

Cork Simon Community



Introduction

Cork Simon Community works in solidarity with people who are homeless. Our Vision is of a society without homelessness. Our values of Community, Diversity, Social Justice, Voluntarism, Commitment to Care and Inclusion guide and inform us every day as we reach out to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We offer a comprehensive range of accommodation and support projects that reflect the broad spectrum of specific needs of people who are homeless. All of our projects and supports are designed towards building pathways out of homelessness, ultimately ending homelessness for good.

People we work with

Cork Simon Community works with people who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of becoming homeless. Up to 900 people turn to Cork Simon Community each year for support. People range in ages from 18 years to 80 years; men and women; people in poor health – both mentally and physically; people with drug and alcohol dependencies; people leaving institutional care; people with little or no family support; people who have nowhere else to turn to for help; people who are among the most vulnerable and marginalised people in Cork.



Range of Services

Emergency

- **Emergency Shelter**

Accommodation and one-to-one support for 44 people every night in a warm, safe, welcoming environment.

- **Day & Outreach Team**

The team specifically targets people sleeping rough, people living in squats or other unsuitable accommodation, facilitating access to a specialised health team of doctors, nurses and counselors. The Day & Outreach includes a Youth Homeless Drug Prevention Project, which works exclusively with 18 to 26 year olds.

- **Soup Run**

Cork Simon's original project that continues to meet people on the streets every night of the year. A member of the Outreach team joins the Soup Run volunteers on most nights.

Housing and Support

- **High-Support Residential**

Long-Term housing for 32 people in four separate houses in Cork for people who cannot live independently because of their health needs and life experience. People living in high-support housing require round-the-clock care and support. A fifth house provides transitional accommodation for 12 men and women who have complex needs – a combination of physical and mental ill-health, drug and / or alcohol dependency and behavioral issues, requiring very focused one-to-one support.

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- **Housing Plus Resettlement Team**

Housing for 27 people in 25 independent-living flats in five separate locations around Cork. The team also supports people in Local Authority housing, in private rented accommodation and in housing provided by independent housing associations. People are generally on their way to getting their lives back on track and leaving homelessness behind them. The team offers tailored support in managing health, training and returning to work. The aim is to support people to maintain their tenancies with a view to returning to independent living.

Learning and Development

- **Training Courses**

Offering access to a range of courses that are tailored to the needs of people using Cork Simon projects and services, including back-to-work, literacy, numeracy and computing.

- **Activities**

A dedicated Activities Co-Ordinator works closely with external organisations to create a range of activities that encourage people using Cork Simon projects and services to establish social networks, normalise their lifestyles, become active in the wider community and provide alternatives to harmful lifestyles, such as drug and alcohol use.

Volunteers – The Heart of Cork Simon

People from all walks of life offer their services voluntarily to Cork Simon. Their motivations for doing so are as diverse as the skills and experience they have to offer. Some volunteer in response to social injustice, some to feel part of a local cause, others volunteer as an alternative to donating money or out of a genuine concern for those who find themselves without a home. Whatever the motivations of our volunteers, their combined talents and life experiences bring a depth and dynamic to Cork Simon that has proved most effective in making a positive, long-lasting impact on homelessness in Cork.

Volunteering at Cork Simon – either full-time or part-time, can be a rewarding experience. Cork Simon is committed to providing all of our volunteers with training and supervision, offering people ample opportunity to develop skills and experience, and to play a significant role as part of a local cause. Cork Simon's Full Time Volunteer Programme is supported by The European Voluntary Service (EVS), part of the EU Youth Programme. All volunteers must be 18 years or older.

Your Support Is Key

Every Year Cork Simon Community needs to raise almost €1.9 million to simply maintain all existing projects and services. The generosity of the people of Cork helps us to raise that amount every year – individuals, work places, community groups and schools throughout Cork organise or participate in a variety of fundraising events throughout the year - coffee mornings, cake sales, sponsored walks, Christmas swims, marathons, the Simon Ball, fun runs, street collections, - the list is endless.

Ways you can help us:

- Do a class project on homelessness
- Organise a fundraising event for Cork Simon
- Invite us to talk to your class or youth group
- Participate in one of our fundraising events

Contact Cork Simon Community

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Proudly supported by

The logo for EBS (European Bank for Social Finance) is displayed in white text on a red rectangular background.