

# Dublin Simon Community



## Introduction

Dublin Simon Community was founded by a group of Trinity College and UCD students in 1969. The students started out by providing much-needed soup and sandwiches to people who were sleeping rough in Dublin city centre. Today, Dublin Simon still provides the Soup Run 365 nights a year, as well as thirteen other services for people experiencing homelessness.

## People we work with

Dublin Simon Community works with people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness in Dublin. On average we work with 1,500 people a year throughout our services. Dublin Simon could not provide these vital services for people who need help without the hundreds of volunteers, both part-time and full-time who work throughout the services.

## Range of Services

### Emergency Services

- **Rough Sleeper Team**

The Rough Sleeper Team contact those sleeping rough around the city and encourage them to access accommodation, health and social welfare services.

- **Soup Run**

As the original Simon project, the soup run brings soup and sandwiches and a good chat to those sleeping rough 365 nights of the year and helps them try to form links back into the community.

The Soup Run is often the first point of contact for people who want to link into services and find help. Soup Run volunteers conduct street searches for people sleeping rough, maintain contact with them and try to help them form links back into the community.

- **Emergency Accommodation**

Our Emergency Shelters aim to provide safe, appropriate and good quality accommodation for adult men and women who are homeless. We have three shelters throughout Dublin, with beds for 58 men and women needing shelter every night of the year.

### Housing Services

- **Transition Housing**

Our Transition Housing project provides self-contained accommodation and high level of support for those moving out of homelessness and into independent living.

- **Dublin City Tenancy Sustainment Service**

This service concentrates on practical ways to sustain tenancies with the aim of reducing the number of households becoming homeless.

- **Supported Housing**

Dublin Simon has two housing projects which provide high support for single people who are homeless and have mental health, addiction and/or personal care needs. Staff and volunteers help them in their daily routines.

- **Low Support Housing**

Our long term housing project provides accommodation to single men and women who are homeless and have low support needs.



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- **Learning and Development**

Training courses in this project are tailored to the needs of people who are homeless or have experienced homelessness in the recent past. It can include classes in many skills such as painting, photography, literacy and computers.

- **Resettlement**

The Resettlement Service assists singles or families who are currently homeless to secure more permanent tenancies.

## **Treatment Services**

- **Alcohol Detox Unit**

This is a 12 bed Alcohol Detox Unit that provides a full medical detoxification for homeless people who are alcohol dependent and want to break the vicious cycle of homelessness and addiction.

- **Residential Alcohol Treatment (Rehab)**

This innovative rehabilitative service aims to work with individuals who are homeless in maintaining their sobriety. It caters for 12 people at any one time who go through a 3 month programme.

- **Aftercare Team**

The aftercare programme provides addiction support and aftercare accommodation for service users who need accommodation and addiction support for those who are accommodated elsewhere in the homeless services.

## **Volunteering and Fundraising**

Dublin Simon is a volunteer centred organisation, and we could not survive without the wonderful support of all those in the community. Volunteers come from all backgrounds, ages and countries and work throughout our services including the Soup Run, Emergency Accommodation, Supported Housing, the Social Club, and fundraising and more!

We have a number of events each year which assist our fundraising, such as the Fun Run, Longest Night 24 hour Carol-athon, and even mountain hikes. All are welcome to get involved whether it's Singing For Simon at Christmas, organising a class event or just taking the time to understand a little bit more about homelessness and discussing it with your friends.

### **Other ways you can help us:**

- Do a class project on homelessness
- Organise a fundraising event for us
- Sign up your Bebo, Facebook, Twitter pages to Dublin Simon Community
- Donate any old clothes, toys, etc to our shop on Camden St. or Thomas St.
- Invite us to give talks in your schools or youth club – we are happy to do so!
- Get your class involved in the Annual Fun Run
- Sing Christmas Carols this Christmas for Dublin Simon.

## **Contact details**

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<sup>1</sup> Please note, to volunteer in any of our services you must be 18+

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