

# DEPAUL DIARIES

Bringing you news of your compassion set in motion across Ireland | May 2023

"That realisation hits you like a tonne of bricks... we're homeless" —

## From Homeless to Head Coach

*When Louise and her young family lost their home, it was the lowest she'd ever felt in her life. "You feel like a failure," she told us. But your kindness and understanding, even during the toughest moments of her life, helped Louise find the courage to keep going. And she's here to say — thank you...*

I went from owning my own house to being homeless," says Louise. It's something you never think can happen to you... until it does. And it always starts somewhere.

For Louise, 'somewhere' was a relationship breakdown. After her marriage of 12 years ended, she and her children, one with complex needs, lost their home.

With nowhere to go, the family turned to Depaul in their moment of need.

And because of you, that very last door opened to them...

### Hidden Homelessness

"When I arrived at Cloverhill, staff led me to our little temporary flat. The reality of what was happening hit me like a tonne of bricks — we're homeless," says Louise, "you feel like a failure."

But Louise's case is by no means unique. Right

*Continued on page 2...*

*"For the support we received at Depaul, we'll be forever, forever grateful..."*

*We want to thank the lovely people who donate because none of this would be possible without you. You've given us hope back in our lives."*



At Depaul, every new beginning starts with you. Thank you for being the heart and soul of all we do.

From Homeless to Head Coach... (continued from cover)

now, our struggling family services are stretched like never before as the compounding housing and cost of living crises, inflation, and sky-high rents, push ever more people and families into homelessness.

But it's generosity like yours that shows parents like Louise they're not alone...

"People here have been so good. There is never any judgement."

When you become homeless, it doesn't take long for your mental health to nose dive. And after more than a year with no home, Louise was struggling with anxiety. "I needed to do something for my mental health," says Louise. "My key worker gave me a leaflet for Street Soccer. Signing up was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Thanks to your support, Louise trained to become a football coach for youth and disability teams and



gained her first aid qualification. *But the best was yet to come...*

### A new beginning

"After years of waiting, a suitable home was found for us," says Louise. "The kids were ecstatic. But my feelings of anxiety rose up again... I'd be on my own without Depaul's support."

### But once again, your kindness was there for Louise.

Because your generosity helps deliver 'Floating Family Support'. And in Louise's own words,



*"The help my family got, it was 100% down to you, people who give to Depaul to fund these incredible services. Thank you"*

"floating support means if I need help, I can pick up the phone. It's so reassuring to know I'm not alone. I want to thank you for everything. What you have done for us means so much."

**Thank you for keeping Ireland's hidden homeless in your heart. You bring parents like Louise more hope and comfort than you can ever know.**



**3,442**

the shocking number of homeless children in Ireland right now.\*

\*Department of Housing, Feb 2023

### The toll it takes

"Homelessness is so much more than losing your home," says Bernie, Depaul's homeless family services manager. "You lose your confidence, your self-esteem. You can't see the light at the end of the tunnel."

## Your Kindness Makes a House a Home

*Bedding. Pots and pans. Electric top-up cards... Could you help a family like Louise's move on from homelessness with all the basics they need?*

### You've been there from the start...

From the moment someone like Louise sets foot inside the warmth of a Depaul homeless hostel... to the moment their new front door swings open... **your kindness is there.**

Today, you can send someone like Louise home with the basics they need to start again.

A precious parting gift from you of —

- ♥ €35 can top-up the electric meter.
- ♥ €100 can fill a kitchen with pots, pans, crockery and cutlery.
- ♥ €300 could send a complete 'Home-Start Kit' (pictured).

**To give, use your reply, enclosed. Or visit [depaul.ie](http://depaul.ie) — Thank you!**

*From coathangers to cutlery... for someone who has nothing, your kindness means everything. Thank you for giving if you can.*



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

## Your Strength In Numbers

*In a single year, this is the warmth and comfort your kindness brought to people who needed your generosity and grace like never before...*



**283,605**

nights of shelter and safety provided to people who may otherwise be sleeping on the street.



**500,000**

nourishing hot meals served to people who, but for your kindness, mightn't have eaten at all.\*



**499** people and families helped

out of homelessness and into long-term or permanent homes.

*Your kindness is there in every cup of hot tea, every warm shower, and night of safety.*

*Thank you for giving.*



"From being homeless to my little home now, it's like going from hell to heaven."

## Bob's Art and Your Caring Heart

*If you ever wonder if your kind gifts to Depaul make enough of a difference... meet Bob. After years of addiction, homelessness and sleeping rough, this is how Bob's new-found love of art and your caring heart transformed Bob's life...*



**W**hen Bob had an accident at work, his life began to spiral. "I was a furniture maker. I had an accident and broke both my feet," says Bob. He'd overcome addiction in the past. But after the accident, it found him again. This time it was alcohol. Before long, Bob became homeless.

"Oh, It was terrible," says Bob. "You never felt safe." But that was before...

Before Depaul. Before he fell in love with painting. *Before your kindness found him...*

Bob says it was your support that saved his life. That, and his love of art...

"At Depaul, I signed up for two courses – computers and painting. I didn't get on with the computers, but I'm still painting! I love it. I live for it, you know?"

With this new sense of purpose, Depaul worked with Bob to find him suitable accommodation. And he finally moved in a few months ago. "I feel safe as anything," says Bob. "And I've my own little corner here in the house – my studio, I call it – to do my art. **I'm so grateful to everyone who helped me here.**" ❤️

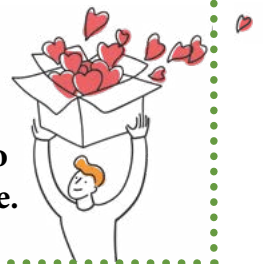


### **YES! I want to be a monthly supporter...**

By giving a little each month, you can become a constant friend and protector for Ireland's most marginalised and vulnerable.

To join today, with a monthly gift of any size, use your reply form enclosed.

**Thank you for caring about people who have no place in this world to call home.**



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**  
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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