

Dundalk Simon Community



Introduction

Dundalk Simon Community was founded on 31st January, 1973. Our first activity was a soup run which continued for six months. In September 1973 a small two room premises on Francis Street was opened as a friendship centre. It provided an evening meal and a place for conversation for people who were homeless in the town.

Over the past 35 years we have grown and we now have 39 staff and 54 volunteers, providing services to over 300 people experiencing homelessness in Dundalk.

People we work with

The Dundalk Simon Community works with people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness in Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan. 90% of the people we work with are men. The majority of those we work with are aged between 30 and 65 years of age.

Range of Services

Dundalk Simon Community offers a range of options to people who are experiencing homelessness.

Some of our projects and services include:

ASSERT is our outreach prevention service which seeks to prevent vulnerable people becoming homeless in the first place. Staff work with people on issues such as debt, poor housing standards, social, physical and mental health needs.

The Gatehouse Project provides a place to stay for up to seven rough sleepers every night. It is open from 9pm to 9am and provides a bed, warmth, a meal, general support and a link into vital health and social services.

The Community House provides emergency accommodation and support for up to 25 people. From here people can get in touch with our settlement service and begin the process of getting their own home.

The Settlement Team works with people to support them in getting and maintaining a home of their own. On average 35 people move into their own home each year through the settlement support on offer.

The Day Centre is the base for the settlement team, outreach prevention service and administration services. It is a focal point for former residents and people who are living in the Community House or the Gatehouse and are being supported in their move to independent living.

The Crescent Project which is run in partnership with the Health Service Executive, provides a supported home for four adults with an intellectual disability. This is new type of project in that it helps people with an intellectual disability who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The Simon Shop in Yorke Street is staffed by part time workers, FÁS employees and volunteers. It provides an essential support service for Dundalk Simon residents and former residents and is an important source of income for the community.



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Future plans, developments and hopes

We are planning to use a 'Human Rights Based Approach' in all our work from January 2010 onwards. This means that every time we start a new piece of work, we will take time to make sure that what we are about to do respects and protects the human rights of all people who contact our service.

How to help Dundalk Simon Community

Some specific ways to support the work of Dundalk Simon Community:

- Do a class project on Homelessness – display it for all the school to see.
- Become aware of all our work and tell your friends and family.
- Organise a fun fundraising event for us.
- If you are part of a youth club talk about our work there.
- Sign up to our Bebo, Twitter and Facebook pages
- If you have a website, include ours as one of your links.
- If you have any clothes, mobile phones or toys you no longer need donate them to our shop.
- If you have any fundraising ideas, email them to us.
- Support us during National Simon Week
- Invite us to give talks in your school or youth club – we are happy to do so.

- Remember that the people we work with are really no different to anybody else – same hopes and dreams as you and your friends.
- You really can make a difference to their lives – think about it and then do it!

To get involved or to support our work please contact the Dundalk Simon Community

See the 'How you Can Help' insert in this pack for further ideas.

Contact details

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