

DEPAUL DIARIES

Bringing you news of your compassion set in motion across Ireland | Winter 2025

A Thousand Thank You's From the Depaul Kitchens...

Your kindness keeps the lights on and the kettle warm every single day of the year here at Depaul. But not long ago, Rina and Chef Shay asked for your help to provide Christmas dinner for every man, woman and child in our homeless services. It was a call you answered with your heart... thank you.



“I’ve been a Chef at Depaul 27 years now,” says Chef Shay. “And the thought of even one person wandering about alone

and frozen on Christmas Day... it breaks me.”

But because of your generosity, more than 1,000 people who had no

place else to go were served a home-cooked dinner, made with love on Christmas Day.

More than a meal

“It’s so much more than a meal you’re giving,” says Shay. “We had a young lad here who thought he was going to be able to spend Christmas with his family. He was so excited. He was asking me if he could borrow some deodorant so he could make a good impression. But then, just a few days before Christmas, he got a call

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On Page 4: How you helped Barry get his life back...

“I'd love to meet every single person who donates. To spend an hour with you over a cup of tea and say, listen, thank you so much”

YOUR KINDNESS DELIVERED...

This is how, in a single year, here's how your kindness brought a million moments of help and hope to people who have no home.... Thank you!



29,200

precious nights of soup and shelter provided to people who might otherwise be on the street.



Over **500,000** nourishing meals served to people who, but for your kindness, might have gone hungry again.



726

people and families moved out of homelessness and into permanent homes, thanks to you.

For every moment of humanity... thank you.

(continued from cover...)

telling him not to come.”

But, says Shay, he wishes you could see how your kindness lifts even the most sunken spirits, like this young man's on Christmas Day...

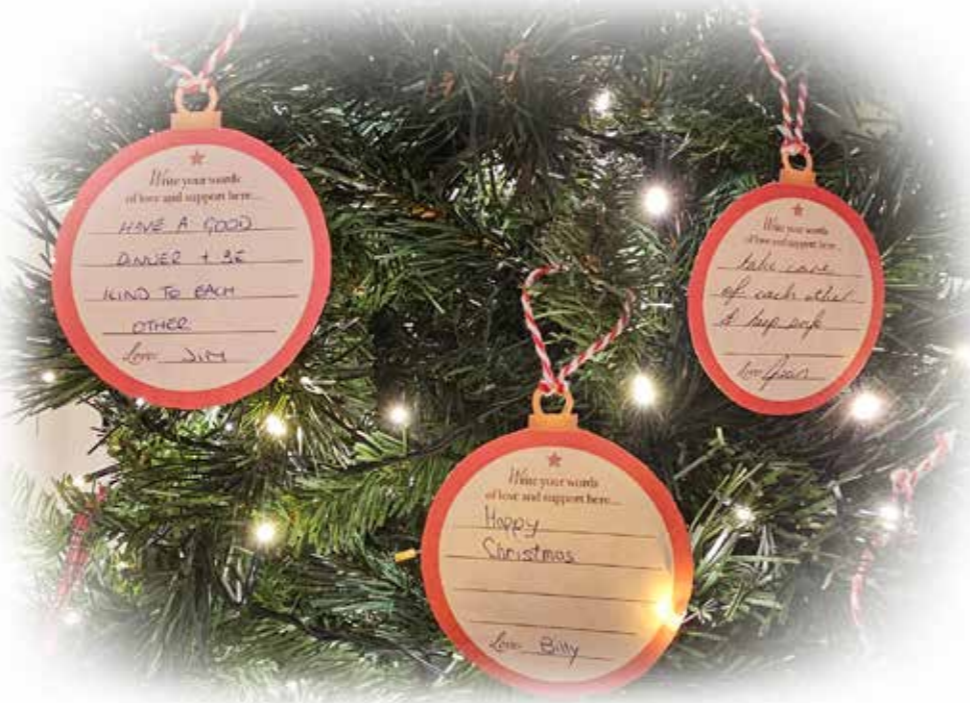
“When you serve up Christmas dinner, **some of the lads here look at you like you're after giving them the winning lotto numbers.** There's such gratitude. And it's not just the food. It's that someone cared enough to prepare and cook and serve and buy them Christmas dinner. That makes all the difference.”

Your kindness. Shay's Gratitude...

“Every euro you give is so appreciated,” says Shay. “Even if it's just €10, that's ten days worth of a washing-up liquid to me, or a few days of sliced bread for sandwiches. I never take your kindness for granted.”

Shay says he wishes he could meet you in person to explain the good you make possible here at Depaul —

“I'd love to meet every single person who donates. To spend an hour with you over a cup of tea and say, listen, thank you so much. People don't understand what it means, you know. ‘Oh, well, it



Your words of love and hope hung on one of 13 Christmas trees and in more ways than one, your love was with us on Christmas Day. Thank you!



There's such gratitude. And it's not just the food. It's the fact that someone cared enough to buy them Christmas dinner... and your kindness makes that possible.”

was only €40'. Well, that €40 is like €400 to us. Thank you so much for giving and for caring. I want you to know

that your kindness really does make a **difference to people's lives here. Thank you!**



Gerald on how something so simple meant so much...

“The amount of walking you do when you're homeless... you go through so many pairs of socks. The one thing I really wanted was some new socks and a hat and there they were, wrapped up on the end of my bed on Christmas morning. Some gloves too. It might sound silly but I was so happy.” — Gerald, Depaul service user

WINTER Wish-List



Our homeless services in Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Longford and Carlow are in desperate need of mattresses and bedding. Could you help give someone who has known too many nights on the street the gift of a sound night's sleep?

- Bedding set — €32 (191 needed)
- Single duvet/pillows/sheet set — €54 (90 needed)
- Single bed mattress — €99 (17 needed)
- 1 x Entire bed set (mattress, bedding and sheets) — €185 (17 needed)



- Tumble Dryer — €524  *One of our homeless services desperately needs a new dryer. Could you help?*

Please use the reply form enclosed to give if you can. 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 NI. Thank you.

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

Hope and Home At Last, Because of You...

Barry's life has been plagued by grief. At a young age, he lost his father and brother. But when his mother died, his grief was overwhelming. And not long after, he found himself homeless. This is how Barry's path out of homelessness was paved with your compassion...

You're worried to fall asleep. You've got rats running about you. You're sleeping bag is soaked. It's just so degrading," says Barry. "You feel hopeless."

This is how Barry describes his terrible time on the streets.

It all started when his mother died...

His heart was broken. But his grief was compounded when he was kicked out of his mother's home.

Barely out of his teens, Barry was homeless. He carried his mother's ashes with him for years, afraid to sleep in case someone stole his bag. Without your kindness, that might be Barry's life still. But everything

changed the day he turned to Depaul, thanks to you.

Your love opens the door

A warm bed. Clean clothes. And being treated with the respect and understanding he'd all but forgotten — that's the power of your kindness.

It's been a long road for Barry, but now your steadfast support has led Barry to the

first home he's known in almost 10 years...

"You don't know what it means to have a door key again. A place you call 'home'. To feel safe again," says Barry. "I'm so grateful to everyone who helped me get here."

One person at a time, your kindness is changing lives like Barry's. Thank you! ♥

"When you're homeless on the street, you're down. It's rock bottom..."

Coming to Depaul gave me hope."

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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