



Dublin
Simon
Community

WINTER UPDATE 2015

Serving Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Meath.

Simon Soup Run Entered Into Hall of Fame



Dublin Simon Community would like to wish a huge congratulations to all our Soup Run Volunteers, past and present, who were recently recognised by the Irish Food Writers Guild (IFWG) by being entered into the Hall of Fame at their Social Responsibility Awards.

The awards recognise contributions made by Irish food businesses, non-profit organisations and individuals to furthering social responsibility in the food sector. The organisations involved covered areas from sustainability in commercial enterprises to conservation, food education projects, food projects that reach out to the most vulnerable in our community and community gardens.

Our Soup Run was considered by the judging panel to have contributed at such an outstanding

level since it was established in 1969 that it was immediately entered into the IFWG Social Responsibility Awards' Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is an honour that recognises the longevity of an exceptional contribution to the community.



Claire, Soup Run Volunteer

Sam's Welcome



"The darkest hour is just before the dawn."
- Proverb

In recent months the homeless and housing crisis has sadly continued to spiral out of control. Over 2,300 adults, 600 families and 1,300 children are trapped in the misery and uncertainty of emergency

accommodation, in the Dublin region alone, without any prospect of permanent housing to move onto. Many people are still laying their heads down at night in despair and without hope.

Together we can make a life changing difference to thousands facing their darkest hour. Because of the generosity of people like you, our local services across Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath give the support that they so vitally need. Our dedicated teams of staff and volunteers provide outreach, primary care, prevention and independent living services.

At Simon, we are there when we are needed the most, while also providing permanent housing to move people and families on from homelessness for good.

Using our Housing Development Fund made up of bequests, trusts and generous gifts from supporters like you, together with Capital Assistance Scheme funding, in 2014 alone we increased our accommodation capacity by 59%.

This Christmas, you can give us the power to help more people and families who are facing the toughest of times. Your gift of hope will ensure that no matter where life takes them, with Simon and your kindness by their side, they will have the strength to move towards a brighter future.

Sam McGinness
On behalf of Dublin Simon Community

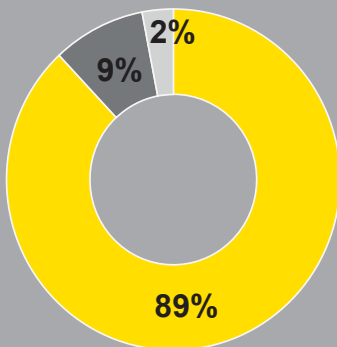
A kind donation of



€50

could give someone
a warm bed
for five nights.

Where Your Money Goes



89% of all our income goes directly towards our homeless services. The remaining 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.

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

A Light That Never Goes Out - Simon's Services Across Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath



Our **Soup Run** walks the streets in all weathers, 365 days and nights of the year, providing life saving support to people experiencing homelessness.



Our **Mobile Health Unit** delivers free primary healthcare, medical support and counselling services to people who are experiencing homelessness.



Our **Rough Sleeper Team** walks and drives around the city providing mobile outreach, harm reduction, clothing, advice and support services to clients, aiming to help them in whatever way they may need.



Our **Support to Live Independently and Housing Management Services** provide visiting support for individuals and families who are moving on from homelessness into their own home.



Our **Outreach Services** across Kildare, Wicklow and Meath provide support to people who are sleeping rough in each county and link them in with their local community.



Our **Homeless Support Services** in Kildare, Wicklow and Meath provide tenancy sustainment and settlement advice to people and families who are at risk of, or moving on from, homelessness.



Our **Prevention Services** visit people and families in their homes who are at risk of homelessness and try to give them the support and advice to maintain their tenancy.



For people in their darkest hour, whenever and wherever that may be, our support services try to help them in any way we can.

Across **Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath** our dedicated teams provide outreach and medical services to people sleeping rough. We provide visiting advice and support to people who are moving on from homelessness and to those at risk of losing their home.

It is only with the kindness of people like you that these vital, and often life saving, services are provided day after day to those most in need, when they need it most.

Mary and Michael's Story

"The two of us are nearly crying all the time in here, not with sadness but with happiness."

Mary and her husband Michael had been living in emergency accommodation since last November, but because of the support from people like you, they are now safe and secure in their own home.

Mary describes the trauma and uncertainty of the time they spent living without a home:

"I first became homeless about three years ago. The landlord had increased the rent and I just couldn't afford it with the rent allowance I was receiving. I tried to make up the difference for a couple of months but I couldn't keep it up. He got the electricity and the water turned off and I was living there just with candles for light. Eventually I couldn't cope anymore and I had to leave."

"We would have slept out on the streets for about seven weeks. We slept behind churches, wherever we could find. Luckily then, we were able to move into emergency accommodation. Once there, with the support of the staff, we tried to find somewhere more permanent. We went on lots of viewings, but so many places didn't accept rent allowance."

Mary's husband Michael speaks about what it was like living in temporary housing:

"It's hard. It's really really hard living in emergency accommodation with people you don't know. I try to get on with everybody but you often don't feel safe or secure."

Just recently, Mary and Michael secured an apartment with the Simon Community which Michael says has been a life changing experience for their family:

"This place has sorted out our lives. We had gone through such a difficult time and were very depressed. We were going to give up because it got so hard. Without the Simon Community we wouldn't have made it."

Michael continues: *"It really has changed both of us. The way we think and the way we see things now. We know we can make it. We had a life before we ended up on the streets. We had a lovely life. The two of us are nearly crying all the time in here, not with sadness but with happiness."*

Mary says they are now looking forward to a secure future together with their daughter:

"It's like a miracle come true."



A thoughtful gift of

€100



could provide a home starter pack to a person, or family like Mary and Michael's, moving on from homelessness into a home of their own.

Set Up a Direct Debit to Make Your Donation Work Harder

By setting up a Direct Debit you will allow Dublin Simon Community to plan for the future. Your regular support will enable us to start new projects and develop new initiatives with greater confidence to assist people experiencing homelessness. Because of you we are able to plan ahead and give people the stability to get their lives back on track. By setting up a monthly gift of €21 or more you will ensure that Dublin Simon Community can also claim the tax back on your total donations for the year. If you are able to set up a Direct Debit, or make any donation you can afford, we will put it to work where it is needed most.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Fundraising Team on 01 671 5551 or email fundraising@dubsimon.ie for more information.

Simon's Housing Supports

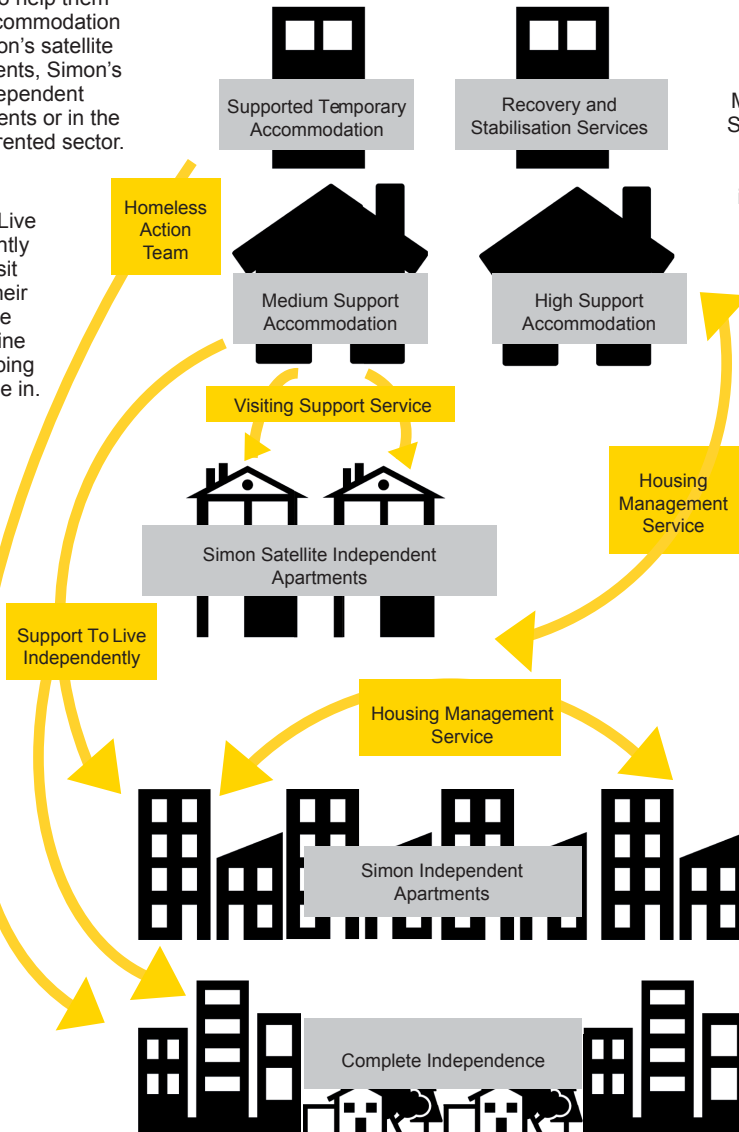
Because of the kindness of people like you, Dublin Simon Community are sourcing properties and putting the right supports in place to address the current homeless and housing crisis and move people and families onto safe and secure homes of their own.

If clients are ready for independent living our Homeless Action Team work to help them find accommodation in Simon's satellite apartments, Simon's independent apartments or in the private rented sector.

People who are experiencing homelessness often first enter Simon's residential services through our Supported Temporary Accommodation or Treatment and Recovery Services where they stay three to six months.

Depending on their support needs, clients move onto Medium or High Support Housing if they are unable to live independently.

Our Support To Live Independently service visit clients in their new home for six to nine months helping them to settle in.



Clients who live in our Satellite Apartments receive visiting support and link in with the nearby Supported Accommodation for keyworking and social activities.

Clients who live in our Supported Housing and independent apartments link in with the Housing Management Service indefinitely.

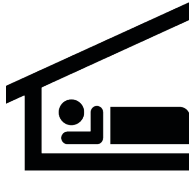
Clients and Residents are all encouraged to link in with Simon's Counselling, Learning and Development, Health and Wellbeing, Employability and Peer Volunteering services to support them as they get back on their feet.

How Your Support Makes a Difference

Together with the generosity from our strong community of supporters like you, in 2014 we helped over 3,000 vulnerable people in their darkest hour. Here is just a snapshot of what was achieved in one year and the difference you can make.



Our Rough Sleeper Team spent 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.

Hope

*Hope is a feeling of wonder
Hope is a feeling of desire for all to see,
a wonderful feeling that comes over me,
to climb that mountain, or to dive in the sea.
Hope is that feeling that I can be that beautiful person
that I am meant to be,
with all the gifts that were given to me,
and hopefully will always be.*

Poem by Gerry and photo by John,
Clients of Simon's services.

A generous donation of

€250



could provide our Rough Sleeper Team with 10 'Emergency Packs' for people sleeping on our streets.

Reclaim the Tax for Simon - Make Your Donation Work Harder

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.**

Tax relief on donations to Dublin Simon Community means that we can now make your generosity go even further to help people who are homeless or at risk.

Please call 01 671 5551 for more information or email fundraising@dubsimon.ie.

Celebrate Christmas With Simon

We are reliant on the generosity and 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 over the holiday season. Please join us at the events below and make sure to spread the word with your families, friends, communities and colleagues.

Simon House of Light 10th - 12th December

As a truly valued supporter of the Simon Community we would like you, your family and friends to enjoy our **Simon House of Light** projection show on 10th, 11th and 12th December. Each evening we will illuminate the front of the Powerscourt Townhouse Centre in Dublin in a festive music and light show extravaganza. Join us for live entertainment, face painting, festive visits, toy hunts and some well known faces. Proudly supported by:

THE IRISH TIMES



Irish International
Insight. Excite.

POWERSCOURT
CENTRE

Sing for Simon Carolathon 18th - 19th December

As a break from your Christmas shopping bring your family and friends along to see our 24-Hour **Sing for Simon Carolathon** taking place on Grafton Street from 5.30pm Friday 18th December to 5.30pm Saturday 19th December. Hundreds of people including many professional choirs, Simon Community residents, volunteers and staff, will sing round the clock for 24 hours straight to help raise vital funds for Simon's services. Each year Sing for Simon brings together over 100 groups and choirs who sing in various outdoor and indoor locations throughout December.

If you would like any further information on the above events or how to get involved at Christmas please get in touch by emailing fundraising@dubsimon.ie, calling **01 671 5551** or visiting 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 more information on our services please do not hesitate to contact us on **01 671 5551**.

If you would like to receive email updates from us about developments in our services please do not hesitate to contact us through any of the below. Thank you!

