

“

Two years, just getting sick on the streets and nowhere to go.

I've slept in bank doorways, some of them weren't nice places. It was too risky sometimes at night.

I only realise now since I'm living here with Simon, like 11 years, I got a fright in my heart on the streets. This is where I live and it's a home. I'll stay here as long as I can.

You're just safe. People care about you. If you're nice to them they'll be nice back to you.

”

Matthew



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Feidhmeannacht um Dhaoine ar Easpa
Dídeine Réigiún Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin Region Homeless Executive



Kildare County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council



Comhairle Contae an Chabháin
Cavan County Council



Comhairle Contae Mhúineacháin
Monaghan County Council



National Office for
Suicide Prevention



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health



An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

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**50
YEARS**
OF CLOSING DOORS ON
HOMELESSNESS



ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

Serving Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Meath,
Louth, Cavan, Monaghan

“

I was on the streets for about two years, two winters.

Being hungry, cold, being absolutely miserable all the time.

There was nothing good about living on the streets, it takes years off your life.

My life has changed since getting my own home. My health's improved, I look better. It's dramatically changed for the better.

When I return home and close the door, it's just great knowing that I'm safe.

”

Niamh



SAM'S WELCOME



In February 1969, a small number of volunteers, made up of students from University College Dublin and Trinity College, packed up their flasks

of soup and sandwiches and set out on the streets of Dublin to provide food and support to people experiencing homelessness. This marked the beginning of the Simon Community and in 2019 we are commemorating 50 years of helping people to close the door on homelessness.

Looking back on 2018, we saw the homeless and housing crisis tragically escalate. Storm Emma marked the coldest week we have experienced, possibly since 1982. Staff and volunteers across the sector showed dedication to the welfare of our clients and ensured that services were delivered.

We continued to progress our construction and redevelopment plans, providing more housing options for people to move on from homelessness and into a home of their own.

We established new services, such as our Suicide Prevention Service, following receipt of funding from the National Office for Suicide Prevention. Our Step Up Step Down facility, delivered in partnership with Safetynet Primary Care and in collaboration with other hospitals and key stakeholders in the homeless sector, was also opened.

Our employability opportunities, counselling and wraparound prevention and resettlement services, ensure that the door on homelessness remains closed for good. These supports are essential to helping people to address any physical and mental health needs as well as developing their skills, education and experience.

In the months, years and decades that have passed since we began, thousands of shattered lives have been rebuilt and saved. This is due to the commitment of supporters, funders, staff and volunteers, partners, clients and residents.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our work, and to our clients and residents for their inspirational resilience. People are depending on us, and together we will give them hope.

Sam

Sam McGuinness
Dublin Simon Community CEO



7,684

People and families were supported across our services in 2018, a 22% increase since the previous year.



362,155

Meals were provided across our residential services, with our kitchens providing nourishing food to improve wellbeing.



12,336

Food parcels were distributed by Outreach, Resettlement and Food for Simon Teams, a 99% increase since the previous year.



1,273

Adults and children were supported to prevent them from homelessness through advice clinics and visiting support.



2,131

Adults and children were supported in moving out of homelessness and into their own homes by our resettlement services.

213



Residents lived in our permanent supported housing, receiving assistance with health and welfare, education and training.

649



Adults and children were housed through our independent housing by the end of 2018.



2,183

Clients were provided with housing assistance, harm reduction and medical services by our Outreach Team.



1,205

People accessed our emergency accommodation, with care plans focusing on health, life skills and education.



2,438

Hours of 1:1 counselling and mental health supports were received by clients accessing Sure Steps Counselling.



1,087

People accessed our Medical Residential Treatment and Recovery as well as our Aftercare, our Homeless Action Team and our Sure Steps Counselling services.



410

Participants came through our skills, education and employability initiatives through classes in literacy, personal development, arts and drama as well as volunteering and Community Employment opportunities.



188

Referrals were received through our Health and Wellbeing service, providing access to exercise facilities and expertise including personal training, nutritional advice and mindfulness.

**Figures based on caseload. Please note some clients may have accessed more than one service.*

This is just a snapshot of what was achieved.
Please visit www.dubsimon.ie/AnnualReview2018 to view our full report.