

DEPAUL DIARIES

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

"It can get so bad that your feet turn black... you can lose your toes." — Nurse Ruth

Thanks to You, Our Nurses are There to Offer Sensitive, Expert Care...

Feet. Most of us take them for granted. But when you're homeless, you don't have that luxury. Around 70% of the people who come through Depaul's doors have painful wounds and infections to their feet and lower legs. Your kindness provides the treatment and care they need to recover. Thank you!

Did you know there's over 200,000 nerve endings in your feet?

You can imagine how painful festering wounds and chronic infections are for the homeless people we treat at Depaul, with your help.

When every footstep feels like fire, it makes getting around nearly impossible.

But because of you, there is always a place where

Ireland's homeless people can come and get the treatment and pain relief they need. A place they'll be treated with kindness and compassion.

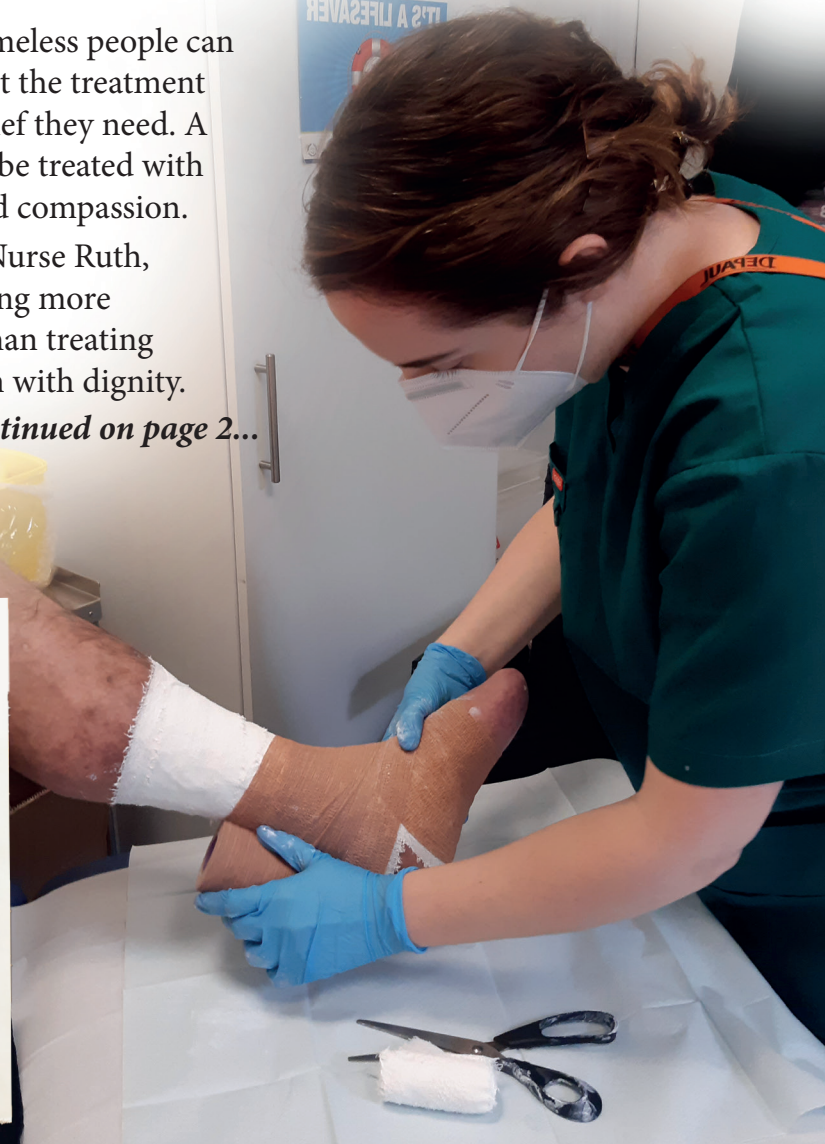
And for Nurse Ruth, there's nothing more important than treating every person with dignity.

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“If you come in from the cold, your entire body is freezing... It gets to a point where you literally cannot get warm anymore. You have really bad circulation, and every step you take is painful.

It's like needles going through your feet...”

—Nurse Ruth



On Page 4: How your kindness gave Gerry his second chance...

Thanks to you, expert and sensitive care... (continued from cover)

"We see the worst wounds during the wet seasons," says Ruth. "When you're out there in the driving rain, your feet never get dry. They're saturated in wet socks and it makes infections worse."

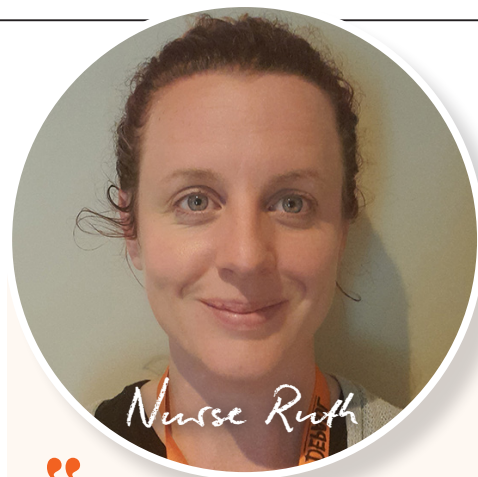
Your compassion in homeless healthcare

Many people we treat here at Depaul tell us about the stigma they've felt while accessing mainstream healthcare.

It takes a great deal of compassion and sensitivity to care for homeless people, explains Ruth. "When foot wounds get infected, the feet begin to smell. It's embarrassing for people and often it stops them going to the hospital. They feel they'll be judged."

But thanks to you, there is no judgement at Depaul. Here, everyone experiences dignity and respect.

"I don't speak to them like a nurse. I'm friendly, laid back and non-judgemental. They don't need to be



“

Right now, I'm seeing lots of severe fungal infections, lots of 'trench foot'. And that means severe wounds and sores. Essentially your skin is rotting. . .

Without Depaul, I'm not sure where they would go.

lectured, they feel bad enough already."

Dignity, humanity, compassion, relief... these are the precious, life-changing gifts you give. Come rain or shine, thank you for caring for Ireland's most vulnerable homeless people.

Wet Weather Wish List



As these autumn nights grow darker, colder and wetter, will you provide comfort and relief to people who have no place in this world to call home?

- ☒ Pack of toiletries - €15
- ☒ 'Wet Weather Kit', with clean, dry socks, vests and underwear - €22 (each)
- ☒ Warm winter coat - €35
- ☒ Sturdy waterproof boots - €50

...AND A BIG AUTUMN WISH!



You know the profound comfort of a hot shower on a freezing day. And our homeless hostels are in desperate need of fresh towels — total cost will be around €1,500... **Could you help?**

If you can donate to a wet-weather wish, use the reply form enclosed. Or visit depaul.ie — Thank you!

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

"Depaul were so lovely - the help I got was just unbelievable."

One Mother's Eternal Gratitude to You...

Suzie and her two children lived in the same home for 14 years. It's where memories were made for this little family. And it was affordable for this lone parent. But a decision by the landlord to sell Suzie's home changed everything.

My children were devastated," says Suzie. "When our home was sold, we ended up in a family and child hub. My little one was saying, 'I want to go home.' I was doing all I could to survive, and I just wanted what's best for my children."

Then things went from bad to worse for Suzie...

Tears in her eyes Suzie explains "Without a place to live, my children had to go and live with family. My role as a mother was suddenly taken away from me."

Suzie would be homeless for 4 more years. Until your compassion found Suzie...

When she turned to Depaul in despair, Suzie found hope, compassion, a warm bed, and a hot shower — finally, a hot shower!

Your generosity gave Suzie the stability she needed to find her feet again. To find a place to call home, and a way back to her children...

And to you, whose generosity and unconditional love made it all possible — You, who helped Suzie find a home and get her family back — **Suzie has a message for you:**

"I'd like to thank you so very, very much for what you've done for me..."



Depaul is 20! Here's to two decades of your compassion in motion...

Your kindness has helped transform thousands of lives. And with your help, we won't give up until every person has a place to call home...

2002:

Depaul is formed in Ireland with 4 homeless services

2005:

First homeless services in Northern Ireland open

2022:

Thanks to your support, Depaul now has **37 services in 18 counties** across all four Provinces.

And in the past 20 years your kindness has helped...



40,000+ homeless people who have turned to Depaul.



17,800 people in urgent need of medical care.



5,985 homeless children and families.

Every fresh start begins with your kindness. Thank you!

A Second Chance: In Gerry's Own Words

This is how your kindness helped Gerry pick himself up when he hit rock-bottom. Thank you for giving, for caring, and for every new beginning you make possible...



Four years ago, I lost everyone and everything I loved in this life. I was so lost due to my addiction. I hit rock bottom and found myself alone, sleeping on the streets of Dublin with nothing.

It took me losing everything to realise I wanted a second chance at life. I wanted to make amends with my family, friends and try to earn their forgiveness.

But life still had one more test for me...

Due to an old injury, I ended up in hospital, paralyzed. It was the worst and best thing to happen. Because while in hospital, I got clean. Fighting to walk again was a challenge I embraced with all my being.

When I left hospital, I moved into Depaul. From the very beginning, the staff were amazing. They made it feel like home.

Today I'm back talking to my family. This is my happiest achievement. And with the help and guidance from the staff at Depaul, I'll keep moving forward to become worthy of my family's love and trust.

Thank you for this second chance.

All my love,
Gerry

If you would like to give, visit: depaul.ie 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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