

# DEPAUL DIARIES

Homelessness has no place

Your Depaul Supporter Newsletter | Winter 2021

Homeless for 20 years, Barry found his way home because of you

## Your Love Opens the Door

*If you've ever wondered how your gifts change lives, meet Barry... After years of addiction problems, sleeping rough, and many failed attempts to get his life back, this is how Barry's long and winding road 'home' ended with you —*

“It's a lonely life,” Barry speaks so softly that at times it's difficult to hear him as he describes his lost and lonely years on the street. “I still find it hard to accept I got myself into that situation,” he tells us, sorrow filling his gentle grey eyes.

When coronavirus came knocking, we asked for your help to shield the most vulnerable people in our society from coronavirus. Your generosity saved countless lives.

But it was something else that marked a turning point for Barry and many others — a warm bed. Clean clothes. And being treated with respect and understanding — it's these treasured gifts you give that restore human dignity and long-lost hope.

Your belief in Barry gave him the courage to keep going... even when he could see no light at the end of the tunnel. And now your steadfast support has led Barry here — to the first home he's known for the past two decades.

*Continued, over...*

“I was homeless 20 years... going from hostel to hostel, no routine or structure, it was miserable. I couldn't see any light at the end of the tunnel.

**I'm so grateful for this second chance.”**



## Your Love Opens the Door (continued from cover)

### "He had no confidence left"

If you met Barry today, you'd understand why Helen, his Depaul key worker, has a soft spot for him. "He's ever such a gentle soul," says Helen. "He had no confidence left when he arrived here as the first lockdown began."

Barry was so overcome when he saw the small room he'd be living in during lockdown, that he broke down in tears. "He couldn't believe it was for him," says Helen.

It was then Barry that decided this was his chance to make a change. After struggling for years with alcohol dependency, his first goal was to stop drinking.

"Helen and Depaul really helped me with my drinking," says Barry. "I had some difficult times, but I've cut it out, and I feel so much better for it."

"What we've found with the necessity of cocooning people, is that changing someone's environment has a huge impact on a person's self-worth," explains

Helen. "We've seen amazing changes in people practically overnight. Barry blossomed when he was here, and he's doing so well in his new home."

"**We need to throw everything we've got at this...**

**...it's a chance we won't have again to move so many people out of homelessness.**

### Now... or maybe never

When coronavirus broke out, it was your generosity that brought the most marginalised homeless people here to Depaul... to safety.

"These are the people who slipped through the cracks. We haven't been able to reach them before," says Helen. "But here, you've given them the stability and support they'd never had."

And that's why, with your help, Depaul has been focused on moving people out of homelessness for good. "We're throwing everything we've got at this," says Helen.



Because of your enduring heart for the homeless during this crisis, Barry and 434 other once-homeless people and families will sleep soundly in homes of their very own tonight.

**Thank you for believing in a future where everyone has a safe place to call 'home'.**

**One Barry at a time, your gifts change lives. Thank you for being the light at the end of the tunnel.**

## A Homeless Family's Dream Come True? It's You

**When Emma and her young children were made homeless, it was the lowest she'd ever felt in her life. But by the grace of your generosity, even during the toughest of times, you gave this mother the strength to keep going...**



**A**fter two years of living in cramped temporary accommodation — washing the kids' clothes in a sink, unable to even cook a decent meal for her family — you can imagine how Emma was struggling to cope.

But when a national lockdown was announced, her hopelessness turned to despair.

That's when she turned to Depaul.

Thanks to you, one of our key workers arrived at Emma's door. As well as practical supports like arranging food bank deliveries, and activities for the children, the pair came up with a plan to help the family into permanent housing. It was

the first time in so long that Emma felt hopeful.

Her dream was a safe family home where she and her girls could spend an extra special Christmas to make up for the ones they'd lost.

With a little help from a friend like you, Emma's dream came true.

**For helping another grateful family find their way home during this crisis — Thank you!**

A special thank you for your wonderful words that warmed so many here at Depaul last year —

## Words of Hope

**Your kind words carry with them the power to brighten a day, to lift even the loneliest of homeless hearts, and to turn a life around.**



"You mustn't lose hope. A great many people care about you... We are rooting for you."

"Be strong now, because things will get better. It might be stormy now, but it can't rain forever."

"My name is Rhys and I am 8 years old, I am sending you my love and I hope this will help you a little."

For homeless friends like Barry, your words feel like a warm blanket.

**Thank you for giving so generously, and for being a believer in the power of kindness to change a life.**



When we asked for your urgent help to replace Depaul's tired old minibus, you answered —

## On the Road Again, Thanks to You!



**A** new minibus... it was always a big wish. But your generosity during this pandemic has known no bounds.

We're so pleased to tell you that our new minibus is out there on the road right now — picking up much needed supplies, delivering hot meals to the homeless, and helping homeless people move

into their proud new homes.

If you see our friendly driver, Phil, whizzing around town in the minibus bought with your kindness, be sure to give him a wave.

**For making our big minibus wishes come true, and for getting Depaul back on the road... thank you.**



## 21 Kind Hearts

*In 2021, we're searching for 21 kind hearts so constant in your caring that you will pledge to walk beside homeless people month after month. We're searching for someone like you...*



**I**n times of crisis, you need friends you can rely on. That's why we're so grateful to our dedicated monthly partners.

If you feel ready to take the next step in the fight against homelessness, join this life-saving team of our most loyal and dedicated supporters using your reply form, enclosed.

With a recurring gift of any size, **you will be a light in the dark for friends like Barry**, guiding them on their path out of homelessness. Thank you so much for your caring heart. ♥

## MORE LIVES YOU TOUCHED IN 2020

*In a year when we were told to 'stay home', you never forgot about the people who had no home to stay in...*



**140,765**

nights of shelter and safety provided thanks to your generosity.



**362,819**

hot meals for the homeless, served with your help.



**343**

homeless people and families moved into homes because you cared.

**For every single fresh start... thank you.**

**If you would like to give, visit: [depaulcharity.org](http://depaulcharity.org). Or call: 01 453 7111 (ROI) /028 9064 7755 (NI)**



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To protect the privacy of the people we care for, all images which show faces are represented by stock photos. Thank you for your understanding.

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