

DEPAUL DIARIES

Homelessness has no place

Your Depaul Supporter Newsletter | Spring 2021

"Being homeless is so much more than losing your home..."

Your Kindness Keeps Hope Alive For Homeless Families

You can understand why Kerry's struggling to hold onto hope right now... Kerry and her children have spent most of the pandemic in a single room at our Cloverhill family shelter. But that you are there — that you care — brings homeless mothers like Kerry more hope and comfort than you can ever know. Thank you...

You would hear it instantly... as someone with so much compassion in your warm heart, you would hear the weariness in Kerry's voice as she tells you, "It's been really hard."

Some mothers who turn to Depaul's Homeless Family Services are fleeing domestic abuse. Others are victims of Ireland's housing crisis. But right now, all our parents are feeling the weight of homelessness like never before.

When coronavirus first knocked on our doors, Kerry and her three kids had already been homeless for two and a half years. But a year on — homeschooling and lockdown after lockdown

— not having a home of their own is

taking a huge toll on the family. "The kids can't even go out and play," says Kerry. "My mental health has deteriorated during the pandemic, so has my children's."

'You lose your self-esteem'

You can understand why Kerry and other homeless parents are feeling low. Maura, the manager of Depaul's homeless family services, puts it like this — "Homelessness is so much more than losing your home... you lose your confidence, your self-esteem. It makes it hard to keep going."



"I would have been lost without Depaul... really.

I'm so grateful."

— Kerry

But it's kindness and caring like yours that tells mother's like Kerry with no home— *you are not alone*. And that, says Maura, "means more than you know."

Continued, over...

Inside: Your kindness has the power to turn tragedy into love story ➡

You are a lifeline of hope for Ireland's homeless. For being the compassionate person you are... Thank you.

(continued from cover)

Maura says that one of the biggest problems for homeless families in our care is homeschooling without the proper facilities and in such close confines. "The kids don't

would mean the children could keep up with their schoolwork," says Maura, "and parents like Kerry could take classes and learn new skills to help them along on their path out of homelessness."

Maura is grateful to you

“ Homelessness really knocks you to your knees...

When you give, you help people who've been knocked to their knees, stand tall again.”

— Maura, Depaul Family Services

have computers like their school friends. Lots of the children here are trying to do their schoolwork on their Mum's phones. It's quite heartbreaking to see it."

No Home. No Homework?

Maura's dream is to secure funding to buy educational tablets so our family services could lend out to homeless families while they're with us. "It

beyond words for helping keep hope alive for homeless families during this crisis.

Thank you for keeping the hidden homeless in your warm heart. Your kindness and caring is helping homeless mothers like Kerry, who feel hopeless right now, hold on... just for a little longer.

Could you help a homeless kid like Noah with his homework?



I saw a little boy in the corridor of our hostel the other day. He was holding his Mum's phone up in the air to try and get reception so he could do his homework. It makes you feel so sad, seeing things like that...

The pandemic and homeschooling are having a devastating impact on children's education. But without the basics — like a home computer or tablet — homeless children are at the greatest disadvantage. It's just not right that homeless children are being left behind through no fault of their own.

Maura's dream is to buy 10 Wi-Fi enabled tablets so kids in our services can do their homework. Will you help make that dream come true?

It's a big wish... each tablet costs around €245, but if you *can* donate to this special appeal, use the reply form we've enclosed, or visit ie.depaulcharity.org — **Thank you!**



Any funds that are raised above and beyond the cost of the ten wi-fi enabled tablets, will support all of Depaul's services to help the homeless and people at risk of homelessness.

Special Delivery: Your Love Leads the Way Home

You'd like Ann. She's always keen to lend a hand. She makes the best chocolate brownies you'll ever taste. And she's so grateful to you for helping her back on her feet and into her new home.

After a desperate stint sleeping rough, Ann turned to Depaul. And because of you, she received the care and counselling she needed to start again.

Determined not to take your kindness for granted, she secured a job making face coverings to keep others safe. And

with your help, she was proactive in searching for somewhere to live when at last her hard work paid off...

In the new Depaul van, bought by caring people like you, your kindness delivered Ann home and even set her up with a few cupboard staples so she wouldn't go hungry while she settles in after so many years of homelessness.

At Depaul, every new beginning starts with you. Thank you for being the heart and soul of all we do.



Your kindness... delivered.
Thank you!



With Your Help, Love Finds a Way...

The men and women who turn to Depaul often have no love left in their lives. But when he came to Depaul, Jonny felt your kindness wrap around him like a warm blanket. And then, he met Tricia...

After a family break up at 13, Jonny began drinking. By the time he was 21, he was sleeping on the street.

"I'd given up on life," says Jonny, speaking about his years of homelessness, loneliness, and addiction.

But even when it felt like nothing but darkness lay ahead, your compassion, your generosity... you gave Jonny hope to go on.

And when your caring heart led Jonny to Depaul, he met Tricia.

She had a similar story of trauma that led her down the dark path to homelessness and despair.

"I was in a children's home from age 10," says Tricia, who spent years sleeping on the streets. **Your love brought Jonny and Tricia together.** And for your part in their tragedy turned love story, they're

"We're happy for the first time"

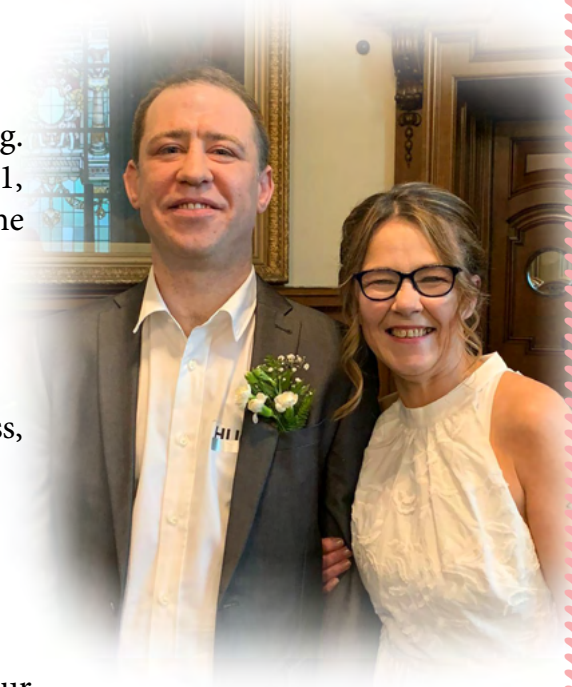
— Tricia

forever grateful to you.

On tying the knot in late 2020, Tricia says, "The boss at Housing First (a Depaul service supported by you helping people like Jonny and Tricia home) made me a posy and baked us a cake."

"If you'd told me this time last year I'd be sober nine months and married, I wouldn't have believed you," says a smiling Tricia.

Never underestimate the power of your love to turn lives around — Thank you for being so kind.



Thank You for a Year of Mental Health Care!

With more homeless people struggling with loneliness, despair, self-harm, and even suicidal thoughts during the pandemic, your compassion is bringing homeless people in crisis the urgent help they need to heal...

During this time of crisis, your generosity and concern has touched the hearts of some of the most marginalised men and women in Ireland.

When we asked for your help to bring urgent care to the escalating mental health crisis among the homeless in our care, your caring heart came to the rescue once again.

Because of you, funding is secure for a specialist Mental Health Professional, trained in the unique stigma homeless people face.

In bringing vulnerable people the urgent help they so desperately need without delay, your kindness will save lives.

Depaul's next monthly partner... could it be you?

As a monthly partner, your kindness joins with Depaul's most loyal and dedicated donors and shines even brighter.

Join today with a monthly gift of any size using your reply form, enclosed, and you become a protector of homeless people facing their very darkest moments.

Thank you for warmth you bring those who feel alone in this world.

THE COLD, HARD FACTS

...ON HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH

Studies show that many people struggle with mental health after becoming homeless. It takes **just 90 days** for your mental health to decline.

Between **42% - 70%** of Depaul homeless service users have reported **struggling with their mental health.**

Self-harm among homeless people has increased by **72%** over the past decade.

Still today, there is so much silence and stigma around mental health. That's why you, with your compassion and understanding, are so very treasured... Thank you!

If you would like to give, visit: ie.depaulcharity.org. Or call: 01 453 7111