

DEPAUL DIARIES

Bringing you news of your compassion set in motion across Ireland | Winter 2022

"You don't know me... but I know none of this would be possible without you."

Your Love Lights the Way Home

Until only weeks ago, John thought he'd never again wake up feeling safe and warm in a home of his own. It's hard for you to hold onto hope when you've been homeless for a decade and a half. But today, John is here with a grateful heart to tell you it's never too late for your kindness to make a difference...

Were you to find yourself homeless tomorrow, it wouldn't be long until you felt the hope start to drain from your heart... a little more with each passing day. That's how it was for John.

You'll remember him. We shared his story with you this Christmas just gone. He was the man who found himself wandering the streets of Dublin alone on Christmas day, warm tears streaming down his freezing face.

John had already been homeless for 13 long years on that lonely Christmas morning.

His time on the streets has taken its toll, and he looks grim-faced as he recalls his daily struggle to survive, "You have to carry everything you own with

you. You're walking around all day, sleeping in doorways and bus shelters. It grinds you down."

It would be another two years before John finally found his way to Depaul and into the warmth of your kindness.

For John, it was the day
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“**You never think it will happen to you... no one does. You say to yourself – how did I get into this?**”



Inside: Your kindness at Christmas, **page 2** | How you helped young Tom get his life back, **page 3**

Your Kindness at Christmas

Your empathy and understanding this Christmas lifted heavy homeless hearts more deeply than you will ever know. Thank you for all your generosity made possible...



1,813

homeless men, women and children received a present to open on Christmas Day thanks to your generous heart.



664

hot Christmas dinners served to homeless people, and those like John who have just escaped homelessness with your help.

"Every person at Depaul wakes up with a present under their bed. For some, it's the only present they've ever gotten. For some, it's the only present they will ever get. It makes grown men weep."

— Jim, Back Lane Hostel

For Ireland's homeless and hungry, your compassion and concern is a blessing. Go raibh maith agat.

Before Tom Fell Too Far

Because of caring hearts like you, Depaul can catch young people like Tom before they fall too deep into the cracks of our society. Before they become resigned to a lonely life with no home... no hope.

Like so many homeless young people who make their way here, Tom spent many years in the care system. His mam died when he was 14, and he's been carrying his grief with him ever since.

When he was forced to leave his foster home, he stayed with friends for as long as he could. But soon, he found himself with nowhere to go. And he had nobody in his life he could turn to.

A dawning hope

That's when Tom heard about Depaul's specialist youth homeless services powered by caring, understanding people like you who believe that everyone deserves a safe place they can call home.

At Peter's Place, the hope that once felt so far away for young people like Tom is reborn thanks to your compassion and concern.

With your help, each young person here gets a dedicated key worker to walk them through the complex housing application process, and help with finding a job, course, or apprenticeship.

"I just want to look after myself"

Thanks to your consideration for others, Tom has just moved into his new home and started a new job. He feels a sense of purpose he's never felt before. "Having a home and a job makes such a difference," he says. "I have something to do, a reason to get up in the morning. I want to be



"I can make tea and toast any time I want now. It's the little things that make me feel at home..."

independent and look after myself."

You've given this young man the fresh start he so badly needed before he could become trapped in a cycle of homelessness and despair. Tom's grateful for thoughtful friends like you who cared enough to help him through the toughest of times.

"When I was moving in, Depaul gave me a little welcome box with some shopping and supplies. That was really nice. I have my own pots and pans. They're mine! Honestly, I won't ever forget it."

For believing in homeless young people like Tom, and giving fresh hope for a brighter tomorrow... thank you!

Will you help fill a care package for someone like Tom?

You can tell just what this little box of basics meant to young Tom. Will you help fill a box for another young person?

- ♥ Duvets, pillows, bedding - €35
- ♥ Kettle, toaster & towels - €65
- ♥ All of the above + electric top up card - €150

To give, use your reply, enclosed.

Thank you!



Fáilte Abhaile

Reza and his family fled war-torn Syria with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Here at Depaul, thanks to your generosity and caring heart, they finally feel safe and strong enough to start over again...

How far would you go to protect your children from war... fighting... famine?

After a long and terrifying journey out of Syria to safety, Reza and his family feel blessed to be able to call Ireland 'home'.

A place with its own long history of hardship. A place full of thoughtful, generous friends like you, who stand in solidarity with people like Reza when they have no place in this world to call home.

One day at a time, your kind support is helping Reza, his wife, and their three beautiful girls start again with school placements and nursery for the little one, school uniforms, healthcare, and much more.

Reza has been showing his gratitude for the generosity he and his family has been shown by caring people like you by cooking special Syrian dishes for all the staff and residents at Cloverhill hostel.



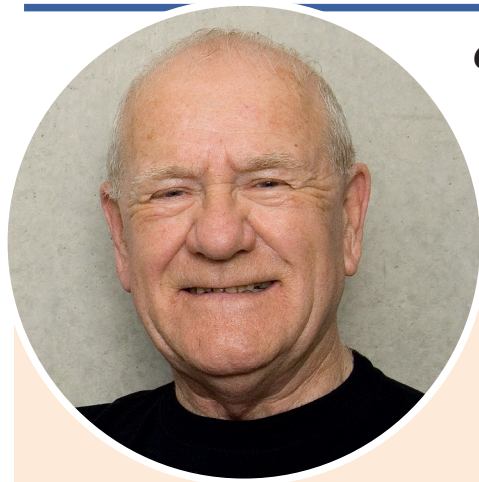
Thank you for being fair, friendly, and forever on the side of those who have no place in this world to call home.



At Peter's Place, your thoughtfulness is hard at work lifting young people out of homelessness.

PETER'S PLACE

For each and every fresh start your kindness makes possible... thank you.



Is there anything you want to say to Depaul supporters?

"Yes. You don't know me, but I know this... all I have now wouldn't be possible without you. And if it weren't for your kindness, there would be many more of us still on the streets."

— John, homeless 15 years, now a grandfather with a home of his very own, thanks to you.

Continued from cover...

you changed his life forever.

When the pandemic began, your concern protected the most vulnerable people from the virus. And since then, your thoughtfulness has been the driving force behind the herculean effort here at Depaul to move as many people as possible on from homelessness forever.

Family reunion

Thanks to you, John talks to us today from the comfort of the first living room he's had in more than a decade, and he speaks with the enthusiasm of a boy on his birthday...

"My kids and my Ma are ringing me again – it's been great. Ma is so happy. It feels

like a fresh start for us."

Like so many homeless people, John had a complicated relationship with his family during his difficult time on the street.

But with the stability *only* a home can bring, decade-old fractures are healing, and he's forever grateful. "I've just printed about 100 pictures of my grandson for the place. Imagine that!"

John is one of more than 600 people your kindness has helped escape homelessness since the pandemic began. For making it your duty to walk beside him all the way home, THANK YOU!

A Call to Caring Hearts



To celebrate 20 years of Depaul, we're searching for 20 compassionate souls ready to make it their mission to bring the most desperate homeless people in from the cold...

The harsh reality is this — as the pandemic wears on, you'll start to see more homeless back on the streets.

If you've ever felt a sense of duty towards those without even a roof over their heads. If you've ever wanted to do more, now is your chance...

Will you join with our most

constant and caring supporters and become a monthly partner in this life-saving work?

To join Depaul as a monthly partner with a recurring gift of any size, use your enclosed reply. And if you already give dutifully each month, thank you for being someone who refuses to shut your eyes to suffering. ♥



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

DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place



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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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