

DEPAUL DIARIES

Your kindness, determination, and generosity drives everything we do.

***“Your support
helps people that
everyone else has
turned away.”***

Dermot Murphy,
Depaul Director
of Services and
Development

INSIDE:

Living Depaul's values

Lived Experience helping others

The Impact of your kindness

A family finds the home they need



A message to you from Depaul

Dermot Murphy is Depaul Ireland's Director of Services and Development. He started working in the homeless sector in 2001, and came to Depaul in 2003.



What I love about Depaul is that our community of staff and supporters will do everything we can to help those affected by homelessness – and that we live this value every day.

My mother was a community activist, so I was maybe born into a world that valued social justice. So I'm fiercely protective of the rights of our service users, while also understanding that responsibilities come with that. That's one of the reasons we try to work towards longer-term solutions with the people we care for whenever possible. We work incredibly hard to help give them the opportunities they need to move on from their problems.

Your support is vital

We work with some of the most marginalised members of our society, people who sometimes can't find the help they need elsewhere. Which makes the support we get from you, our supporters, incredibly important.

I'm also hugely proud of the wide range of services your support has helped

put in place for our service users. For example, you helped us open **Rosa's Place**, the first centre for Victims of Trafficking unit on the island of Ireland. We also have **Tus Nua** for women leaving prison, **Sundial House** in Dublin, and **Stella Maris** in Belfast for those with addiction issues. We work with people that other organisations won't, but we also work incredibly hard to manage that and put safe processes in place.

"You provide warm beds, hot meals and a place that people can call home."

In all, we provide 54 services for marginalised people, and none of those would be possible without you, our incredible donors. **So, I'll finish with a huge thank you, because you, our amazing donors, are the strength behind everything we do.**

Dermot Murphy



YOUR IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

Just some of the ways you are helping to change lives



Did you know you now support **54 separate services across the island of Ireland**, covering housing, accommodation, prevention, protection, health and rehabilitation and much more.



You helped support **8,836 individuals**, and **1,366 families** last year.



Over our three year Housing strategy, you will help us develop **35 properties** per year for rehousing, and move **3,500 people** out of homelessness.

The impact you make is extraordinary.
THANK YOU!



DEPAUL HOUSING

The vital homes you help us find and build

How your extraordinary support is helping to bring housing solutions to those that need them most.

Depaul Housing is an Approved Housing Body set up to buy, renovate and build homes for families and individuals who are using our homeless services.

Life-changing progress

You have already helped support 32 tenanted units of accommodation and we have another 10 properties ready to be refurbished. There are another 45 properties we're in the process of buying, with 41 more soon to be transferred to Depaul from other bodies. And none of this would be possible without you.



THE WAY HOME

The people you help escape homelessness

How you helped James and his young family find their forever home.



When James's marriage broke down he found himself alone and trying to care for his six-month-old twins, Emily and Sophia. At times he felt he couldn't cope, and he was referred to Depaul Ireland Homeless Families service. With the help of a Child Support worker, James's confidence grew. The babies grew into happy toddlers and James, a talented cook, helped provide healthy home cooked meals for the children and families in the hostel.

After almost two years, James and his young family moved into their permanent home. James is now a volunteer with Depaul, and has become such a positive role model, not only for his children but for the other single fathers accommodated in the service.

HELP WHILE HOMELESS

How you help those trapped without a home

Your kindness and care can help someone experiencing homelessness enjoy the simple pleasures of normal life.

"My name is Jordan, I'm a night support worker in Depaul's Peter's Place and it's been an incredible journey. There have been good moments and bad, but the good always outweighs the bad."



A highlight for me was helping Cassie, one of our residents who had never worked in her life, get a job. Such a simple thing, that we all take for granted. But for her, it was huge. She told me, 'I felt like a normal member of society. I no longer felt like an outsider looking in.' It made her so happy, it restored her pride, and it only happened because of the amazing support we get from our donors. Thank you."

Jordan

A message from inside the charity

Brian O’Kane has been part of our staff at Foyle Haven in Derry for 19 years. As a Homeless Health Peer Advocate, he has his own experience of addiction, which he can bring to his relationships with our service users as he helps them engage with health care.



I have lived experience of the problems service users here face and I know that can resonate with them, and maybe help them start their own journey. I was already in recovery when I found Foyle Haven. I started as a volunteer and found it very, very rewarding. That’s been my journey ever since.

As a Peer Advocate, I’ll organise health appointments for people, bring them there, and sit with them while they see a health professional and help make sure they get the support they need.

Patience and resilience are vital. It might take four or five attempts to get someone to see a doctor, but when you get them there, and see the difference it makes, that’s the rewarding part.

It’s hard, going home to a warm house, when the people I work with may be heading out onto the streets. But thanks to the support of our donors, we also get to celebrate positive outcomes.

Brian O’Kane

Your kind gift

If you would like to help support the amazing work of Peer Advocates like Brian and help keep the most vulnerable people in our communities safe and well, just fill in the enclosed gift form or visit

ie.depaulcharity.org/donate

THANK YOU!



Back Lane Hostel

The human stories you support

When Emmet was 14 he had a 50 foot fall that led to horrific injuries he still suffers with today. Then, after two years in hospital, he lost his mother and became homeless at 18.

Emmet spent years walking the streets in excruciating pain. But when Covid hit he moved into a Depaul shielding unit. For the first time since he was a child he felt safe. He has now moved on to long-term high-support accommodation in Depaul's Back Lane Hostel, where he finally has the care and medical support he needs.

Back Lane Hostel



"I love it, we all have dinner together and we go out on trips, and it's nice to sit in the garden. The quiet is lovely. This is the best place I could be." – Emmet

FAMILY SUPPORTS

The families and children you help

When Debbie knocked on the door of our Depaul services one evening, with Ella in her arms and Danny hiding behind her legs, she had nothing. They were penniless, bone-tired and desperately hungry. Your support meant we could give them a hot dinner, some vital supplies for the children and a warm, safe bed for the night. Your kindness helps Depaul care for families and children across the island of Ireland. There are no judgements and no child is left behind.

Thank you for making that possible.



Birch Haven

Depaul believes Homelessness has no place.

And it is only with your incredible support that we can help those in homelessness rebuild their lives and move on to a more positive future.

Phone: 01 453 7111 (ROI) or 028 906 477 55 (NI)

Email: depaul@depaulcharity.net or depaulni@depaulcharity.net

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Homelessness has no place

ie.depaulcharity.org