

DEPAUL DIARIES

Homelessness has no place

Your Depaul Supporter Newsletter | Summer 2021

"I had no one to turn to and nowhere to go, it was the worst time of my life."

How Love Like Yours Transforms Lives like Laura's...

Were it not for your compassion and concern, Laura might still be sleeping on the streets — fragile and frozen, drowning her grief. This is how your unconditional love and kindness is helping people like Laura move on from homelessness and the devastating disease of addiction...

They say a mother's love is the heart of a family. And when Laura's mam died, it felt as though her heart had been ripped out.

She was just a child then, but the grief she felt, and the impact of losing the one person in her life who loved her unconditionally would change her life forever. And eventually, it

would lead her down the dark and lonely path to homelessness and despair.

Laura can barely remember a time when she didn't struggle with addiction...

If you've ever lost someone you love, you've felt the paralysing pain of grief. You can understand how easy it would have been for a teenage Laura to turn to alcohol to drown the pain and emptiness she felt.

"

I felt completely alone, abandoned and afraid.

- Laura

It's a hard thing to talk about, but Laura wants you to know how her life unravelled. And even more than that, she wants you to know how grateful she is to you — for caring about her, for restoring her long-lost hope and for helping her to find a way out.

By the time her addiction
Continued, over...



On Page 4: Your generosity is little Dylan's wish come true...

took hold, Laura was sleeping rough. "I had no one to turn to and nowhere to go," says Laura. "It was the worst time of my life."

It would be almost two years before she found herself standing in front of the door to Depaul's Stella Maris Hostel, hoping beyond hope that help was on the other side.

You see, struggling with addiction, she knew how it felt to have the door closed on her.

But thanks to you, Depaul runs 'low-threshold' services (See page 3 to understand just what this meant to Laura). It was your love that opened the final door of hope for Laura.

Your love, unconditional

It was something that had been missing from her life for so long. But the unconditional love, acceptance and understanding you showed

"I can't describe how good it feels to have a home of my own. It's a freedom and independence I've never felt before... I actually feel secure. Thank you!"

Laura that day, helped fill the grieving hole in her heart like nothing else could.

With your encouragement, Laura was able to get her addiction under control and learn to live independently. Your best gift was still to come...

"I actually feel secure"

Recently, with your help, Depaul was able to find Laura a home of her own.

"I can't describe how good it feels," said Laura the day she walked through her own front door. "I love my home, it's so beautiful."

Your kindness even helped set Laura up with a 'Home-Starter kit' with the basics like plates, pots and pans, and food cupboard staples.

Although Laura still has to battle her addiction every day, she is getting the support she needs in her own home through her Depaul key worker, Deirdre, who visits Laura almost everyday. And... she has you.

When you open your heart to the homeless, you give people like Laura a fighting chance to escape the cycle of despair... Thank you! ♥

Why does Depaul run 'low-threshold' services?

♥ 'Low-threshold' mean **homeless people are welcomed through our doors with love and compassion regardless of issues** they struggle with.

♥ Our low-threshold services mean **your generosity takes care of the most marginalised and vulnerable** homeless people when every other door may be closed to them.

♥ For people like Laura, **it's the difference between feeling hopeless and alone on the street, and getting the help and support** she urgently needs to turn her life around.

♥ The unconditional **love you show homeless people restores the long-lost feeling of hope for a better tomorrow.** It's this fresh hope, along with tailored care plans and specialist support, that makes all the difference to people like Laura.

*Thank you for your compassion and concern...
your kindness saves lives.*

How You Help Heal Broken Hearts...

When Pat's best friend and constant companion, Bella, passed away suddenly during lockdown, you can imagine how isolated and heartbroken he felt. This is how your compassion brings help and hope to healing hearts...

If you've a four-legged companion of your own, you've felt the devotion and comfort they give you.

For Pat, who was homeless for many years, his little dog Bella was the light of his life — Always pleased to see him, she gave him the love and affection and sense of purpose that had been absent from his life.

When Bella died suddenly during lockdown, Pat's heart was broken. He felt suddenly isolated and alone...

"I miss her," says Pat. "When I'm at home, it's just me now. I've no one to talk to."

Through Depaul's 'Befriending' programme, your kindness supports people in their lives after homelessness. Pat was matched with a Befriending volunteer to help him with his grief.

"Having a friend to meet means a lot," says Pat. "It's great to sit down and talk to someone and have a chat. I'd be lost without the help."



For being a devoted friend to homeless hearts — past, present, and future, we thank you!

Will You Make a House a Home?

Will you help people like Laura moving on from homelessness get started with the basics — like cupboard staples, toiletries, cleaning supplies and cutlery?

✓ €35 can cover a **first supermarket shop for the basics** like beans, milk and cereal.

✓ €75 can **fill a kitchen with food, pots, pans, crockery and cutlery.**

✓ €150 could **send a complete 'Home-Starter Kit'** with all of the above + bedding, travel card, and electric top up.

If you can donate to this special appeal, use your reply, enclosed. Or visit ie.depaulcharity.org — Thank you!

Your kind gift will support all of Depaul's work to help the homeless, and people at risk of homelessness across Ireland. Thank you.

Little Dylan's Big Wish

Little Dylan told us has two wishes... *"for the pandemic to be over and for me and my family to have a home."* Can you guess which one you helped come true?

When the landlord sold Dylan's home, his family were left with nowhere to go.

That's when Dylan's Mum turned to Depaul, and the family felt your kindness for the very first time.

It was almost two years ago, and you'd be so proud of how brave and considerate Dylan has been through it all...

Even though he found it

hard to be homeless — especially when lockdown meant he couldn't go to school or play with his friends — he didn't complain. His only concern was for his Mum, "she had my sister to look after, I didn't want to bother her".

Thanks to you, Dylan's wish of a home for his family has come true...

He's so excited to have a little bedroom of his own



and a garden to play in. And now he has just one more little wish... *a trampoline!*

Your kindness gives homeless families hope for a brighter tomorrow... Thank you! ♥

Safe and Protected, Because of You.

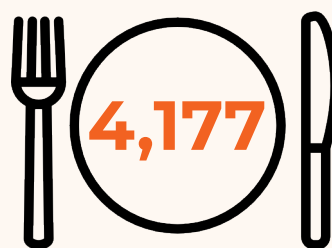
Thanks to your steadfast support, our frontline nurses and staff, and many of the homeless people cocooning here at Depaul have now received the Covid-19 vaccine.

Were it not for your swift action and thoughtfulness, many homeless lives would have been lost during this crisis.

Thank you for being forever on the side of Ireland's most vulnerable and marginalised.



Your kindness has delivered over...



nourishing meals to homeless people already in 2021.

If not for you,
these people would
go hungry...
Thank you!

If you would like to donate use your reply form, enclosed, visit: depaulcharity.ie, or call: 01 453 7111