

# DEPAUL DIARIES

Homelessness has no place

Your Depaul Supporter Newsletter | Autumn 2021

"You don't know how much you've changed my life. I can't thank you enough." — Noel

## Your Love in Each and Every Step

*On a freezing January morning, just before the pandemic began, Noel's front door clicked shut behind him for the very last time. And with that, at almost 70 years of age, his life as a homeless man began. Two years on, he wants to say thank you for caring about him, even when you faced hardships of your own. This is how your love stayed beside Noel each and every step of the way home...*

"**W**hen you're in it, being homeless seems impossible," says Noel. "It's only because I got through it that it seems ok now. But it really wasn't. It's like holding your breath. You can't breathe."

Noel is a man who loves a chat. For him, the loneliness and isolation that goes hand in hand with being homeless, was one of the hardest parts of the new reality he faced. "You feel like you're the only person on the planet," he says.



**Just to be able to say... 'I'm going home', it's like you've won the lotto. I could never say that before."**

Being homeless is bad enough, but things were about to get even worse...

Just weeks later, the pandemic hit and the national lockdown began. You can imagine how scary and disorientating it was for poor Noel.

"I had a heart attack a few years ago and I have other health problems," says Noel. "I was so worried Covid was going to get me. I was thinking, if it catches me, it'll kill me."

*Continued, over...*

**On Page 4:** How your love is looking out for more homeless people than ever before ➡



## Shelter and safety. Tea and toast. A way off the streets... for everything

(continued from cover)

But thanks to your compassion and concern, when Noel turned to Depaul, your love was there. And here, he felt the warmth of your kindness for the first time...



pray and I say... thank you."

### *A kindness returned*

Today, Noel is focused on carrying forward the kindness you've shown him.

You might remember how heartbroken he was to have to

get hurt." says Noel.

"I look out for my neighbour too. She's terminally ill. I wrote to her and said if she needs any help to call. My legs are still sore but I want to help others... I'd love that."



Thinking of other people, helping them, you're pulling someone up from the bottom of the barrel. I'm so grateful to you for helping me to have hope, to think that I can do this. It's made me come back to life.

**I'll never forget how you changed my life.**

"Knowing someone cared, it helped me to have hope," says Noel. "It made me think... I can get through this."

*"It's like you've won the lotto"*

So far, your kindness has helped over 500 people escape the heartache of homelessness since the start of this pandemic.

And that's the aim... to get as many homeless people as we can through this crisis, and into safe homes of their own. Your kindness makes this work of the heart possible.

Thanks to you, Noel speaks to us from the little apartment he's proud to call 'home'.

If you could only talk to him, you would feel his gratitude in every word.

"I feel safe here," he says. "I wake up in the morning and

rehome his little dog, Rosie. He didn't want her to be homeless too. He misses her dearly. And he'd love to rescue another dog one day.

But for now, Noel is content to satisfy his nurturing spirit by caring for his neighbour, and the birds in his garden.

"I was given a bird feeder, and a fountain to keep them cool. The little birds come in and I love to watch them, noticing the different species. I've blocked off where the cats come in. I don't want them to



**The path out of homelessness can be long and winding. It's your kindness that gives people like Noel the strength to keep going, one step at a time.**

**For walking beside homeless people until they are safely home, thank you so very much. ♥♥♥**

ing you make possible here at Depaul, thank you so very much.

## How You're Bridging the Homeless Healthcare Gap

*You don't need to be a doctor to know the struggles faced by homeless people — poverty, malnutrition, exposure — have a devastating impact on their health. Our new Clinical Nurse Manager, Ruth, speaks of her gratitude for your support through this pandemic and beyond...*



**T**he first thing many of our homeless patients confide to our nurses is the stigma they've felt accessing mainstream healthcare.

You can imagine how even one experience like this makes homeless people even less likely to seek the medical help they so badly need.

That's why your compassion and concern is so cherished by our nursing team here at Depaul. Because

you're bridging the homeless healthcare gap.

"This is a place nursing is really needed," says Nurse Ruth. "If no one ever asks, 'are you feeling ok?'... you suffer in silence. Lots of the guys are afraid to go to hospital."

During the pandemic, your generous support of our nurses has been ever more important, says Nurse Ruth. "With the fear and anxiety of the pandemic, problems with mental health

have increased. I'm grateful to people who donate because it means we can give people specialist care right where they are."

**Your generosity means pain-relieving medicines... the gentle care and compassion of a Depaul nurse... and a place of privacy and warmth to heal. Thank you for your caring heart for Ireland's homeless and hurting.**

*"I'm grateful to everyone helping me get through this."*

**S**he was 22 when Hannah found herself homeless. With no family here in Ireland, she has no one to worry about where she'll sleep or if she feels cold or hungry. **No one, that is, but you...**

Because your kindness protects people like Hannah from falling through the cracks.

Before she became homeless, she was studying childcare. Her dream is to work with children.

Now safe here at Depaul thanks to you, Hannah's dream is back on track —

**"Depaul gave me a laptop to continue my studies,"** says Hannah. "I am very happy to be studying again, and I'm looking forward to moving out of homelessness with hope for the future."



**Thank you for giving homeless people like Hannah this precious chance to start again. And thank you for helping her believe in a brighter tomorrow**



We couldn't do this without you. A message of our deepest gratitude for your kindness —

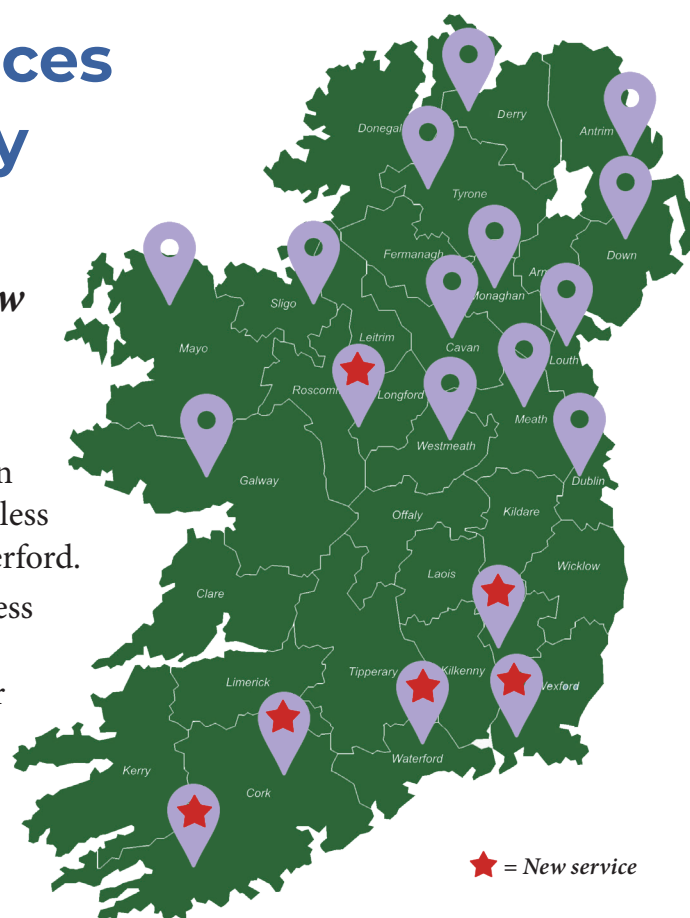
## 6 New Homeless Services Join the Depaul Family

*As our friends at SVP entrust six hostels to Depaul's expert hands, your kindness is now hard at work for Ireland's most vulnerable across 18 counties. Thank you...*

**W**e've been working with our partners at SVP on the transfer of the management of their homeless hostels in Cork, Carlow, Wexford, Longford and Waterford.

It means we can do *even more* of what your kindness makes possible — helping Ireland's homeless, and preventing homelessness. And SVP can focus on their good work in local communities.

It's a leap of faith to take on six new hostels all at once. And that's why we want to thank you — because we could only even consider expanding vital homeless services because of your kind support.



Every day, your kindness across 18 counties is helping to rebuild hundreds of broken lives. Thank you so very much for your caring heart for the homeless.



## A Few Warming Winter Wishes...

*As the nights grow longer and the days grow darker, could you help keep the kettle on and the hot water flowing?*



- ✓ Warm Winter coat — €35
- ✓ Sturdy Waterproof boots — €50
- ✓ Duvet/Pillows/bedlinen set — €75
- ✓ Electricity top up card — €300

- ✓ **BIG WISH!** One of our hostels needs a new boiler + installation — €1,500 It's a big wish, but you know the power of a hot shower on a cold day for someone who is homeless.

↪ Noel is still worried about his bills, will you help keep someone like him warm this winter without worry?

**If you can donate to a winter wish, use the reply form we've enclosed — Thank you!**

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

**If you would like to give, visit: [ie.depaulcharity.org](http://ie.depaulcharity.org). Or call: 01 453 7111. Thank you for your compassion.**

**DEPAUL**  
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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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