



SEAN MACDERMOTT STREET



In September 1976 Dublin Simon Community acquired a property at 36 Sean MacDermott Street for a residential house. By Christmas of that year it had been renovated and ten residents had moved in.

In June 1979 they acquired the adjoining building at 35 Sean MacDermott Street. This was also converted to become a residential house welcoming its first residents in May 1981.

From 1980 one large room in the basement became the headquarters for the Soup Run and another the site for a laundry service.

Simon volunteer Ursula describes visiting the house in the early 1980's:

"Brigid the Project Worker showed me the garden of 35 with great pride. It had been just a pile of rubble when the house opened. In less than a year one of the residents had converted it into a thriving garden producing plenty of fresh vegetables."\*



\*Extract from 'It's Simon - The Story of the Dublin Simon Community' by Ursula Coleman.

\*\*\*\*\*

SIMON IN THE NEWS

**Aid to vagrants  
'inadequate'**

By Paul Murray,  
Social Services Correspondant

Irish Times,  
14th Dec, 1979

The year 1979 has, however, been one of progress. The soup run has been catering to 20-25 people every night: about 50 people are being housed and looked after in the shelter nightly, and follow-up services and food runs are going well. The "major success" achieved during the year involved the granting by Dublin Corporation of planning permission to reinstate the organisation's second house in Sean MacDermott Street. The two houses will, it is planned, cater for 24 people in full residential care. It is also proposed to build a new shelter.

**Simon seeks workers**

Dublin Simon Community is in urgent need of skilled carpenters, plumbers and electricians prepared to work on a voluntary, part-time, basis with the community in the renovation of its houses. Volunteers are asked to telephone 720188.

Irish Times,  
14th March, 1979

DUBLIN SIMON COMMUNITY  
requires another  
**PROJECT LEADER**

for two adjoining but separate houses with not more than twenty-four people. The job involves responsibility for the welfare of the residents and co-ordination of activity within the houses. Previous experience in the social field is essential.

Apply to: The Chairman, Dublin Simon Community, 21 Marlborough Place, Dublin  
Phone 720188

Irish Times,  
16th March,  
1979

DUBLIN SIMON

You took me off the street and darkness of homelessness to the light of Sean Mac. The staff are great good craic.

I would also like to add the aftercare team are magic. You have given me hope of a future I did not have when I was homeless.

Dublin Simon you have turned my life around. I will be forever grateful.

By John