

DEPAUL DIARIES

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

*The kind acts of
care and support
you make possible.*

INSIDE:

- **Supporter Survey update**
- **Meet Jack from McGwire House**
- **Thriving in Stella Maris**
- **How Mike found new hope**

*Preparing good, healthy meals for
people living in homelessness.*

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who filled in and returned our recent Supporter Survey.

We received over 600 completed surveys, packed with information, thoughts and suggestions. And we really are so grateful to have such caring and compassionate supporters.

608 surveys received so far!

Your survey responses highlight how much you care about helping people out of homelessness. And we were very moved by your personal messages.

Like, “Just knowing you’re all there helping others makes me happier.”, and “I love the way there is no judging of people, only putting a hand out to help.” And to the lady who apologised for her shaky hand-writing because she is recovering from a broken wrist, thank you so much, and we hope you get better very soon.

90% of you have been supporting Depaul for more than 3 years!

DEPAUL DONOR SURVEY 2026

DEPAUL
Homelessness has no place

Will you help guide us towards a better future?

Our homelessness crisis is deeper than ever before. Demand for all of Depaul's services is at an all-time high. By answering the questions on this short survey, you can help us find out what we're doing right, and what we can do better, so that together we can support even more people out of homelessness in the difficult months that lie ahead.

So please, take a few minutes to answer the questions on our survey as honestly as you can. **It will only take you a few minutes.** but your insight and opinions are invaluable to us. **Thank you so much.**

Let's start by just making sure we have your details right.

1. Can you confirm your name – so we can be sure we have the correct spelling?

Your name: _____

2. Email and phone are great ways for us to keep you informed about the incredible impact your support has. And if you would like to change any of your contact options at any point, just email Jennifer Brady on our Fundraising team at jennifer.brady@depaulcharity.net. We'd be delighted to help.

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

3. What age are you?

☐ Under 25	☐ 56 to 65
☐ 26 to 40	☐ 66 to 75
☐ 41 to 55	☐ 75 +

And it's totally fine if you'd rather not say.

4. If you're happy to share your gender, please write it in the box below.

Fantastic! Thank you for confirming those details. Now, can you tell us a little more about yourself.

Key Findings

From the surveys we've processed, you've given us some fascinating insights.

Like, that the two main reasons you support Depaul are – to make sure a vulnerable person can get a hot meal and shelter – and to help people on their long-term journey out of homelessness.

We'll share more detailed findings over the coming months. In the meantime, thank you for trusting us with your support and for being such a valued part of our community.

Thank you!



YOUR IMPACT - BY NUMBERS

**The power of
your kindness
changes lives
every day.**



Last year, you helped
1,452
people leave
homelessness for good.



You helped support
44
different homeless
services in 2025.



In 2025 you helped
make over
75,000
keyworking sessions
possible.

THANK YOU!

THE LIVES YOU HELP CHANGE

Sue's Journey Home



Sue has had a very difficult life. She suffered abuse in her childhood, and for much of her adult life too. When she finally fled her abusive partner she had nowhere to go, and she's been living in homelessness for 15 years now.

People often think that alcoholism leads to homelessness, but for Sue it was the other way round. After falling into homelessness she turned to alcohol, as a way of shutting out the fear and unhappiness.

Life began to change for Sue when she found Depaul and she's been living in our Stella Maris hostel in Belfast for the last four years.

*"If I wasn't here
I would be on the
street, everyone is
very good to me."*

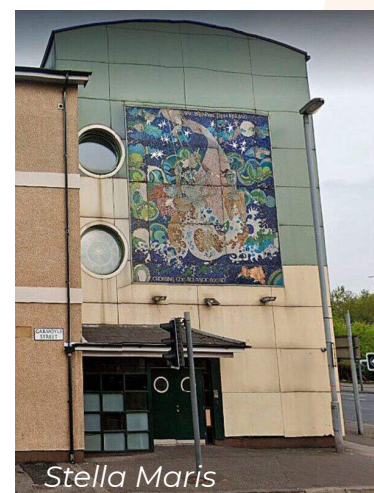
– Sue

Your incredible support has given Sue the stability she needs to truly begin her journey out of homelessness. But it hasn't been an easy road.

Thriving in Stella Maris

Sue found it so hard to trust anyone at first. But as time passed, she became stronger and more confident. She began to build relationships with staff which she enjoyed, and took on an alcohol management plan which helped her become so much happier.

Now, Sue knows there are people who care about her. And for the first time, perhaps ever, she has hope for the future. Thank you for making that possible!



THE LIFE-CHANGING SERVICES YOU MAKE POSSIBLE



Finding homes for people in Waterford

Jack O'Carroll might have been a scientist, but he chose a different path and for the last four years he has been Deputy Manager at Depaul's McGwire House in Waterford.

"After school I started Science in college, but I didn't like it, so I left and traveled the world. When I came back, did a course in social care and I got a job as a Project Worker here in **McGwire House** in Waterford, and became Deputy Manager in 2022.



"There's a fantastic team here!"

– Jack

My favourite part of the job is helping people move on and get their own place. That's always the goal.

Recently, we had an offer of a permanent home for someone, but we were under huge time pressure. So, our amazing staff dropped everything and went into emergency mode. They made it happen, and **that person now has their own place.**"

Jack O'Carroll

This is a busy place. We have 39 people living here, with another 8 beds in our emergency out-of-hours service, which goes up to 14 over the winter.

I love going out into the garden which is all maintained by the service users. And they're incredibly proud of it. They grow rhubarb and tomatoes, and they've just installed a new bench outside the reception area.



IN OUR NEXT APPEAL!

Read about Ben whose time at **McGwire House** shows just how vital your support can be.

HOW YOU HELP PEOPLE FIND HOPE

From Castlehill to Campus

We all know the value of urgent help for people in homelessness. But we also look for ways to support people on longer journeys that help take them out of homelessness for good.



Mike came to us in **Castlehill** from a family background of chronic addiction. And when he arrived, he wouldn't say boo to a goose. He was so shy and quiet and would hide away in his room. But the staff here could see a strength in Mike that even he didn't see.

Over time, they made him feel wanted and valued. Slowly, he began to build relationships. He started to laugh, smile and enjoy people's company. It took time and patience – the caring skills you support and make possible. With your help they changed Mike's life.

Mike's dream was to become a photographer. With encouragement and support he found a university course and applied. He was accepted. And in September of last year, Mike left the community here in Castlehill and moved into university accommodation alongside his fellow students.

When Mike came to visit us recently, it was lovely to see him so happy and confident. We're so thrilled for him, and we're so thankful to you for doing so much to give him this chance in life.

Your kind gift

We depend on your kindness. If you would like to help a vulnerable person who is struggling to find their way out of homelessness, fill in the enclosed form or visit ie.depaulcharity.org/donate

THANK YOU!



Back Lane Hostel

YOUR COMMUNITY

Remembering our beloved Chef Shay

Alongside your newsletter, you'll find a special tribute to our friend and colleague Chef Shay (Seamus McGivern) who passed away suddenly in June.

Seamus, you will always be at the heart of our community, RIP.



Catriona & Christopher

Your amazing support meant that after eighteen months in our homeless services, Catriona and Christopher's dream came true and they were offered a place of their own.

Your heartwarming stories

We collected some of the wonderful stories you sent when we asked you to share the first time you supported Depaul. You can find them in a dedicated booklet alongside this newsletter.



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: Donorcare@depaulcharity.net

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ie.depaulcharity.org