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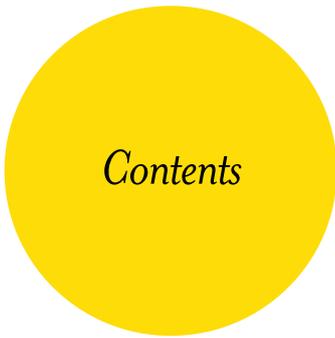
# *Believe in people*



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**Simon Communities of Ireland**  
Annual Review 2009 & Calendar 2011





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#### **Calendar photography**

Jason Clarke Photography & thank you to all communities for submitting photos.

#### **With thanks**

Service Users, Staff and Volunteers of the local Simon Communities

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Registered Office: 28/30 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2,  
Registration Number: 74038.  
Charity Number: 8273.

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## Word from our Chair

### **SIMON: THE HOMELESSNESS CHARITY**

Denis Doherty: Chair, Simon Communities of Ireland

This year, as with last, we continued in our work towards the realisation of our vision of an Ireland where no one is homeless. We remain steadfast in our efforts to ensure that all people who are homeless, or at risk of facing homelessness, are given every support and opportunity to live in appropriate homes of their own.

The Simon Communities of Ireland is an affiliation of local Communities in Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway, the Midlands, the Mid West, the North West and the South East. In addition, the National Office performs a coordinating role in terms of campaigning in the areas of housing/homeless policy and the wider poverty and social inclusion agenda; best practice in service delivery and working with people who are homeless; and in the area of full time volunteering promoting excellence and providing accredited training.

The Simon Communities throughout Ireland provide the best possible care, accommodation and support for people experiencing homelessness and those at risk. Together, with people who are homeless, we tackle the root causes, promote innovative responses and urge the government to fulfil their commitments.

On an annual basis, the Simon Communities throughout Ireland deliver support and services to between 4,500 and 5,000 individuals and families who experience or are at risk of homelessness. We are acutely aware that this is done with the continued and vital support from our corporate sponsors.



Dennis Doherty

- In February 2009, the RIAI and the Simon Communities of Ireland launched the fifth annual nationwide Simon Open Door campaign. In March, in exchange for €75 donation to Simon, members of the public got the opportunity to have an hour long consultation within RIAI architect. The initiative raised an impressive €40,400.
- In July, CRH (Cement Roadstone Holdings), the leading building materials company, donated €842,355 to the Simon Communities of Ireland through its workplace safety partnership programme. At the end of the second year of the CRH Simon Safety Challenge €1.62 million was raised for Simon throughout the island of Ireland.
- Simon Week 2009 was once again generously supported by EBS Building Society. The activities planned over the course of the week were designed to help educate people about the issue of homelessness. Research launched during this week offered insight into the shift in perceptions in 2009 about the causes of homelessness in Ireland.
- SCI was also in the fortunate position of embarking on a new partnership with Denny in August 2009. SCI and the Simon Community Northern Ireland partnered with Denny for their successful "Home Is Campaign". Denny made a generous contribution of €1 to Simon on behalf of each person who shared what home means to them during the campaign. €50,000 was donated by Denny in 2009 to support a range of services in particular tenancy sustainment work.

We wish to also to thank our statutory funders who supported our work over the course of this busy year. In particular, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Department of Community, Rural and Gealteacht Affairs and Leargas.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to my fellow members of the Board of the Simon Communities of Ireland; their continued commitment and guidance has been invaluable. Our work in 2009 could not have been achieved without the highly skilled and committed staff teams in the Simon Communities of Ireland Office and the eight local Simon Communities. In addition, volunteering and the spirit of volunteerism are at the core of the work of the Simon Communities and we are very grateful for the commitment and valuable contributions made by all our full time and part time volunteers. They are an essential part of the work we do.

I also wish to thank the many donors who support the work of Simon. Every donation, however small, is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all the people who use the services of the Simon communities. Thank you for trusting in Simon at such difficult times in your lives. Your trust in Simon, confirms the need to continue the high quality of the services Simon provides and I can assure you, Simon strives at all times to keep you at the heart of what they do each day.

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## Word from our Sponsor

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### **A MESSAGE FROM JIM FARRELL, ROADSTONE WOOD GROUP**

*2009 marked the completion of the second year of CRH's partnership with the Simon Communities of Ireland. In July 2009, we were delighted to confirm that CRH employees had raised over €842,355 through their efforts for Simon in the second year of the partnership.*

CRH employs collectively 3,000 employees on the island of Ireland. Each one of those employees was key to ensuring the success of this worthy project and we have been heartened and encouraged by the response of our employees to the CRH Simon Safety Challenge.

The three main characteristics of the Safety Challenge - shelter, safety and the local community - naturally align themselves with CRH's businesses in Ireland and have helped ensure this project's success. Health and safety management is a daily management priority in every CRH company and location around the world - extending to some 93,500 employees in 35 countries in 2009.



**Jim Farrell**

Globally, 82% of our locations were accident-free in 2009 - which means that nearly 3,000 CRH sites around the world experienced zero accidents during the period. CRH globally also achieved a 20% reduction in our accident frequency rate in 2009 versus 2008. However, we can never be complacent and hence our enthusiasm for the CRH Simon Safety Challenge which we hope will lead to even further improvements and higher standards.

We are pleased and proud to support the Simon Communities' excellent work and to continue to assist the organisation in working towards its ambitious goal of improving homeless services on the island of Ireland. It has been truly heartening to hear how CRH's donations have already been used - from funding an emergency shelter in Dublin, to launching the tenancy sustainment service in Donegal, to furnishing a new fifteen-bed accommodation unit in Derry.

We look forward to developing and enhancing our continuing partnership with the Simon Communities of Ireland. With best wishes,

**Jim Farrell,**  
Managing Director Roadstone Wood,

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### **CELEBRATING SIMON'S PARTNERSHIP WITH CRH**

In July 2009 the Simon Communities of Ireland celebrated the end of the second and the beginning of the third year of its partnership with Cement Roadstone Holdings (CRH). CRH has continued to show its strong commitment to supporting Simon in delivering much-needed services to those experiencing and at risk of homelessness on the island of Ireland.

The CRH Simon Safety Challenge is an all-island initiative that assists Simon's important work of tackling homelessness north and south of the border. For every accident free quarter (3 months) achieved at any CRH company location across the island of Ireland, a sum of money is donated to the Simon Community operating in that region. Company locations that achieve a full accident-free year donate an additional 25% bonus payment on top of the four combined quarterly donations.

Simon Communities in Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway, Midlands, Mid West, North West, South East and Simon Community Northern Ireland all benefit from this Challenge. The CRH Simon Safety Challenge generated €842,355 in 2008- 2009. This extremely significant donation made a real difference to the lives of people who are experiencing homelessness. The Simon Communities of Ireland sincerely thank all at CRH for their commitment to working in partnership with us to tackle homelessness in Ireland and we look forward to a long and fruitful partnership in the years ahead.

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## Word from our CEO

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### **CONTINUING TO BELIEVE IN PEOPLE**

Patrick Burke: CEO, Simon Communities of Ireland

*It is hard to overstate what a difficult year 2009 was for Irish society. The true impact of the recession could not be better illuminated than through the figures on employment and unemployment. According to the ESRI, the average number employed was 170,000 lower in 2009 relative to 2008 and when compared with figures for 2007, where the rate of unemployment was just 4.6 per cent, at the end of 2009, it has risen sharply to 12.5 per cent. 2009 was without doubt, a challenging year for all of the people of Ireland but most especially for the most vulnerable members of our society. Within the Simon Communities around Ireland, we have seen the recession impact most directly on individuals and families already living in vulnerable situations.*

The eight local Simon Communities continue to operate services which are at capacity - responding to increased demands and pressures - bracing themselves for an increase in those turning to their services for support. As predicted in 2008, the Communities have met more people who are at risk of homelessness and in the current climate, the risk factors for homelessness are greater and a whole new generation is now at risk.

In October 2009, Simon and EBS Building Society, revealed new research results which demonstrated the priority which the Irish Public place on issues of housing and homelessness. 72% of people polled agreed or strongly agreed that government policy should enable people to live in homes of good quality, suited to their needs and in a good environment. It was encouraging to see that even in times of crisis, the Irish public view the matter of housing and homelessness as crucial. It also validated for us just how important people's homes are to them and how difficult life would be without them.

Here in Simon, we are also aware that while housing is an important part of the solution, homelessness is about more than not having a roof over your head, or a set of keys; it can mean having many related needs which can include; poverty and social exclusion, mental health and physical ill health, problem drug and alcohol use, fractured family relations amongst other issues. Such needs are often interconnected; therefore holistic responses are critical to respond to all these needs simultaneously. It is this group of people – some of whom need high levels of round-the-clock care – that have nowhere else to turn but to the services provided by the local Simon communities around the country. Through our advocacy work we seek to ensure that the voices of these people are heard and that their needs are addressed by national and local government and by policy makers.

Looking forward, we must continue to believe in people and ensure this is at the heart of what we do; believe in the people that turn to the local Simon Communities around the country every day, believe in the thousands of volunteers and Simon supporters, and believe that with the appropriate housing, care and support people can and do leave homelessness behind.



Patrick Burke, CEO

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*What  
the Simon  
Communities  
did in 2009*

*During 2009 the local Simon  
Communities continued to provide high  
quality services to a large number of  
people across Ireland this included:*

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**A residential  
medical detoxification  
programme in Dublin for  
up to 11 people (increased  
from 9 in 2008) at any one time  
plus a 12 bed rehabilitation  
programme and an aftercare  
programme**

**4,532  
people who  
were homeless  
or at the risk of  
homelessness**

**51 units  
of transitional  
accommodation where  
focused programmes  
of support are delivered  
supporting people to move  
out of homelessness  
and break the cycle of  
homelessness**

**157 units  
of long-term  
supported  
accommodation**

**141 units  
of emergency  
accommodation  
for people  
experiencing  
homelessness**

**Over 1,658  
volunteers gave  
support to their local  
Simon Communities,  
including the  
recruitment of over 79  
full-time volunteers  
during 2009**

**7 Simon  
shops around  
Ireland to generate  
much needed  
income for Simon  
community  
services**



*What the  
local Simon  
Communities  
do*

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Outlined below are the range of services available to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness across the eight Simon Communities throughout the country; Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway, the Midlands, the Mid West, the North West and the South East.

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**Day-Time Support** – The Simon Communities day time services offer support, food and a comfortable, friendly environment for people experiencing homelessness during the day, when they often have no other place to go or no one else to turn to. They also provide healthcare access, education and training, counselling and support, information and advice, referral to the appropriate services and social events. A Day and Outreach Team operate in Cork and Day Centres currently operate in Dundalk and Galway Simon. The Day Centre in Galway, for example, provides information, support, resettlement advice, food, and hygiene services. Dublin Simon also provides a drop in centre in conjunction with local partners in the Dun Laoghaire Eblana Emergency Shelter.

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**Soup Runs** – The Simon Community soup runs provide much needed sustenance and friendship for those living on the streets and in squats, operating 365 days a year; offering hot, nourishing food, blankets, and a friendly smile, providing a vital link to Outreach Teams. The Soup Run and Outreach Team are often the first contact people have with services for people who are homeless. In addition, in 2009 South East Simon began a Food Distribution Service in the Waterford region.

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**Outreach/Rough Sleeping Teams** – The Simon Communities work with people who are sleeping rough and living in squats to ensure they have access to the care and support they need and to facilitate access to accommodation and other appropriate services. A Day and Outreach Team in Cork, a Rough Sleeper Team in Dublin and an Emergency Outreach Service in the South East all provide day and night support throughout these cities. In addition, the Dublin Rough Sleepers Team offers a Needle Exchange and Information service.

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**Emergency Shelter** – The Simon Communities operate a number of emergency shelters around the country that meet the short-term accommodation needs of people experiencing homelessness. This often serves as a first point of contact for people and referrals can be made into appropriate services and supports as required. Emergency shelters are provided in Cork, Dublin and Dundalk constituencies. In 2009, the Midlands Simon organisation opened a new six bed Emergency Accommodation Service in Athlone. Galway Simon operates an emergency out of hours service.

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**Specialist Treatment Services** – Specialist drug and alcohol treatment services offer short focused and longer-term residential rehabilitation programmes. Dublin delivers a 21-day residential medical detoxification programme for up to 11 people. In addition, Dublin runs a rehabilitation Programme which runs for a three-month period and an Aftercare Programme. In the South, Cork Simon hosts the HSE Adult Homeless Multi-Disciplinary Team. The team consists of doctors, nurses and counsellors providing specialist physical and mental healthcare for people who are homeless. In addition, Cork Simon have a Youth Homeless Drug Prevention Project. In the West, Galway has a team consisting of nurses, both general and mental health, a chiropodist and a Substance Misuse Counsellor. This team provides a service at all homeless services locations in the city including follow on services to people discharged from hospitals, home nursing care, life skills programmes, counselling, relapse prevention programmes, education and awareness programmes.

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**Transitional Accommodation Programmes** – The transitional accommodation services delivered in the local Simon Communities last between 6 months and 2 years, with the aim of developing each person's capacity to enable them to 'move on' to more permanent housing and supported independent-living in the longer-term. Residential transitional programmes currently operate in Cork, Dublin and Galway.

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**Long-Term Supported Housing** – The Simon Communities long-term supported accommodation services provide a safe, friendly and comfortable environment for those who are unable to live independently in the short or medium term. Many of those residing in long term supported housing have a range of complex needs – mental and physical ill-health, problem drug and alcohol use, fractured family relations, education and training needs, poverty and exclusion. Long-term supported housing projects are currently operated by Cork, Mid West, Dublin, Galway and the North West. In addition, Dundalk Simon runs a unique, long-term supported housing project catering for people with learning disabilities at risk of becoming homeless.

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## What the local Simon Communities do (continued)

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**Resettlement and Housing Plus** – The Simon Communities offer support services to assist people to access and move into appropriate accommodation that meets their needs. In addition, these services support people in the longer-term helping to prevent homelessness re-occurring. Galway has a residential resettlement project in addition to their tenancy sustainment service. Cork's Housing Plus project, Dublin's resettlement service, Galway Simon and Dundalk Simon's tenancy sustainment services all provide ongoing support that are needs based for people who have progressed into independent living. The Midlands Simon Regional Settlement Service targets those experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath. The South East provides resettlement services in South Tipperary, Waterford and Kilkenny.

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**Prevention and Tenancy Sustainment** – The Simon Communities offer prevention and tenancy sustainment services for people identified as being at risk of homelessness to address their particular issues and to ensure that homelessness is avoided. Dublin, in conjunction with Dublin City Council, deliver an early intervention project in the form of tenancy sustainment to prevent people from becoming homeless. Dundalk provide an outreach prevention service (A.S.S.E.R.T) which was established in 2007 thanks to funding secured from the DoEHLG and has central emphasis on preventing people from becoming homeless. South East Simon run Prevention and Tenancy sustainment services. Cork Simon's Housing Plus project also has a preventative role working closely with other agencies in Cork to identify and support at-risk households. North West Simon provide a Tenancy Sustainment and Support Service throughout counties Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo working with over 50 individuals or families on a weekly basis. Furthermore, in conjunction with the North Leitrim's Men's Group North West Simon provide a support programme for isolated rural men in Co. Leitrim through funding from PEACE III. Mid West Simon have 8 tenancies with TSS providing housing for 10 people. Galway Simon provide a person specific tenancy sustainment programme to individuals and families who have moved on from their services in addition to providing tenancy sustainment programme for individuals and families referred by other agencies.

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**Education, Training and Employment Services** – The Simon Communities operate projects and deliver supports to facilitate access to education, training and employment opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. North West Simon and South East Simon both undertake school visits and take on Social Care students educating students in the community. Cork provides a range of training programmes and activities designed at building the skills and confidence necessary for independent living. Galway offer a range of such activities including a work experience programme in the Galway Simon Community shop. Dundalk provide services to residents such as computer training, gardening projects, art classes, Health & Safety, health education and confidence building. In Dublin a Learning and Development Programme continues throughout the services while educational talks in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow schools increased during the year.

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**Simon Housing** – Housing has been acquired around the country for people that are ready to progress out of homelessness and into independent living. The number of housing units in each Community area are; Cork (115 beds), Dundalk (25 beds), Galway (9 shared housing units and 12 individual apartments), Midwest (8 units), North West (15 apartments) and South East (21 units).

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**Service User Participation** – The issue of Service User Participation continued to be an important focus during 2009. This builds on the work of the 'National Group for People who use Simon Services', which was established in 2005, and Galway Simon Service user Group was instrumental in this development. This group continues to meet on a monthly basis producing a Services User newsletter 'Simon Voices' on a regular basis. Some other practical examples of service user participation within Communities include participation on management boards of various Communities, input into policy development and the development of a Welcome Pack for people using Simon services. In 2009, a process of consultation on service user participation took place in Dublin and this produced a three year strategy for Service Users Participation.

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## SCI Best Practice



Some of the Simon Communities of Ireland Staff

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### **BEST PRACTICE AND TRAINING COORDINATOR 2009**

The work of the Best Practice and Training Coordinator focuses on ensuring delivery of high quality service to service users. During 2009 the core work in this area continued. This included – policy development, managing outcomes, completing comprehensive audits of services and delivering seminars and workshops on practice issues.

Service user participation continued to be a major area of work and the National Group for people who Use Simon Services continued to meet monthly and had another very successful year producing their Newsletter Simon Voices. Simon Voices focuses on issues that are of interest to people who are currently or who have experienced homelessness. It is also a place where writers and poets using the services can submit their work for publication.

One of the most exciting developments of the year has been the beginning of the implementation of a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in one of the Communities. Extensive training was developed and delivered to all staff. HRBA has five core principles – Express application of the international human rights framework, Empowerment, Participation, Non discrimination and prioritisation of vulnerable groups and Accountability. Five principles that fit perfectly with Simon's values. As HRBA develops from a theory into actual practice, informing the way we deliver services, it can only lead to the empowerment and strengthening of the people who use our services as we move forward.

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*SCI  
Full-time  
Volunteering*

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*In 2009, the Simon Communities welcomed more than 50 Full Time Volunteers, all living and working in our communities assisting in the delivery of a wide range of services. All the volunteers attended our induction training held in Dublin. We hosted 6 separate training weeks giving all the volunteers the opportunity to meet each other and learn not only about the work they would be doing, but also about each of the eight local Simon Communities across the country.*

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During the year we welcomed volunteers from Australia, Croatia, Germany, Italy, USA, South Korea, UK and Ireland. A significant rise in the number of Full Time Volunteers from Ireland was noted in 2009; while we always had a number of Irish volunteers we have seen a significant growth in this number throughout the year.

We are also very proud to have over 50 Full Time Volunteers graduate from our accredited Full Time Volunteers Certificate programme in partnership with the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT). The programme developed significantly in 2009 and we acknowledge the great work that both the DIT staff and the staff of the local Simon Communities have put into this throughout the year. SCI was proud to bring our graduating Full Time Volunteers together to receive their certificates from Uachtarán Na hÉireann, Mary McAleese, during Simon Week 2009.

We look forward to working with more Full Time Volunteers and welcome the fresh thinking and diversity they bring to our work.

Full-time volunteers must be aged over 18 and commit to a Full Time placement for at least 6 months working alongside our paid staff in a variety of projects across our communities. We provide accommodation, supervision, training and a small living allowance. This opportunity facilitates development of many skills both on a practical and professional level and is an ideal opportunity to gain valuable work experience.

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## SCI Campaigning

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*It is widely acknowledged that structural issues such as poverty and social exclusion lie at the root causes of homelessness in Ireland therefore; homelessness can only be addressed by tackling both the structural causes and the consequence of homelessness. Housing is an important part of the solution, but homelessness is about more than housing; it is also about physical and mental health, it is about drug and alcohol use and it is often about complex needs. The solutions must be appropriate and targeted inclusive of public health and social care interventions. We in the Simon Communities of Ireland and the local Simon Communities, as service providers and as advocates, with and for the people who use Simon services, seek to influence the approach of Government via our campaigning activities.*

The Simon Communities of Ireland are represented in all major national policy fora including the Homeless Forum and the National Consultative Committee on Homelessness and lobby key stakeholders involved in shaping national homeless policy and other policy areas which impact on the lives of people who are homeless e.g. health policy and the National Substance Misuse Strategy. We follow this up by making submissions where appropriate opportunities arise. In addition, we perform a monitoring role in terms of the implementation of government policy and bring attention to deficits and time delays between policy development and implementation.

Agreed policy positions are developed across the Simon Communities in relation to all aspects of homelessness, enabling us to communicate common campaign messages to exert maximum influence and to improve awareness of homelessness issues around Ireland. We work to ensure that the voices of service users, staff and volunteers are reflected in all the policy positions developed. To this end we have an internal 'Policy Development Committee', which involves representatives from the local Simon Communities and the SCI Office. In addition, we also participate in a range of partnerships and networks with other organisations that share our aims e.g. MakeRoom Alliance - together with St Vincent de Paul, Focus Ireland and Threshold; Community Platform; the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) and FEANTSA - the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless. We are also committed to evidence based policy making and base our campaigning on the most reliable evidence available.

## SCI Campaigning (continued)

### **Key SCI Campaigning Moments 2009**

There were a number key campaigning moments during 2009 which warrant mention here:

A number of submissions were made including; submissions on drafts one and two of the Homeless Strategy National Implementation Plan at the start of the year; a Consultation Paper on 'Housing with Supports for Persons Exiting Homelessness' to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Having made pre-budget submission in advance of Budget 2009 a submission was also made in advance of the Supplementary Budget 2009 in March 2009. In addition a submission was also made to Budget 2010 later in the year.

Worked with the Local Simon Communities on a pre local elections campaign encouraging local candidates to focus on the issue of homelessness.

A Simon delegation led by the SCI office met with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social and Family Affairs on 28th October 2009.

A Simon delegation led by the SCI office met with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment, Heritage and Local Government on 3rd November 2009.

Meetings were attended with key stake holders and decision makers including; Mr Michael Finneran, TD Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas and his officials, the Health Service Executive and members of the opposition.

As part of Simon Week 2009 a successful political briefing event was held with the Simon Communities of Ireland and all eight of local Simon Communities in attendance. Here over 30 Members of both house of the Oireachtas were updated on the issue of homelessness and the work of the Simon Communities around Ireland.

In October 2009 our annual week of campaigning and awareness raising - Simon Week – took place. The week was kindly supported by EBS Building Society, with a wide range of activities and events taking place nationally and at local level. Simon Week is an annual event which aims to raise awareness of homelessness and the ongoing work of the Simon Communities. In addition, it is hoped that the activities during this week will mobilise members of society to get involved and play their part in tackling homelessness throughout Ireland. This was a collective multimedia campaign incorporating radio ads, website activity, direct mail, high profile media engagement and well known Simon Week supporters (including The Script). This was a hugely successful initiative which Simon Week 2010 will build on.

We continued to work with our partners in the MakeRoom Alliance over the course of this year focusing on the Homeless Strategy and Implementation Plan. We delivered a paper on behalf of the Alliance to joint meeting of the Cross Departmental Team and the National Homelessness Consultative Committee in Dec 2009.

Visit the publications sections of our website [www.simon.ie](http://www.simon.ie) to view the range of publications and submissions from 2009.

## SCI Fundraising

### **DENNY SUPPORTING SIMON - HOME IS CAMPAIGN**

The Simon Communities of Ireland and Simon Community Northern Ireland partnered with Denny for their 'Home Is' Campaign in the latter half of 2009. Denny sparked a national debate about home and what makes home special and unique, and ultimately recruited 'real' people to feature their taste of home in Denny's 2010 ads.

Denny made a generous contribution of €1 to Simon on behalf of each person who shared what home means to them during the campaign, and almost 12,000 participated. They also donated €100 on behalf of each celebrity who shared their thoughts, with contributors including former Minister Martin Cullen, Miss Cork, model Nadia Forde, John Mullane (Waterford hurler), John Tracey (Olympic medallist).

At the end of the 'Home Is' campaign, Denny raised further funds for Simon by auctioning off all the items from their 'Pop Up Homes' to the public and almost €4,000 was raised. Craig Doyle hosted the auction evening in the Dublin pop up home, and it was a great success for driving awareness of the campaign, and driving an emotional connection with Denny and Simon.

Tricia Burke, Marketing Manager of Denny says: "Home and family have always been important to Denny. In our search to find out what home means to the people of Ireland today, we found that everyone seems to be much more aware how important home life is to them and how difficult life would be without it. The public really empathise with the difficulties faced by those experiencing homelessness, and therefore got behind this campaign to make their contribution. Simon is a charity who works with some of the most marginalised and vulnerable people in Irish society - people who don't have a home to call their own."



**Denis Doherty, Chairman Simon Communities of Ireland with some of the cast of RTE's Fair City alongside Aidan Power, Head of Marketing EBS at the launch of Simon Week 2009.**

### **EBS / SIMON PARTNERSHIP 2009.**

EBS has been a proud supporter of the work of the Simon Communities of Ireland since 2004. In the last six years EBS has supported Simon through a number of worthwhile initiatives including: the EBS Independent Living Initiative, supporting the first annual Simon Week in 2008 as well as annual staff volunteering and fundraising. This support continued into 2009 and EBS was again one of Simon's most significant corporate partners.

In 2009 EBS supported the production of the Simon Communities of Ireland's Close to Home Post Primary School Enrichment Programme which was launched in May 2009 and following on from the success of Simon Week in 2008, EBS supported the Simon Communities of Ireland's national awareness week for the second time in 2009. Simon Week 2009 took place from 5th – 11th October.



**Three year olds Caoimhe from Kildare and Aoibhin from Dublin at the launch of the 2009 RIAI Simon Open Door.**

### **RIAI SIMON OPEN DOOR 2009.**

The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and the Simon Communities of Ireland launched the fifth annual RIAI Simon Open Door campaign in early February 2009. The RIAI Simon Open Door has been an annual highlight in the Simon Communities of Ireland calendar since it was first launched in 2005. The number of participating architects and participants has increased year on year since 2005, which shows just how innovative and worthwhile this initiative is.

The fifth annual RIAI Simon Open Door took place on Saturday 7th March 2009. In exchange for a €75 donation to the Simon Communities of Ireland; members of the public had the opportunity to have a one-hour consultation with a registered RIAI architect of their choice.

Over 200 architects from around the country took part on the day and a total of 476 members of the public received expertise and advice on a range of topics. All of the participating architects gave their time free of charge and every cent raised went to support the work of the Simon Communities of Ireland. In 2009 the RIAI Simon Open Door raised over €40,400.00 for the Simon Communities of Ireland and we would like to sincerely thank every single participant and Architect who took part and made this year's Open Door so successful. The Simon Communities of Ireland would also like to extend a most sincere thank you to the RIAI for their continued support through this annual initiative.

For more information on the RIAI Simon Open Door please visit [www.simonopendoor.ie](http://www.simonopendoor.ie)

## Financial overview

### INCOME

Fundraising	€ 2,717,616
Grants	€ 425,107
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 3,142,723</b>

### EXPENDITURE

Staffing	€ 633,950
Programmes	€ 527,617
Office	€ 73,076
Fundraising	€ 253,721
Local Simons	€ 1,414,280
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 2,902,644</b>

### SURPLUS

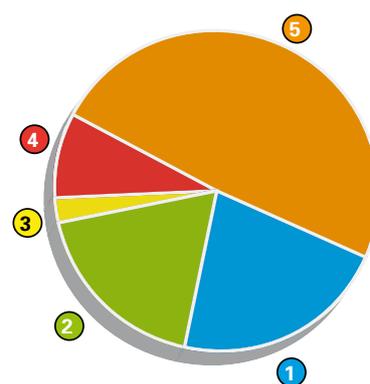
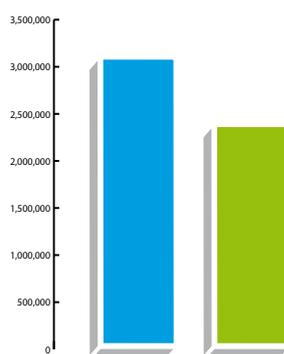
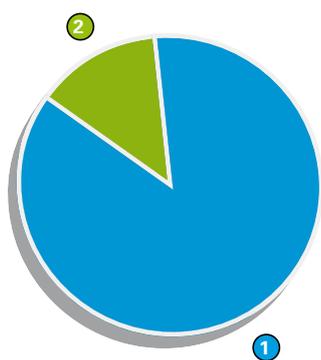
€ 240,079

In 2009, Simon Communities of Ireland generated €3.14 million of income. The vast majority of our funding (over 86%) is sourced from donations or contributions from the general public or our corporate partners. Public funding remains essential, however, given its specific focus on support for a number of key activities delivered by the office.

The cost of the work of the Simon Communities of Ireland national office in 2009 was €2.9 million. The €253,721 spent of fundraising is justified by the significant sums raised as noted above. Included in expenditure is €1,414,280 which was distributed to our local Communities to help with their operational costs.

We would like to thank everyone – corporate, statutory and individual – who contributed to Simon during 2009. We continue to strive to give the best possible value-for-money and make a lasting difference to the lives of the people with whom we work.

Full audited accounts are available on request from the Simon Communities of Ireland office.



Income:	€
1. Fundraising:	2,717,616
2. Grants:	425,107
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,142,723</b>

Surplus: € 240,079

Expenditure:	€
1. Staffing	633,950
2. Programmes	527,617
3. Office	73,076
4. Fundraising	253,721
5. Local Simons	1,414,280
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,902,644</b>



Cork Simon Community provides housing and support for 115 people every night in emergency accommodation, high-support housing and independent-living flats with support. Photo by Fran Veale

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 F: 01 671 1098  
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DENNY  
A TASTE OF HOME



In this photo: Galway Simon Full Time Volunteers at the Denny Pop Up house in Galway, 2009.

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Two Simon Full Time Volunteers with Fergus Murphy, CEO EBS at the Simon World of Volunteers Event, Simon Week 2009.

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Photograph by Niall O'Riordan, who kindly donated his time and skills to Dublin Simon Community.

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Shane Casey Health & Safety Officer Roadstone Wood Ltd, Colin Murphy Comedian, Patrick Burke CEO Simon Communities of Ireland, Jim Farrell MD Roadstone Wood Ltd, Jim Rea HR Manager Roadstone Wood Ltd at the announcement of CRH's donation to Simon in 2009.

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Simon Action Group & Simon Circle members at the Áras.

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The opening of the Emergency Accommodation Service in Athlone by Minister for Housing, Michael Finneran T.D, also in attendance were Mary O'Rourke T.D., Senator Nicky McFadden, Cllr Joe Whelan (Chairperson of Westmeath County Council), Cllr Paddy Kilduff and Edel Martin Athlone T.D.

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Angela Brady, Award-winning Architect and presenter of Channel 4's The Home Show with Aobhin Downey from Dublin at the launch of the RIAI Simon Open Door 2009.

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Volunteers, staff and families of South East Simon go all out for the St Patricks Day Parade in Waterford.

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## CRH in Focus

The Simon Communities of Ireland and Simon Community Northern Ireland wish to thank CRH's companies and employees who participate in the CRH Simon Safety Challenge. The impact of CRH's support on many of the most vulnerable people in Ireland throughout dozens of Simon projects and initiatives has truly been extraordinary.

### CRH Simon Safety Challenge

In 2007, CRH launched its first ever national flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative across the island of Ireland. The CRH Simon Safety Challenge, in partnership with Simon, was designed to embody CRH's commitment to CSR and its impact on specific aspects of its business including health & safety, community & social and employee development. The all island nature of the Challenge fulfilled a key objective given the wide reaching presence of Simon throughout the country, with eight local communities based in Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway, Midlands, Mid West, North West and the South East, as well as the Simon Community Northern Ireland.

Over the first two years of the partnership both organisations have worked hard towards achieving their ambitious goals of zero accidents on CRH sites and the further development of homeless services in Ireland. The total contribution from CRH to the Simon Communities around Ireland in the first two years of the CRH Simon Safety Challenge was €1.62 million, with year one generating €777,022 and year two raising €842,355 for the Simon Communities. The significant increase in funding made available to Simon via the initiative in the second year marked an improvement in the health and safety statistics at CRH locations around the country.

### Sample of Projects Supported by CRH

- **Midlands Simon Community: (Operating in Laois, Longford, Offaly, and Westmeath)** Funds from CRH led to the opening of the first emergency accommodation service in 2008, located in Athlone. The service is made up of self-contained, modern living units and has worked with 52 people experiencing homelessness, who stay on average 51 days.
- **Simon Community Northern Ireland:** Monies raised from the CRH Simon Safety Challenge enabled the refurbishment of a new fifteen-bed emergency accommodation unit at Bonds Hill in Derry. Bonds Hill has provided support to over 100 vulnerable adults and young people since it opened. Funds have also supported several homeless projects throughout Northern Ireland.

- **North West Simon Community (Operating in Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo):** Funds from the CRH Simon Safety Challenge have enabled North West Simon Community to launch a tenancy sustainment service for Co. Donegal. As a result, 27 people have been prevented from becoming homeless during the first two years of the initiative.

### Communication

CRH, the Simon Communities of Ireland and the Simon Community Northern Ireland have also worked together to profile the initiative through a public relations campaign. This has helped to keep homelessness on the public agenda and has highlighted the importance and value of large corporate supporters like CRH to Simon. During the launch of the Simon Communities of Ireland's 2008 annual report in December 2009, which was also supported by CRH, Minister Michael Finneran reminded us of the importance of statutory, voluntary and corporate partners working together. The leadership shown by CRH in the CRH Simon Safety Challenge was noted during his speech as one of great significance within corporate Ireland.

### Conclusion

The contribution and continued commitment of CRH to this initiative has been remarkable considering the major challenges facing the construction industry today. The Challenge positively engages and motivates CRH's work force to support the initiative and also contributes toward reducing accidents in the workplace at CRH locations. The CRH companies taking part in the challenge include the building materials providers: Roadstone Wood, Northstone, Aerobord, Clogrennane and Premier Periclase as well as Ireland's largest cement producer, Irish Cement Ltd.

### CRH Simon Safety Challenge - An Award Winning Partnership

- 2009 - Chambers Ireland President's Awards for Corporate Social Responsibility - CRH Ireland were awarded the overall winner in the "Responsible Employer" category for its work with Simon on the CRH Simon Safety Challenge.
- 2009 - The CRH Simon Safety Challenge was awarded the "Fundraising Campaign of the Year" award at the National Fundraising Awards.
- 2008 - PRII Excellence Award - CRH and Drury Communications were successful in winning an Excellence Award for the CRH Simon Safety Challenge in the category "Corporate Communications - Corporate Social Responsibility"





## How you can Help

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### **MAKING A DONATION TO THE SIMON COMMUNITIES OF IRELAND**

The crucial work that Simon does is only possible through the generosity of the general public and our corporate supporters. If you too would like to help in the fight to tackle homelessness in Ireland there are a number of ways that you can help Simon including:

**Donate Online** – by logging onto [www.simon.ie](http://www.simon.ie)

**Send us a donation by Post** - Donations can be sent to Simon Communities of Ireland, St Andrew's House, 28-30 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2. (Please do not send cash in the post).

**Call our fundraising team and donate over the phone by Credit/Laser Card** - Please call our fundraising team on (01) 671 1606 with your credit or laser card details and your transaction will be handled in the strictest confidence.

**Remember us with a Gift in Your Will** - Leave Simon a Legacy - For further details on how to name the Simon Communities of Ireland as a beneficiary in your will contact the Fundraising Team as above.

### **How could your company support the work of Simon?**

The Simon Communities of Ireland are proud of our national and all island corporate partnerships and there are endless ways that an organisation can support Simon. You can contact the fundraising department on (01) 671 1606 to discuss tailoring projects and initiatives to match your company's interests and objectives.

**Tax Effective Giving** - If you are a PAYE taxpayer, did you know that a donation of at least €250.00 could be worth an extra 72% to us? Simon can claim tax back on donations over €250.00 under current government legislation and the scheme is completely confidential. Donations from companies or self assessed tax payers also qualify the donor for tax relief.

### **VOLUNTEER**

Simon welcomes both part-time and full-time volunteers. Part-time volunteers work in various roles like on the soup run, fundraising, shop workers, committee members and as befrienders. To volunteer on a part-time basis, please contact your local Simon Community.

Full-time volunteers must be aged over 18 and commit to a Full Time placement for at least 6 months working alongside our paid staff in a variety of projects across our communities. We provide accommodation, supervision, training and a small living allowance. This opportunity facilitates development of many skills both on a practical and professional level and is an ideal opportunity to gain valuable work experience.

We also offer our Full Time Volunteers the opportunity of gaining a third level qualification as all our Full Time Volunteers now take part in our Certificate Programme in partnership with the DIT so you not only assist us in our work but you also gain a practical qualification.

If you want to find out more or get involved, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteering@simoncommunity.com](mailto:volunteering@simoncommunity.com)

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### **CAMPAIGNING**

We in the Simon Communities of Ireland seek to affect social and economic policy change in Ireland to ensure that the causes of homelessness are addressed and ensure that there are effective responses in place all around the Country. While housing is an important part of the solution, homelessness is about more than not having a roof over your head, or a set of keys; it can mean having many related needs which can include; poverty and social exclusion, mental health and physical ill health, problem drug and alcohol use and fractured family relations. Such needs are often interconnected therefore it is important to respond to all these needs simultaneously. Through our advocacy work we seek to ensure that the voices of these people are heard and that their needs are addressed by national and local government and by policy makers. We work to make sure that politicians, civil servants and other public officials are aware of the needs of people who are homeless and that this is reflected in the legislation and policies that they draw-up.

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### **BUT WE ALSO NEED YOUR HELP**

We ask that you get involved in activities to help influence Government policy on homelessness. You can do this in a number of ways: you can highlight the issue of homelessness by writing to your local TD, you can phone your local radio talk show or write to the local newspaper, or you can discuss the subject with friends, family and colleagues.



## Contact us

### **Simon Communities of Ireland**

St Andrews House  
28-30 Exchequer Street  
Dublin 2

**Phone:** 01-6711606

**Email:** [info@simoncommunity.com](mailto:info@simoncommunity.com)

**Website:** [www.simon.ie](http://www.simon.ie)

### **Fundraising Department**

Email: [fundraising@simoncommunity.com](mailto:fundraising@simoncommunity.com)

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

Email: [volunteering@simoncommunity.com](mailto:volunteering@simoncommunity.com)