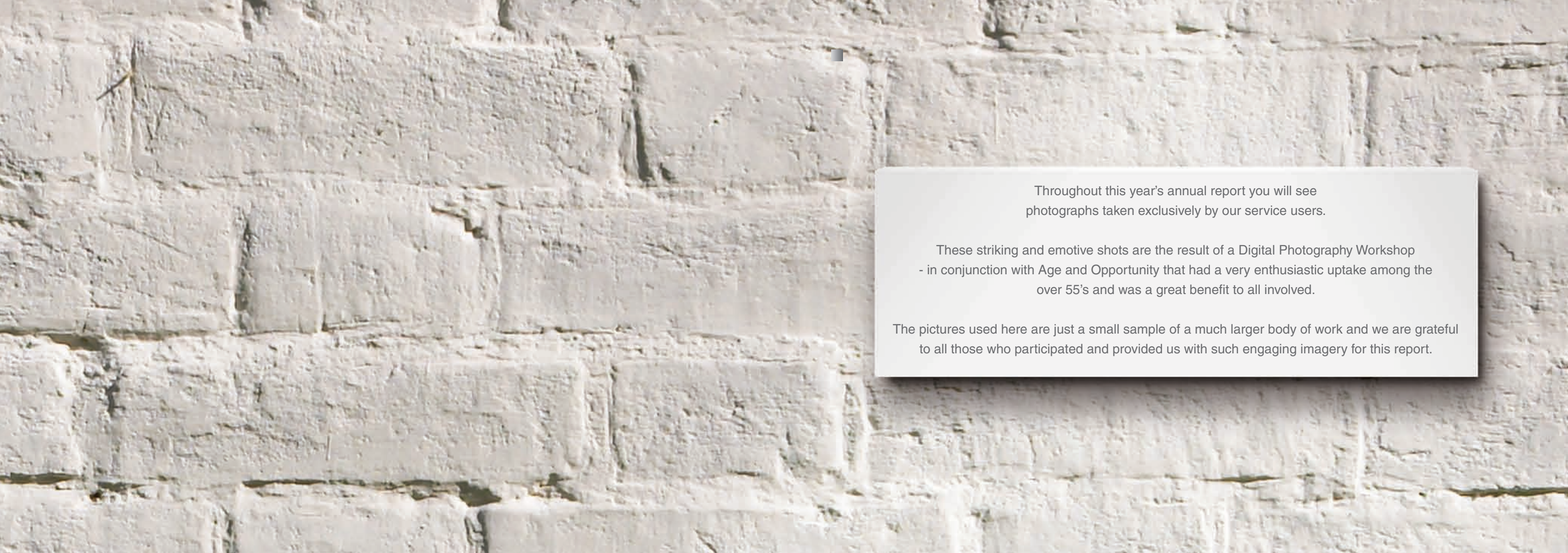


Dublin Simon  
Community



A TWELVE MONTH SNAPSHOT





Throughout this year's annual report you will see photographs taken exclusively by our service users.

These striking and emotive shots are the result of a Digital Photography Workshop - in conjunction with Age and Opportunity that had a very enthusiastic uptake among the over 55's and was a great benefit to all involved.

The pictures used here are just a small sample of a much larger body of work and we are grateful to all those who participated and provided us with such engaging imagery for this report.





## CEO Statement



In spite of the difficulties we experienced with statutory funding constraints, we continued to be energised and excited for change and pace in responding to the needs of our service users.

During this year we submitted ‘Expressions of Interest’ to the Homeless Agency for additional emergency and supported housing accommodation. We were unfortunately advised that no development funding was available. In spite of this, we have continued to innovate and pursue opportunities to improve support and services. Projects such as the mobile needle exchange created by the Rough Sleeper Team, Harcourt Street Shelter stabilisation unit, and the launching of the critical Service User Participation Program are just a few of the many new start ups pursued by staff and volunteers in conjunction with service users.

The funding challenges are expected to continue into 2008 and beyond. In the meantime, we have given full support to the Homeless Agency Partnership action plan ‘A Key to the Door’. We fully support the national homeless strategy being developed by government but believe a vision without detailed action plans and funding sources is aspirational.

Once again 2007 showed another surge in demand for Dublin Simon Services, in spite of this we believe the opportunity to end homelessness as we know it today is within our grasp and we are driven and inspired to achieve this aim by the bravery and resilience of our service users.

Let us continue to find within ourselves the strength and courage to help.

**SAM MCGUINNESS**

Chief Executive





## Chairperson's Statement



2007 was a very successful year for Dublin Simon Community as it continued to work with some of the most vulnerable of our society. The Board has worked intensely on a number of areas over the last year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Board members for their time, commitment and the effort that each and every member has inputted over the last year. We are fortunate to have a Board with a diverse range of talent and skills, all committed to helping us campaign for an end to homelessness by furthering the successful work of Dublin Simon Community.

In 2007 we revised our Committee Structures to further support and reflect the key functions of the organisation. The current Board Sub-Committees are now 1. Finance and Audit, 2. Fundraising and Communications and 3. Strategy and Policy.

The Board has also been working strenuously on the deliverance of the strategic plan while also seeking consultation and advice on how best to prepare the organisation for the incoming Charities Act. We are positive about proposed changes and believe the organisation and Board are enthusiastic and capable of managing any needed changes.

2007 is my final year at the helm of the Board and I would like to specifically thank the Chief Executive and all senior management who have made my term as Chairperson both productive and conducive to furthering the strategic aims of the Dublin Simon Community. I would like to wish the best of luck to Dymrna Dolan, as she takes on the role as Chairperson, and Eddy Farrelly who has graciously accepted the role of Vice Chairperson. And a special thank you to everyone, staff, volunteers, service users and the Board, for their continued commitment to our mission to end homelessness.

PHILIP FLYNN

Chairperson





## Addressing the Needs, 2007

During 2007, Dublin Simon Community continued to evolve and address the many complex needs of those seeking our services. Overall 491<sup>1</sup> people accessed our supported and emergency accommodation and addiction services, 837 individuals accessed the services of our Rough Sleeper Team, and our recently launched Tenancy Sustainment Team worked with 231 tenants. Resettlement worked with 183 people, helping find more permanent accommodation with private landlords and housing associations. While providing the first point of contact for many who find themselves on the streets for the first time, 2007 was also a year when Dublin Simon helped significant numbers of people out of homelessness. Preventative measures were also at the fore with our Tenancy Sustainment team helping many families and individuals maintain their homes and also preventing the initial slide into homelessness. A number of our other service developments throughout the year, are detailed below.

### Rough Sleeping Service

The Dublin Simon Outreach Service was relaunched in 2007 under the new title of the **Dublin Simon Rough Sleeper Team**, providing and developing a service to those rough sleeping, with the aim of moving them out of homelessness.

The Rough Sleeper Team now engages with over 220 people per month, locating 140 emergency accommodation referrals.

### Needle Exchange Programme Pilot

While addressing the needs of those sleeping rough the Rough Sleeper Team **identified the need for a needle exchange service** on our streets. Toward the end of 2007, this service was piloted with the HSE and a core group of rough sleepers in the city. The service offers advice on safe needle use, exchange, needle packs, and referral into accommodation.





## Learning and Development Service.

Following a review to assess the current and potential future use of the Dublin Simon Community Training and Employment Centre in Chapleizod, we made the decision to **broaden the service** into an organisational wide internal Learning and Development programme only.

This new programme which emerged provides a **framework of learning and development for service users** that include living skills, meaningful creative activity and literacy/numeracy classes – across Dublin Simon Community.

The vision for Learning and Development is to develop a service that **builds people’s confidence and skills to move beyond homelessness, preparing them to be more independent**. Towards the end of 2007 the service moved to establish a base in our Dorset Street transitional housing service while using the services across the organisation as the ‘classroom’ for the programme.

## Drug Dependencies

Dublin Simon works with service users who are drug dependent and in 2007 commenced **initiatives to help stabilise users** and move them **out of homelessness**.

The new Stabilisation Unit in Harcourt St. Emergency Shelter helps **prepare residents to access detox programmes** including our own Dublin Simon Detox. Residents must be stable prior to entering some detoxification programmes. The Stabilisation Unit also **increases the harm reduction** services of the Shelter.

Dublin Simon Alcohol Detox unit also identified the need to support their service users with **both drug and alcohol** addictions. A **Benzo Detox pilot** was initiated and available to **dual dependency** (alcohol and benzodiazepines) service users in conjunction with their alcohol Detox. This pilot was operational for the last six months of 2007. Four service users engaged in the pilot. The purpose of the pilot is to allow more service users access residential treatment who are dependent on alcohol and benzos, such as valium.



### Service User participation.

During 2007 Dublin Simon undertook a **training and programme exercise to enhance Service User participation** through assistance with a UK organisation called Groundswell. They are independent facilitators who work specifically in the field of homelessness, to **ensure that homeless individuals are given a voice** in decisions which affect them.

Dublin Simon undertook both training and planning days with Groundswell. The outcome was the **establishment of SUSS (Service User's Support Service)** and the development of **nine aims** arising from the Groundswell initiative. SUSS continues to meet on a fortnightly basis to progress work on the nine aims.

### Memorial Service

In November of 2007, a memorial service took place in conjunction with the de Paul Trust, to remember the 228 service users who passed away in Dublin over the last 35 years. The service was conducted in the Udalitarian Church on St. Stephen Green and received wide public and media support.

1. Some service users may have accessed more than one service i.e. may have moved from Emergency Accommodation into our Detox Service.





## Our Continuum of Care

### Addressing the needs of Rough Sleepers –

Through the city-wide Rough Sleeper Team and Soup Run services, contact is made with people sleeping rough, from early morning until late at night, 365 days a year. We endeavor to meet their most basic and urgent needs with hot food, blankets and dry clothes. Our major focus, however, is to make contact, develop relationship, to build trust and link the person into available accommodation and services.

### Meeting emergency needs –

Our Open Access Emergency Shelter offers a safe respite from the streets. There is 24hr access to this service and intensive key working between service users and staff. Stays can be up to a maximum of 6 months, and during this time service users are encouraged to plan their next steps. Our more recent two new night only shelters also provide further accommodation and shelter from sleeping rough.

### Making the transition –

Addiction Services provide an intensive three-week alcohol detoxification programme, reinforcing abstinence and a structured lifestyle based on the Community Treatment Model. This is ideally followed with our three-month Residential Rehab programme. In these services, together with the male and female Aftercare Houses and Dorset St. Transitional House, staff and volunteers work in partnership with the service users supporting them in learning the skills that they need to live independently.

### Settling into a new future –

Long-term stable accommodation with low/medium to high support is available in three properties – North Circular Road, Sean Mac Dermott Street and Canal Road – to over sixty people who were homeless. The amount of support varies depending on the individual, but all residents have their own room or apartment, in a quality environment with key working staff support available. Our Resettlement team support individuals who are looking to find their own home.





### **Prevention –**

Dublin Simon Community Tenancy Sustainment aims to prevent homelessness before it occurs by working with families and individuals, who may be at risk, to help maintain their home. The tenancy sustainment team also work with those who, in the past, have experienced homelessness and are now seeking to live independently.

### **Independence –**

Our key strategic focus for the future is to assist service users to achieve independence. The true measure of our organization and its success in dealing with homelessness is the number and outcomes for people who move into their own home. So as to facilitate this process on an ongoing basis we continue to provide critical support aimed at addressing the prime reasons for homelessness, including alcohol support, aftercare, resettlement and learning and development services.

### **Our Vision**

That everyone has the support they need to access and maintain a home of their own.

### **Our Mission**

Dublin Simon seeks to enable people to move to a place they can call home, promote policies and develop services that support people in maintaining their homes.

### **Our Values**

- Empowerment
- Dignity
- Accountability
- Effectiveness & Innovation
- Integrity & Transparency
- Partnership
- Individuality & Diversity
- Justice and Equality





Two thirds of young people who have been in state care will experience homelessness at some point of their lives. Noel, one of our photographers, is one of those. This is a snapshot of his story.

Noel’s Story.

I first came into contact with Simon when I was living in Cork with few people including a one legged musician. I got back to the place we were staying one night and he was sitting there eating newspaper. He was hungry, had no food and had too much pride to ask for help. I brought him to Simon and we got bags of food and we were full.

The greatest embarrassment in my life was being born out of wedlock. I’ve seen a few birth certs where the illegitimacy part is red stamped. From being illegitimate, I was then institutionalised. When I later joined the army, under duress, I always felt left behind. I realised this was just another institution.

I was placed in state care at a young age. It has taken a lot to come to terms with this period. Before I did, I sought distractions. Many were dark distractions and led me to places I hope I’ll never go again. I wonder how a man like me survived with my sanity. My heart and soul have been ripped out and buried. They’ve claimed it. They told my foster parents I was dead.

I arrived at the school on a New Year’s Eve. I’d been there a couple hours and they did a round-up. They were shouting in Gaelic. I couldn’t understand what they were saying. In my confusion I fell to the ground. I just couldn’t understand any of it; the noise, the people, the language. I was beaten that night. I wonder now was Dublin aware, as they were out celebrating New Year and their plans to change their ways, I wonder if they knew of the little people like me with no hope, no promise, no future. Shivering, sore and alone.

A few years later I found photos in my foster parents’ house and we were looking at them, talking about the different people. I pointed to one little lad and asked “who’s that?” There was a deathly silence in the front room. Then I realised that little lad was me. I didn’t even know myself. That time in my life is a period lost, deleted from my life.

I went to a creative writing class when I was in England. Being back in that scenario was daunting. My hands shook

“The order for my detention.”

“The Virgin Mary represents a haunting image to me.”

“All the pieces in this picture represent a part of my life. The chain ties them all together. Essentially they’re all linked to the little bag of money.”

“I found this whiskey bottle in the canal. It had been lying there a long time. I loved whiskey when I was younger. Made me feel like a cowboy. I realise now that a drunk cowboy can’t shoot straight.”





with the pain they used to feel as a child. I couldn't even pick up my pen.

The fear was so great as a child. I couldn't even raise my hand to ask to go to the bathroom. The first time I wet myself I was taken from the classroom and beaten. I couldn't hide it. There was a pool of wet by my foot. Afterwards one of the other boys said he'd teach me how to do it properly. He was surprised that I didn't know how. All the other boys did. Bit by bit, so that the trousers could soak it up, that was the secret. The only problem was the smell. We were pulled out of bed three or four times at night, and we stank. The school was built on a foundation of fear. I rose up against it and fought back one day. I'd already reached the darkest places at that stage. When I left the school at 14, my mental age was that of a child's and remained like that for a long time.

I have always been searching for my identity. They denied I was ever here. I had a speech impediment. It felt like my tongue had been cut out, along with my heart. I wanted to be unidentifiable. I became homeless and destitute. A leper of society. When I stopped drinking I got all my files. I testified to the abuses. What made me come home? I needed to define my identity. I had to claim back what was stolen from me. I was on my break in a pub in England where I worked and someone left the Irish Post on the bar. The headline screamed at me – ‘Victims Of Abuse In State Institutions Seek Justice’. I sought justice. I wrote statements for four days. I'm still seeking it. **It's not about the compensation. We want to be recognised. I betrayed myself by signing a waiver to silence, silence about individuals or institutions. Why did I sign it? I don't know. I could still hear the young boys screaming in my head. But I still needed my bus fare home.**

Taking photos has always been something close to me. I used to take photos to try and include myself in the circle of people. The reality was that I was never really part of the scene. I couldn't put myself in the frame, so to say.

**I've struggled with addictions and isolation. But people are trusting me again. My hope and faith in humanity is returning. This photography course gave me the opportunity to get it all out. It's bringing me together and I'm dealing with things.**





## Volunteers in Dublin Simon Community

There are over 240 volunteers working with the Dublin Simon Community, either on a part-time or full-time basis. Without the vital support of volunteers, Dublin Simon would not be able to operate at the capacity at which it does, offering support to thousands of people every year. Here are some of their stories

### Soup Run Volunteer

My name is Noel Guinan, I'm from Whitehall in Dublin & have been a Soup Run volunteer since 2001. The Soup Run appealed to me as it is both practical and serves a very basic need in society. An average night on the Soup Run involves food preparation, collation of latest street information, organisation of routes & most importantly, making contact and working with our clients. As long as we have a homeless population, however small, there will be a need for the Soup Run. I would like to think that we make some small contribution towards improving the quality of the lives of the people we meet.

### Hikers Committee Volunteer

My name is Sean O'Rourke and I volunteer on the Dublin Simon 'Hikers Committee'. After two fantastic hikes overseas to Peru and Kilimanjaro, we formed this committee to promote, advise and help out with the hiking element of Dublin Simon's fundraising activities. Some people find the fundraising quite a chore but I have to say, as a salesman throughout my working life, this is not a problem for me. I usually do some bag packing at Tesco's at Christmas and some church collections. I have found these very successful. This year my wife Joan has added coffee mornings and wine nights plus I link up with one or two others on occasions and do pub collections. Between helping others raise funds and my own efforts I have probably raised around €30,000 over the last few years, which has been channelled into services, while also making some great friendships. Our next hike is to Patagonia, roll on November!





## Tenancy Sustainment Volunteer

My name is Bill Curran and I have been involved with the Simon Community as a volunteer for almost two years now.

After my induction and short training period, which was great craic, I got involved with the Tenancy Sustainment Section and have been supporting two clients since. The first is Joe who despite being housebound and in and out of hospital like a yo-yo is always in good spirits and fun to be with. The second is John, the other guy I meet up with on a regular basis. He is no less interesting, a good painter in acrylics and always up beat despite his difficult circumstances. It's been a very interesting time for me and I have enjoyed the interaction with both the staff and the clients. I won't go on and on about how rewarding it has been. Instead I'll ask you to read this poem that John wrote. He's currently back living in a hostel, and handed me this the other day, on a scrap of paper.

### H E A R T

The years have not turned you sour  
or weary

You have taken the bad times on the chin

My dear friend, it has made you  
a stronger person

You still have grace and love in your heart  
for your fellow man

You leave my mind blown away

Whoever gets to heaven first

I hope to meet you when our time is up

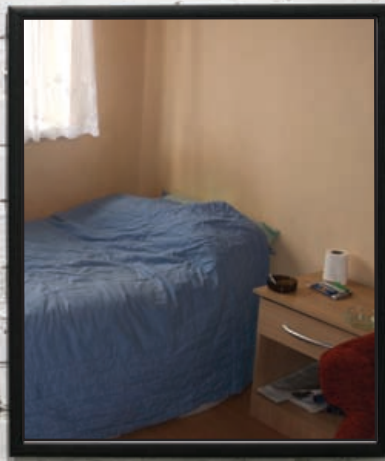
Just you being there

Not a word spoken

That's all that matters

John 25<sup>th</sup> July





## Fun Run Volunteer

My name is Monica Gorman and my involvement with Simon began 29 years ago when I spent a year as a full time worker in the Night Shelter on Sarsfield Quay. I was nineteen years old. This experience changed my life and I was inspired by the many people I met. During the 29 years I have been a full time worker, co-worker in the Night Shelter and Follow-up. In the area of fund-raising, I have taken part in sponsored cycles, church gate collections, and hikes to The Sahara (2000) and Namibia (2001). In 1984, Simon ran their first ever Simon Week and had their first ever Simon Road Race. Now, 25 years on, the Fun Run is still in operation and I am proud to say that I have been involved ever since. One of the things I find most inspiring about this day is the energy and enthusiasm displayed by runners and organisers. People year after year come out on the day to show their support for Simon.

I have seen many changes in the growth and achievements of the Dublin Simon Community down through the years which epitomises the ethos of Simon for me. Even though it was written many years ago by the founder of the Simon Community, Anton Wallich-Clifford, it is important for me to reflect on its relevance today

“Simon aims to come in where others leave off and to work for those unable to accept existing help, or for whom no adequate provisions exist”.





## Staff Profile

### Brian Lambe, Rough Sleeper Team Project Worker

Working for ten years in a completely different industry hasn't hindered, but rather it has enhanced, my experience within "De Simon". I've been a project worker with The Rough Sleeper Team for over a year now and I'm still learning something new each day. Instead of going to work and having a fair idea of what my day will entail, I never know exactly what's on the cards for the shift ahead and that's a breath of fresh air for me! I love the variety of tasks involved with such a front line project, from hands on street searches to giving vital advice that might help someone turn a corner in their life.

I started out volunteering with the Wednesday night Social Club and soon after I joined the Tuesday night Soup Run which gave me a realistic look at the whole issue of homelessness. I very quickly realised that the social work arena was something more suited to me but was unsure how I could make the dramatic change from number crunching accountancy to social work. So I decided to "take a chance" last year, and went for an interview for a full time position. My experience from the Soup Run (and maybe a bit of charm) gave me good advantage and to my delight I was given the opportunity to start a new career. Nowadays I don't have to go rummaging for a clean shirt 'n' tie in the morning...





## Leaving something behind for those society has left behind

We would like to take this opportunity to thank and remember all of those who thought of Dublin Simon Community in their Will. In 2007 we received €171,696 in legacies; this money was used towards funding our emergency shelter in Harcourt Street. Our emergency shelter provides 24 hour access, full board, communal wet room and dry room, case management & key working, nurse available 5 days a week, access to doctor, needle exchange, counsellor and chiropodist, referrals to other Simon services such as housing, Detox, Learning & Development. It costs approx €1.15 million to keep our Emergency Shelter open. By remembering us in your Wills you solely funded this service for 41 nights, impacting on many lives.

“If I can get a referral for a long term place here, I can get myself off the streets. Hopefully I’ll be able to move into a more settled home and see my kids again. I love them and I want to see them, but I wouldn’t want them to see me like this”, says Mark who was in our Emergency Services

Every gift in every Will makes a difference, whether it is €50 or €50,000. Any contribution can help change the life of someone who society has left behind. Thank you.





## Corporate Support throughout the Year

Without corporate support of our work in 2007, Dublin Simon Community would be unable to provide many of the much needed services and supports offered to those experiencing homelessness. For this we thank all small to large businesses for their valuable contributions to the work we do.

Our House of Cards Campaign at Christmas time is a significant piece of work, displaying extensive support from the business community. Throughout the year, we also have many other businesses, both national and international, that support the work of Dublin Simon. ESB's Electric Aid made it possible for us to undertake much needed refurbishment work within our detox unit while the Royal Bank of Scotland Ireland funded lap tops for use for our Learning and Development Team. Standard Life also came on board with Learning and Development in conjunction with Simon Communities of Ireland. One of our big sponsorship deals is with Jacobs Fruitfield, who will sponsor our Soup Run for the next four years.

Pioneer Investments will also work with Dublin Simon over three years as part of their significant long-term activity funding campaign, while Roadstone Dublin are also involved with our work through their valuable Simon Safety Challenge contribution which is run in conjunction with their parent company CRH.

Gifts in kind are also a valuable source of appreciation and this year we had a number of fantastic gifts from Donnolly's Fruit & Veg, the Irish Dairy Board and Dominoes Pizza.

A number of corporate events also take place annually in aid of Dublin Simon and 2007 proved particularly successful for the Business Journalist Quiz, sponsored by Irish Life Investment Manager, and also the Dublin Docklands Development Authority whose innovative 12 Trees of Christmas event provoked the interest of public, media and celebrities alike.

We are grateful to all our business donors for their help and support which allow us to continue our ongoing efforts to work with those in urgent need of our services. We look forward to working with more of you in the future.





## Fundraising Activities 2007

Without the support of your donations throughout the year, Dublin Simon Community would not be able to provide the totality of the services that today so many people experiencing homelessness rely on. We would like to sincerely thank you who have donated in any way, be it a few pennies or even a few minutes of your time. Every contribution you make helps us provide the service and supports for the most vulnerable people in our society. From climbing mountain peaks, to arranging school sing-songs, your support drives us on in our everyday work...

## Hikes

- India, June '07. Magnificent highs and beautiful scenery.
- 7 Peaks Challenge, July '07. Thank you to our Hikers Committee. The highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales as well as the four provinces of Ireland in one 7 day period – no mean feat!
- Coast to Coast, September '07. Led by Irish travel writer John Mulligan, a group of 20 people re-traced the footsteps of the Four Famous Flannery's and made the journey from Dublin to Newport, Mayo.







## Annual Events

- Fun Run, October '07. Over 2000 people ran around the park in aid of Dublin Simon
- Carol Singing, Christmas '07. Everyone from schools to companies including the impressive Garda Ladies Choir came out in force to sing Simon through the cold evenings.
- Church gate Collections, '07. The contribution of our church gate collectors and those who contribute is vital to our fundraising efforts.
- Direct Mail, '07. Thank you for your valuable support.
- Christmas Gift Appeal, Christmas '07. For those who bought a bed for the night, or other such gifts, thank you.



## Ad Hoc Events

- Poker Challenge, November '07. Huge success for the second year running. Thank you to Eamon Connelly, Pdraig Parkinson & Friends.



## AND THANK YOU FOR ALL THE

- |                       |                       |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| • Coffee Mornings     | • Discos              | • Communion & Confirmation money Donations |
| • Parachute Jumps     | • Book Sales          | • Non-uniform Days                         |
| • Table Quizzes       | • Halloween Parties   | • And all the rest....                     |
| • Golf Classics       | • General Collections |  |
| • Dance & Music Shows | • School Sleep Outs   |  |





# a picture speaks a thousand words

## Ben Mullane:



### ‘Little House on the Prairie’

180 Parnell Street where I was reared by ‘Twiggy’ Nora Melia. There were eight families living in the house and the rent was four schillings a week.



### ‘Luxury’

Ben remembers playing football with his friends on the streets years ago. They used the gates of King’s Inn as goalposts. It would have been a luxury to have had a goal post like this one.



### ‘The Moy Pub’

I had my first drink in a pub here aged thirteen.



### ‘Summer’

Nature and plant life along the canal presents ‘Life, fresh air and excitement, and gives a boost for everyone’. He would like this scene preserved for future generations to enjoy.

## Tony Gorman:



### ‘Wasting Time’

‘I was less than twelve years old. School was a disaster. I just walked in the door of Dargan’s Chemist and got the job of messenger boy for meself. Wages were £3.10.00 per week. I used to bring home toothbrushes, toothpaste and lipsticks.’



### ‘Just the Sky’

‘It depresses me that I’m getting older. I don’t think anything good would come out of looking at the future.’



### ‘The Truth’

‘It’s the reality, the truth. I get fed up. I could drink in my room and often did, but living here is sometimes like a cul de sac’.

## Ann Moran:



### ‘St. Michael’s Estate’

‘I lived up the top balcony in St. Michael’s Estate. I moved out of there three years ago. I miss the friendly neighbours. I like company.’



### ‘Richard and John, Mick and Me’

‘Richard and John live in Coolock and I keep in touch with them over the phone. Mick died a few years ago. I am close to my family.’



### ‘I worry about my eyes getting blurrier.’

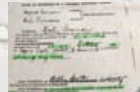
Ann worries about her eyesight deteriorating as she ages.

## Noel Brennan:



### ‘No Hearth’

This series deals with Noel’s past, present and future. It is centered on the notion of Home with its many connotations and nuances. Noel has never felt that he belonged anywhere. Home and not having one is very significant for him. He wonders if he will ever feel at home. Noel’s future is dedicated to finding and healing the absence of a hearth in his life.



## Theresa Timmins



### ‘Playing Hopscotch in Keogh Square.’

‘I loved to play hopscotch as a kid in Keogh Square with my friends. Black and white reminds me of the real thing. I liked being small.’ 0014



### ‘I lie on the bed because sometimes me legs do be paining me.’

Sometimes I’ve nothing else to do. I like my room.



### ‘Sometimes I feel as though my life is a dream.’

‘I feel as though I am only passing through. I don’t know about my future. It’s very depressing. That could be me in the Old Folks Home.’

## James Healy:



### ‘Ballymote’

‘I come from Ballymote in Sligo. I see my family about every ten years. I have to put up with it’.



### ‘Being Heard’

‘Sometimes I feel isolated. I don’t prefer to be on my own.’



### ‘Ballyremote’

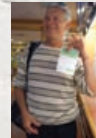
‘Here is not home, but Ballymote is busy now. I am waiting to get back to my own County Sligo, but I would be gone again they’d be ready’.

## Michael Smith:



### ‘A Place Where the Cops Could never Chase You’

I used to play in this graveyard. It was where I grew up in Inchicore. It reminds me of my youth and is peaceful.



### ‘The Bookies, My Past, Present & Future’

‘I go to the Bookies on a regular basis. I can study the form well when I’m not drinking. When I do this I always win money’.



### ‘No Space Left’

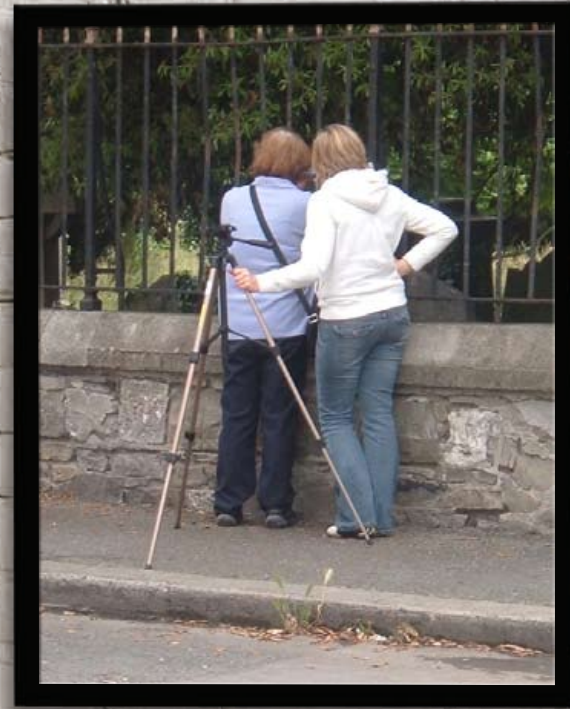
Once I went off the booze and didn’t know what to do with my money. I just bought loads of clothes’.




### ‘Comfort’

‘Even if I get drunk, at least I have somewhere relatively safe to go to sleep. I want to hang onto this place’.









Thank you to our staff across Dublin Simon Community, our volunteers from all walks of life who give so generously of their time, and our service users who rely on our services and inspire and motivate us to continue our work.

Thanks also to all of you who have donated in many and varied ways to the Dublin Simon Community. With the help of people like you, we are able to give people who are homeless the stability to start rebuilding their lives.

Our ultimate goal is to help service users develop the confidence to find a home of their own, get a job and integrate into our communities. Without your help and their motivation this is not possible.  
Thank you.





[www.dubsimon.ie](http://www.dubsimon.ie)

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