

DEPAUL DIARIES

Bringing you news of your compassion set in motion across Ireland | January 2024

“It’s people like you who give hope to people like me... thank you” —

Patrick's Long Road Home

It was a cold January night just like this one when Patrick spent his first terrifying night on the street. He was 60 years old, and he'd be homeless for another decade to come. It was only when he turned to Depaul — when your kindness came into his life — that his path out of homelessness began...

“It’s the lowest you’ll ever feel,” says Patrick. He speaks from the small, neat living room, which felt impossible to him only months ago. “I was 69 and living on the streets. I didn’t care if I lived or died... I could see no hope.”

For Patrick, it was a marriage breakdown that set him on the road to homelessness.

remembering the night that almost broke him — “It was frozen, so I bought a cheap quilt. I had a tent at the time, hidden away. I was embarrassed, y’know. I didn’t want anyone to see the state I was in. It was

Continues, over...

“I was 69 and living on the streets. I didn’t care if I lived or died – that’s the truth of it.

I could see no hope...”

Almost overnight, Patrick found himself out on the streets with nobody he could turn to. “When you’re homeless, you feel like you’re worthless, people look at you differently too, or at least that’s what was going through my head.”

The daily (and nightly) struggle

The winters were the hardest of all, says Patrick,



On Page 2: From Chef Shay to you... a heartfelt thank you!

Patrick's Long Road Home (continued from cover...)

raining heavily, and I woke up at about 3 am and the tent was soaked, water had gotten in, everything was soaked..."

That was when, in pure despair, Patrick turned to Depaul. And with your kindness now in his corner, it was then that everything started to change for Patrick.

'Without Depaul, I'd have been dead long ago'

It's part of the incredible practical help you provide when you give — every person is assigned their Depaul 'keyworker'.

Good people like yourself, it's their job to help people like Patrick navigate

the complex housing system. "I'm no good with paperwork, and thank God Depaul helped me with that — the staff here are wonderful, they can't do enough, they fought my corner with the council and the doctors and that, I tell you," says Patrick, adding, "honestly, without the staff, I'd have been dead long ago."

The help and hope you give...

"Coming to Depaul gave me such a lift," says Patrick. "You gave me hope."

It's been a long and winding road home, almost ten years all in, but thanks to your



"It's people like you who give hope to people like me. If you hadn't helped me, I don't know where I'd be now."

It means a lot that you cared when I thought nobody cared..." — Patrick

kindness that stood by him every step of the way, Patrick stands before you in his tidy living room in front of his impressive bookcase, proudly holding the keys to his very own front door.

"I never thought that I'd have a place of my own again," says Patrick. "I have a fridge, a shower, a bookshelf, it feels incredible. I'm so grateful I can't even tell you. **Thank you so so much.**"

Your compassion...

Your understanding...

Your determined belief that everyone deserves a safe place to sleep...

Thank you for walking beside people like Patrick, all the way home. ♥

Could You Send a Starter Set?

Imagine if all your worldly possessions fit in a few carrier bags. That's how it was for Patrick. Could you send a starter set this winter and help make a house a home for someone like Patrick?

- Bedroom set:** Duvet, pillow and sheets set — €50
- Kitchen set:** Pots, pans, plates, cutlery & mugs — €100
- Whole Starter Set:** Move-on kit to help set someone like Patrick up with all they need including a few electricity top-up cards — €500



If you can donate to this special appeal, use your reply, 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 across Ireland. Thank you.

A Message From Chef Shay

It's no small thing... providing a proper home-cooked Christmas dinner with all the trimmings to almost 1,000 people who had no place to call home this Christmas. But thanks to your generosity, dinner is served!

Yes, Chef!", that was your reply when Chef Shay asked for your help not long ago.

Because of your generosity, almost 1,000 people who had no place else to go on Christmas Day were presented with a special dinner, served with love, as your kindness helped lift even the most sunken of spirits.

And Chef Shay is so very grateful for your kindness...



I wanted to take this chance to thank you so, so much. Every penny you give is really felt by the people here.

Everyone got a home-cooked Christmas dinner thanks to you. And honestly, especially right now when things are so tight, we could not have done it without you.

*So I just want to say a big, big **THANK YOU** from the kitchen staff and all of us here at Depaul*

— Thank you, you're an absolute star!

For giving vulnerable women and men a safe place to turn, thank you.

The Housing Crisis: How You're Helping...

Evictions. A chronic housing shortage. And record numbers of homeless children and families. For mothers like Ciara, the impact is devastating. This is how your kindness is helping to turn the tide for people in crisis...

The figures are stark," says Depaul CEO, David Carroll. "There's double the number of homeless children in our services in a single year. It's devastating."

But at a time when the combined housing and cost of living crises are putting our services under more pressure than ever, your kindness is still reaching people in crisis. And while the homeless numbers are shocking, you're someone who never forgets that every number represents a real person. Someone like Ciara, who lost her home but lives in hope thanks to you.

Thanks to your compassion, when all else fails, Depaul is here for families like Ciara and baby Alex. Thank you for giving whenever you can.



Ciara and the housing crisis:

"I had nothing with me, really, just what we needed in one suitcase. I have never been in this position before. It's every mother's worst nightmare — we're homeless. My priority was Alex, keeping him safe. Keeping him feeling safe. That's why we turned to Depaul..."

More Ways You Bring Help and Hope...

In every hot meal, each night in a warm bed, every time a Depaul nurse gently bandages up a wound, your kindness is there. In a single year, here's how your kindness brought a million moments of help and hope. Thank you!



283,605
nights of shelter and
warmth provided thanks
to your steadfast support!



Over **500,000**
nourishing meals served
to people who would have
gone hungry.



In a single year, you
helped **499** people
like Patrick into safe,
warm homes of their own.

Thank you!

If you'd like to donate you can use the reply form, enclosed, visit: depaul.ie or call 01 453 7111

DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place

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To protect the privacy of the people we care for, images which show faces may be represented by stock photos. Thank you for your understanding.

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