

Galway Simon Community



Introduction

Galway Simon Community has been providing services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness since 1979.

In the intervening years we have provided a full range of services including emergency accommodation, a soup run, supported housing projects, a resettlement project, move on accommodation options for people who have been homeless or are at risk of homelessness and a Day Centre.

People We Work With

In our supported residential and tenancy sustainment services we work with men, women and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Their ages range from early 20s right up to mid 80s. A third of our service users are women. Our Day Centre provides a service to more than 700 people each year. During 2008, we had a total of 6,300 visits to the centre.

People were provided with support, information, food, hygiene services as well as opportunities for social and recreational interactions.

Range of Services

Currently we provide:

- Shared supported residential accommodation with 24/7 staff cover.
- Shared supported residential accommodation with floating staff support.
- A Women's Project providing both shared supported residential accommodation and a tenancy sustainment service.
- A residential Resettlement Project with 24/7 staff cover.
- A tenancy sustainment service to people living independently in the community.
- A Day Centre incorporating a Family Support Service and an out of hours emergency service.
- A substance misuse counsellor service.
- A community mental health nurse.
- A Service User Participation Programme.



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Future plans, developments and hopes

The current economic downturn has impacted on the level of government funding for our services. However, with an increased level of voluntary fundraising activity we are determined to maintain our present level of service.

However, we are very conscious of the danger that the same economic downturn will lead to a greater number of individuals and families being vulnerable to becoming homeless and remaining homeless.

Plans are well advanced to provide a registered general nurse for homeless services generally to work in partnership with the substance misuse counsellor and the community mental health nurse. We also plan to increase the number of opportunities for service users to participate in a meaningful way in how our services are configured and operate. We developed a new strategic plan in 2008 and aim to implement this as fully as possible over the next 3 years.

How to help the Galway Simon Community

You can help us in our work in the following ways:

- Volunteer to work on a part time basis in a mentoring or support capacity with people who have moved on into independent self contained accommodation.
- Volunteer to assist with our corporate and community fundraising programme.
- Volunteer to work part time in our Simon Shop.

Please note you must be 18 years of age to volunteer with Galway Simon.

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

Contact details

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