

DEPAUL DIARIES

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

Even when every other door is closed, you keep Depaul's open. Thank you —

The Day Seán Will Never Forget

It was a sound he'd heard a thousand times before. But when Seán closed his front door behind him for the final time that cold winter morning, the clunk of the latch felt like a slap. It was the moment he had to face the terrible truth — he was homeless. This is how your kindness helped Seán hold onto hope, even on his darkest day...

After working hard his whole life, Seán was looking forward to his hard-earned retirement. He wasn't well-off by any stretch. But he had enough, and he didn't want for much on his own.

He didn't know it then, but within the year, Seán would be homeless.

retirement income but had no luck.

As Ireland's decade-long housing crisis grows ever deeper amid the pandemic aftermath, it's a story we're hearing more and more. And it's pushing people like Seán into homelessness. At almost

70 years of age, he never dreamed his retirement would see him in such dire straits.

"It knocked me for six"

You can't help but feel a soft spot for Seán the moment you meet him. He's a old-fashioned

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Housing crisis deepens

It started, as it so often does, when his landlord asked him to move out. He searched and searched for somewhere he could afford on his

“

I had nowhere to go.

I had to admit to myself, this is it... **you're homeless”**

“Knowing that there were people like you who wanted to help me, gave me what I needed most... hope.” — Seán

The Day Seán Will Never Forget... (continued from cover)

sort of fella. He wears a smart coat, walks with a stick, and has cloud-like white hair. He tells us he has “bad eyes and bad lungs”. But that doesn't stop him smiling. It's only when he talks of being homeless that his expression turns to one of sorrow.

“Being homeless hit me like a storm cloud. The feeling of helplessness

Your kindness kept him going

Seán tried to stay busy. Mostly to keep his mind off things. He'd walk for hours, write letters, and apply for courses.

But, he says, it was knowing that someone cared what happened to him, that you cared even though you may never meet him... that's what gave him strength to keep going.



“**I really want to be useful. I want to help people in the same way you helped me when I needed it... I'm so grateful**”

was overwhelming. It really knocked me for six.”

He arrived at our Back Lane Hostel with nothing but a small suitcase, a carrier bag. And it's thanks to you that its big red door was open to him on his very darkest day.

Your steadfast support in these past pandemic years has helped Depaul move more people on from homelessness than ever before.

And it was after around a year that Seán got the wonderful news — a suitable home had been found for him.

“I immediately went out and got these big boxes of biscuits. I wanted

to say thank you to everyone at the hostel, everyone who helped me.”

“It's wonderful here”

If you could only hear the gratitude in Seán's voice today, you would feel proud of all you've given him.

“It's wonderful here,” says Seán of his little house. “I have everything I'll ever need. In the morning, the sun comes through the back door. In the evenings, through the front. It's lovely.”

In a testament to how your actions of compassion create ever more kindness in this world, Seán is looking to the future. “I've applied for a course on equality and human rights, and they just told me I've been accepted. I want to be useful. I want to help people in the same way you helped me... I'm so grateful for it.”

Thank you for your giving heart, generous spirit and for being someone who believes that everyone deserves a safe place they can call home. ♥

For Thousands of Nights of Safety... Thank You

Recently, we asked for your help to support the women forced to make themselves and their children homeless to escape domestic abuse. This is how your compassion and concern is helping women and families rebuild their lives after abuse...

It wasn't the first time Orla tried to leave her abusive partner and father of her children. But thanks to your support and understanding, it *would* be the last.

After more than 365 nights of safety at Depaul's family services, Orla's key worker managed to secure this gorgeous family a permanent home.

Thanks to you, Orla and her girls have moved into a safe, happy home of their very own.

After years of being told she was worthless, your kindness and compassion mean more to her, and to all our domestic abuse survivors here at Depaul, more than you will ever know. Thank you.



A Symbol of the Hope You Give...

The iris is said to be a symbol of hope. And that's what makes it such a fitting gesture of Sheilagh's eternal gratitude for your kindness...

When her marriage broke down, Sheilagh found herself all at once with no husband... no home... *no hope*.

But thanks to your compassion and concern, help will always be here at Depaul for people who need it. You gave Sheilagh a safe place to stay, mental health support, help to find a job, and you restored her

hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Sheilagh says she'll never forget what you did for her when all hope had left her heart. On the day she moved out of our hostel and into a home of her own, she dropped off these flowers, tears of gratitude in her eyes to say...

Thank you.



Gardaí investigated almost 50,000 domestic violence incidents last year. That's a 10% increase from 2020.



Most of the homeless women in our services tell us they've experienced domestic or partner violence at some point in their lives.



Studies suggest that it takes most victims of abuse several attempts before they manage to leave abuse for good.

Your kindness gives women facing abuse, and their little ones, a safe place to run. Thank you. ♥

"To the people who choose to donate, I just want to say thank you for helping me" —

From Her Grateful Heart to Yours

When we first met Miriam, she was homeless and heartbroken. But your support of young homeless people sends a powerful message of hope. And today, her life forever changed by your kindness, she has a message for you...

Homelessness is a grief all of its own. But Miriam, just 19 years of age, also lost her mother shortly after she became homeless.

You can imagine how broken she felt at that time.

But at Peter's Place, she found the love and support she needed to carry on. And knowing that you cared about her was a powerful motivator.

A year later, Miriam passed her Leaving Certificate with flying colours, and our resettlement team helped her into a little apartment.

Now she's applying to study law. She says she wants to help people the way you helped her when she felt so lost and alone in this world...



The thank you letter Miriam wrote to you the day she left Peter's Place.

"I'm so grateful for the support I've received, and there's no way that would have been possible without you helping me. Thank you!" ♥

For those who have no bed of their own...

Last year, Depaul agreed to take over six homeless hostels in Wexford, Cork, Carlow, Longford and Waterford. But now we urgently need to your help to replace 224 tired, old mattresses...

Will you help give someone who has known too many nights on the cold, hard pavement the gift of comfort and a night of sound sleep?



- ✓ Single bed mattress —€89
- ✓ Set of fresh bedding —€40

Our dream is to raise €20,000. Enough to renew all 224 beds in our new services across Ireland.

Your gift today will bring comfort and relief to tired aching bones for many years to come.

If you can give to this special appeal, please use the reply form enclosed, or visit ie.depaulcharity.org — *Thank you for all you do.*



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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