



Dublin  
**Simon**  
Community

# SPRING UPDATE 2016

Serving Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Meath.



## Easter at Simon

On Good Friday, Dublin Simon Community held an Easter Party for our clients. Over 100 people were in attendance at the Red Cow Moran Hotel who generously hosted the event again for the third year in a row.

Dublin Bus kindly provided buses to take our clients and residents out to the party from the city centre.

Attendees were treated to a delicious three course meal, soft drinks, tea and coffee. After lunch, music and entertainment were provided by the Rye River Band, followed by a raffle with lots of exciting prizes up for grabs which had been donated by some of our supporters.

Art work and creative pieces were on display throughout the room, showcasing the talent of our clients and residents who took part in our personal development programmes.

Each year the Easter Party is organised by our fundraising team and Client Involvement service. This service supports clients to get involved in many different opportunities throughout the year, to help deliver our services and take part in the decisions made by Dublin Simon Community. Every client brings different experiences, skills and ideas which contribute to the way we work.

This service, together with our Client Action Group, organises several events and activities throughout the year including Speak Outs, the Client's Eye newsletter, Peer Volunteering and Peer Research.

# Sam's Welcome



When you are living without a home, each day becomes something you have to endure.

As these days turn into weeks, sometimes months, you are surviving, not living.

For people who are rough sleeping or accessing emergency accommodation, this is a relentless struggle. You move from place to place to pass the time. You go in and out of shops, cafés and train stations to space out your day and get out of the cold.

If you are lucky enough to have a bed for the night, this is just somewhere to lay your head for a few short hours, sometimes in dormitories with several other people. Then, as morning comes, you must pack up all your belongings, go out into the cold and begin your search again.

Families accessing hotel rooms are facing a similar struggle, as they try to make an impossible situation into an adventure to minimise the effect on their children. Trying to cook, play or do homework all in the one room. Staring at the same four walls or breaking up the day with mundane walks and visits to the park

In the years since we began, the Simon Community has continued to improve our services to meet the changing needs of our clients. We provide emotional support, advocacy and advice, identifying what needs to happen for people to become secure in a home of their own and how we can help them get there.

From all the clients and residents who rely on our services, our volunteers and staff, we would like to express our sincerest thanks to all our supporters for your generosity and consideration. Because of people like you, the Simon Community is giving hope to people and families facing these impossible days, their darkest hours. With your kindness, we will remain by their side day after day.

Sam McGuinness  
On behalf of Dublin Simon Community

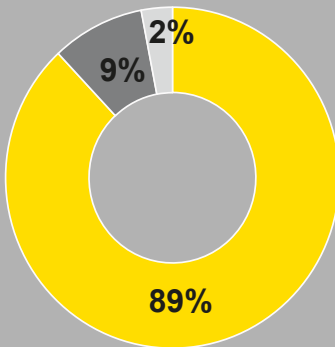
A thoughtful gift of

**€100**



could provide a pack of household essentials for a person or a family moving on from homelessness into a home of their own.

## Where Your Money Goes



89% of all our income goes directly towards our homeless services. The remainder goes on raising funds and support services.

## Simon's Donor Charter

Dublin Simon Community is a registered charity, CHY5963, in accordance with the Charities Section of the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

As a charity seeking donations from the public we aim to comply with the Irish Charities Tax Research's (ICTR's) Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

Our pledge is to treat all our donors with respect, honesty and openness. We commit to being accountable and transparent so that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in us.

**Our Annual Reports and Independently Audited Annual Accounts are available on our website [www.dubsimon.ie](http://www.dubsimon.ie).**

For more information and updates on what is happening in our services please follow us on:



Facebook @DublinSimonCommunity



Twitter @dublin\_simon



LinkedIn @Dublin Simon Community



Instagram @dublinsimoncommunity

# Simon's Services Since 1969



The first Soup Run was founded by students from Trinity College and UCD. Our Soup Run is still operated by our dedicated volunteers 365 nights of the year. We also now provide a volunteer-led Social Club.

1976



Street Outreach was established. Today, our Rough Sleeper Team together with our Mobile Health Clinic provide support, advice, harm reduction and medical services.

1989



Our first training and employment services were set up. We now provide Literacy and Personal Development, Health and Wellbeing and Client Involvement services focusing on health, education and employability.

2002



Our Homeless Support Service expanded into Wicklow and Kildare. Today, we provide accommodation and/or support to people and families who are homeless or at risk in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow and now also provide services in Meath.

2015

1969



Our first supported housing service opened on Sean MacDermott Street. Today, we provide permanent supported housing for people and independent accommodation where residents receive visiting support.

1984



Ushers Island opened as our first purpose built service. Today, the complex provides treatment and recovery and has now expanded to Alcohol Detox, Recovery and Aftercare, a Stablisation/Respite Unit and a Counselling service.

2000



Resettlement service established. Our Prevention Services have now expanded to include our Support to Live Independently service, Visiting Tenancy Support and clinics providing Tenant Information and Support.

2012



Housing Management Service expanded to manage Simon's new accommodation. The team are responsible for the management of both our independent and supported accommodation.

# A New Service - Tenant Information

*We are continuously improving and adapting our services to address the escalating homeless and housing crisis. We recently launched our new Tenant Information and Support Service.*

The Tenant Information and Support Service are community based, drop-in clinics and visiting support. They aim to support people to remain in their homes and stay in their community. They give people the advice they need as early as possible to keep them secure in their homes.

Working in your local community, the Tenant Information and Support Service will provide advice for tenants in private rented accommodation who have concerns about:

- Losing their home
- Rent arrears
- The standard of their rented accommodation
- Unsuitable living arrangements
- Difficulties managing their home
- Housing rights

The team also continue to provide practical support for all types of tenancies through their Visiting Tenancy Support Service. This provides ongoing visiting support to help people to look at any issues with their tenancies and take action to deal with them.

This can include helping people to stay in their homes, helping people with money management and entitlements and linking people with appropriate services in their community such as educational, health or legal supports. The team also provide someone to speak or act on a client's behalf if needed.

If you or anyone you know has concerns about their tenancy, the team can be contacted by calling **01 635 4888**, emailing **prevention@dubsimon.ie** or visiting any of the drop-in clinics at the locations below.



The Dublin Simon Community Tenant Information and Support Service is provided and funded by Dublin City Council and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council



Comhshaoil, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government

# How You Make a Difference

Because of the generosity of people like you, Dublin Simon Community work with over 3,000 people each year across Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



Our Rough Sleeper Team spend over **6,000 hours** engaging with clients sleeping rough.



**531 people** accessed our emergency shelters in Dublin.



**152 people** accessed our permanent supported housing services.



**811 people** engaged with our Independent Living and Prevention services.



**387 people** accessed our services in Kildare, Wicklow and Meath.



**532 people** accessed addiction treatment, recovery and counselling services.



We held **1,300 Learning and Development sessions**.



Over **200,000 meals** were provided across our residential services.



We established new support services like the **Housing Management Service**.

\*Yearly figures and developments based on our most recent Annual Review. Our next Annual Review with our most up to date figures will be released in September 2016.

“I’m after getting myself a one bedroom apartment through Simon. I’ve something to look forward to now, starting a new life.”

- Jim, Simon Client

“They really do try and get you back on your feet in here. They’re helping me find my own place and then I’ll do my best to get back to work.”

- Darren, Simon Client

# Support Simon Throughout The Year

We are continuously grateful for the generosity of Simon supporters. Through donations, fundraising events and campaigns, combined with the commitment of the business community we are able to provide services to people who need them most. There are plenty of ways to continue your kind support throughout the year.

## Simon Wedding Favours

Make your special day both memorable and meaningful by making a thoughtful donation to Dublin Simon Community. Choosing Simon wedding favours as part of your day is the perfect way to say thank you to your wedding attendees, help raise vital funds and make a difference in the lives of people who are living without a home. We will provide elegantly designed tent cards to inform all your guests of the generous donation you have made on their behalf. Alternatively, if you would like to give a wedding gift in support of Dublin Simon Community, please get in touch and we would be happy to arrange this for you.



## Make Your Donation Work Harder for Simon

With your help we can reclaim the tax on your donations and continue to provide services to those who need it most. If you are a PAYE or self-assessed tax payer and have given €250 or more in the course of a tax year, Dublin Simon Community can reclaim at least €112 back from the Revenue, at no extra cost to you.

If you have not yet received your tax form for 2015 or previous years please get in touch with us and we can arrange this for you. Please contact us on **01 671 5551** or email [fundraising@dubsimon.ie](mailto:fundraising@dubsimon.ie) if you have any questions.



## Leave something behind for those society has left behind

*"The mark of a man's success is not the wealth he leaves behind him when he dies, it's what he bequeaths to society while he is alive."*



By thinking of Dublin Simon Community in your will, you will make a vital difference to the thousands of vulnerable people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath.

Bequests left to Dublin Simon Community have been enormously beneficial to providing all our services from housing to outreach, to our treatment services and make a lasting, personal difference to people who are experiencing homelessness.

If you would like to remember us in your will, or would like further information about Dublin Simon Community and the people we help, please contact Anmarie Brennan in confidence on **01 671 5551**.

*\*Attributed to Tommy (RIP), client of Simon services.*

# Simon's Upcoming Events

*We are reliant on the commitment of people like you so that we can continue to provide vital services. As a valued Simon supporter we would love to see you at our upcoming events. Please join us at the events below and make sure to spread the word with your families, friends, communities and colleagues.*

## VHI Women's Mini Marathon 6th June

We would like to invite all mothers, sisters, daughters, friends and colleagues to dust off those trainers and raise funds for Dublin Simon Community by walking, jogging or running in the Mini Marathon. Sign Up For Simon at [www.dubsimon.ie](http://www.dubsimon.ie).

## Simon Fun Run 1st October

A Silly Run for a Serious Cause! The longest running charity event in the Phoenix Park, this year we will be celebrating 33 years. As well as an extra fun five mile run, we will have lots in store to celebrate the commitment of the whole community to the work that we do. For more information please visit [www.funrun.ie](http://www.funrun.ie).

## SSE Airtricity Dublin Marathon 30th October

Challenge yourself to take part in aid of Dublin Simon Community in this year's Dublin Marathon or run, jog or walk any marathon or fitness event this year. Please visit our website for a list of upcoming activities. We will provide you with a t-shirt, sponsorship card and encouragement!

If you would like any further information on the above events or how to get involved please get in touch by emailing [fundraising@dubsimon.ie](mailto:fundraising@dubsimon.ie), calling **01 671 5551** or visiting [www.dubsimon.ie](http://www.dubsimon.ie).

**Dates For  
Your Diary**



## We Would Love to Hear From You

We always love to hear from loyal and valued Simon supporters like you and show you how your generous support can make a vital difference.

If you would like any further information on our services or would like to sign up to hear from us by email please do not hesitate to contact us through any of the below.

Thank you!

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

**Tel:** 01 671 5551

**Email:** [fundraising@dubsimon.ie](mailto:fundraising@dubsimon.ie)

