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VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Justin's journey from client to caretaker

Justin, who recently became a Soup Run coordinator, has been a volunteer for the past ten years. During this time, he has supported our services in various roles and even dressed up as Santa, the Easter Bunny, and Superman at Dublin Simon events. He first came to Dublin Simon in 2008 **after spending 14 years sleeping rough in England**. He overcame his addiction through our Detox, Recovery, and Aftercare services and has been volunteering with us **for 17 years**.

Every Wednesday, Justin prepares the bags for the Soup Run at our Outreach office, filling them with **sandwiches, snacks, and hygiene products**. By 7pm, he collects the soup from The Church Café Bar & Restaurant, while other volunteers prepare coffee and tea to serve to the people sleeping rough.

A veteran of the Soup Run, Justin has noticed an increase in people on the streets and emphasises the **challenges faced** by those experiencing homelessness. He highlights the diversity of people he encounters, regardless of nationality, gender, or age, and calls for the Government to build more social housing to provide them with a stable home.

Building relationships with people sleeping rough is crucial for engaging with them, as trust is essential for forging connections. Justin acknowledges that some people may initially be hesitant to interact with volunteers, but with time and understanding, they can become more receptive.

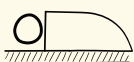
Safety is Justin's top priority when he goes on the Soup Run. He advises volunteers to stay alert and aware of their surroundings, as some areas are safer than others. He also encounters people who had previously been in emergency accommodation but don't feel safe in hostels due to drug use. Despite its challenges, Justin has found his experience with the Soup Run **incredibly rewarding**. His first-hand experience of homelessness is invaluable in relating to those who are bedded down on our streets.



The Soup Run operates 365 days a year with over 100 volunteers providing support on Dublin's streets. To contact them, call **(01) 889 5800** or email **ptv@dubsimon.ie**

DUBLIN SIMON BREAKFAST RUN MARKS 10 YEARS

A warm cup of tea, some food, and a nice chat after a harsh night can make all the difference for people **sleeping rough** on the streets.



In 2025, we celebrate **10 years** of our Breakfast Run, thanks to the dedication and commitment of each of our volunteers.



Between 2015 and 2024, there were **93,095** client interactions across the Breakfast Run and Soup Run.



"I like to think that we still bring a bit of warmth and dignity to a couple of dozen people whose lives have led them into difficult circumstances for all sorts of reasons" - Jane, Breakfast Run volunteer.

HOME RUN

Don't miss out on the chance to participate in our Home Run, taking place on Saturday the 4th of October. Now in its 42nd year, the beloved community event promises to be bigger and better than ever as participants are invited to complete a 5km loop in the Phoenix Park, **accessible to all ages and abilities**. It doesn't matter if you walk, jog, run, hop or dance to the finish line, the Home Run is all about community spirit, so get involved! The first wave will start at 9.30am, with family and friends encouraged to cheer on participants along the route and enjoy fun activities, such as the kid zone, food trucks, and live music. Whether you're chasing a personal best or simply soaking in the atmosphere, every step brings us closer to ending homelessness for good.

Details on how to register are available on the Dublin Simon website: <https://www.dubsimon.ie/home-run>



THE GAFF COLLECTION

While having the honour of participating as the charity partner for two major events, Beyond the Pale festival and Taste of Dublin, we launched our new GAFF Collection, an iconic fashion statement featuring t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, caps, and bucket hats. Every "GAFF" print is a call to action made to spark conversation, raise awareness, and fund the fight to end homelessness in Ireland.

In Irish slang, a "gaff" means home – something over 15,000 people in Ireland are currently living without, stuck in emergency accommodation.

Created in partnership with Conor Merriman, a Dublin-based artist and long-time supporter of Dublin Simon Community, the design combines bold visual storytelling with cultural authenticity. His style captures the urgency of the crisis while grounding the message in the spirit of our city.

100% of profits go to our life-saving services, helping people move from emergency accommodation into a place they can finally call their own: their own GAFF.

Join us in making a fashion statement and let everyone have a GAFF of their own.



TAX BACK GIVING

Did you know, if you donate **€250** or more in any one-year period, charities like Dublin Simon can claim 31% in tax back from your donation?

You can fill out the form in three simple steps and help us fund life-changing services by visiting: www.dubsimon.ie/tax-back-giving
For any queries call us **01 671 5551** or email: tax@dubsimon.ie

- 1 Donate a total of **€250** or more within a year.
- 2 Fill the form adding your **full name, PPS number, signature**.
- 3 **Submit** your physical or digital form.

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