

Annual Review 2004-2005



providing homes

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The Simon Communities of Ireland

We are the federation of Simon Communities in Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway, the Midlands, the South East and the North West.

The organization is governed by the Federation's board, which is made up of a representative of each of the local communities and a maximum of five associate members who bring relevant expertise from different related fields.

The senior staff members from each of the Communities and the Federation office are also in attendance at the Board meetings.

Federation Board 2004/5

Community Representatives

Aonghus O'Broin, Cork
Dymphna Dolan, Dublin
Jim Lucey, Dundalk
Deidre Fahy, Galway
Conor McHugh, Midlands
Maureen Freyne, South East
Eileen Magnier, North West

Associate Members

Anne Connolly, (Chair)
Eoin O'Sullivan
Martin Macken
Denis Doherty
Padraig O'Morain
In attendance
Conor Hickey (Federation Director)
Siobhán Fisher (Recording Secretary)



Members of the Federation Board
(Photo Vincent Vidal)

Ending Homelessness is the Simon Communities primary goal.

Much progress has been made towards meeting this goal in terms of partnership working between the statutory and voluntary agencies in recent years. Rough sleeping, particularly in the major urban centres has been substantially reduced. Government spending on homelessness is at unprecedented levels, with the Department of the Environment alone spending approx €1m per week. However, in spite of this progress official statistics indicate that at least 5,500 people are currently experiencing homelessness in Ireland.

The focus of much of the spending and service provision has been on meeting emergency accommodation needs. It is timely therefore that Government is now articulating a shift in focus towards prevention and move on accommodation. Simon are very supportive of this shift and believe that these changes, if adequately resourced, will make a significant contribution to ending homelessness in Ireland.

Mirroring a similar shift in focus Simon have spent much of the last year developing a new three year strategy for 2006-2008. In this process we have looked closely not only at the external environment and factors that are influencing the level of homelessness in Ireland but also at ourselves, our organisation and at new ways of making a lasting impact given the resources at our disposal.

We have and will continue to respond at the coalface providing emergency services, supports and accommodation to those who need them most. We believe that effective services and supports are those that are tailored to meet the needs of individual service users. The routes into and out of homelessness are varied and determined by each person's circumstances. Our responses are aimed at helping each individual access and maintain a home of their own. For some they can move quickly towards

independent living if the housing and supports are available. For others we need to provide supported accommodation as this is their best chance of creating a long term home which will be appropriate to their needs.

Our new plan commits us to a greater emphasis on researching "what works" and exploring and testing new approaches in the areas of prevention and working together to agreed and relevant best practice standards.

We are committed to developing common performance indicators for measuring the effectiveness of our approaches, the efficiency of our use of resources which will help us to make the case to our funders - government, the public and private sector companies - for their continued support and for additional resources where they are required.

In the strategy we also commit to strengthening the voice of Simon at the policy and decision making tables and in the public arena. We intend to do this in part through using our practical, on the ground experience of providing a broad range of services to people who experience homelessness and those at risk of homelessness.

Over the next three years we will:

- Continue to meet the needs for emergency services and strive to ensure that people's needs are being met and services appropriately developed around these needs
- Increase our efforts to find long term housing solutions for people and provide the required support that will keep people in these homes
- Shorten the length of time people stay in our emergency facilities and for as many as possible help them directly through settlement into their own homes.

The demands on our resources will be greater than ever and we are determined to meet the challenges ahead with a renewed commitment underpinned by the belief that we can and must end homelessness in Ireland.

DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE



Anne Connolly
Chairperson



Ten years ago Simon's call for action was simple.

At that stage we needed resources to provide emergency services and to get people off the street. Much has changed since then. Better quality services are now in place and the success of our work and that of the other organisations both statutory and voluntary is beginning to show results.

In the fight against homelessness we are moving into a new era. Ending homelessness in Ireland is now a real possibility. Indeed the Homeless Agency has set 2010 as the target date to end homelessness in Dublin. So much however depends on how we define homelessness. In Simon we believe that people who sleep rough, live in emergency accommodation and inadequate, insecure or unsafe housing are all experiencing homelessness. Therefore, ending homelessness will not just be a matter of getting people off the streets and into emergency accommodation. It is merely the first step.

Step two is to provide an adequate supply of quality social housing. We can play a part in providing housing but major investment in Social Housing at government level is required to make the required impact. The National Economic and Social Council (NESC) recommended that 73,000 new housing units be provided by 2012 and this will cost in the region of €1.4 billion per year. Current investment is producing only 5,500 units per year and although we can and will access the private rented sector it will not make up the shortfall.

Step three is to ensure that people's needs are properly assessed and that supports are put in place to ensure that once they find their home they can then be helped to keep it. The opportunity now exists to create a needs assessment system, and revenue-funding stream that will help us to meet the support costs of people who live in independent housing.

This now is the real challenge that faces all of us who aspire to end homelessness in Ireland. We in Simon have developed our new strategy for the next three years which will allow us to play our part in delivering on all three of these steps for the people who come to us looking for assistance.

Ending Homelessness remains our primary goal. We cannot do this on our own and we welcome the indications of a changing focus in state policy towards prevention and long-term housing. This must however be backed up with adequate resources. Providing quality housing to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness will require a substantial shift in social and fiscal policy. We are completely committed to working in partnership with our residents and service users, the statutory sector and other voluntary service providers to provide as many homes as is required to make this goal a reality.

We will also continue to rely heavily on the good will of the public who have so generously supported our work since we started providing services in 1969. We thank everyone who has contributed to our efforts over the years.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS – PROVIDING HOMES



Conor Hickey
Director



LOCAL COMMUNITIES

CORK SIMON COMMUNITY

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(Photos Fran Veale)

We operate projects at ten separate locations across Cork City, providing 103 beds in our emergency shelter, supported residential houses and independent-living apartments. We continue to work closely with a broad range of local statutory and voluntary organisations, local people and businesses to further develop the diverse range of supports available to homeless men and women in Cork.

In 2004 Cork Simon's 44-bed Emergency Shelter at Anderson's Quay offered accommodation, care and support to 343 men and 35 women - half of whom were seeking the service for the first time. The Day Centre, also located at Anderson's Quay, offers breakfast, showers and laundry facilities seven days a week. Experienced staff are on hand to offer a listening ear and to help deal with the more specific concerns of the 50 to 70 people who access the project everyday.

The Youth Homeless Drug Prevention Project offers individually tailored responses to very marginalized and isolated young people. The project supported 104 young people in 2004. The Settlement Programme incorporates 27 apartments citywide, offering formerly homeless men and women a high level of support, helping them to return to independent living.

Tír na nÓg, an eleven bed residential project, was officially opened in 2005, increasing the number of residential houses to 4 and bringing the total number of formerly homeless men and women who are offered a 'home for life' to 32. The HSE Adult Homeless Medical Team based at the Day Centre, was augmented with the addition of a Clinical Psychologist to the existing services of a GP, Nurse, Community Psychiatric Nurse and Addiction Counsellors. The Street Outreach Team - the main point of contact for people with chaotic lifestyles, linking them into a broad range of specialist services, was extended to operate seven days a week. The team met 264 new people in 2004. Our Cold Weather Shelter during the 2004/05 Christmas/New Year period provided a bed for 154 people. In May we highlighted issues surrounding homelessness by organising an international conference - *'The Caring City'*, bringing together individuals, groups, businesses, voluntary and statutory agencies to examine issues specific to Cork and to identify solutions. Participation by residents and service users in arts and leisure activities increased, with the production of a documentary film, poetry anthology and photographic exhibition.

Our future plans include the 'Gateway', a city centre based project for rough sleepers and street drinkers, which recently received planning approval from City Councillors. We also hope to provide more long-term 'move-on' accommodation, which is badly needed in Cork. We will continue to improve existing projects, strengthening supports and participation, campaigning for change.



Colette Kelleher
CEO



LOCAL COMMUNITIES

DUBLIN SIMON COMMUNITY

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Refurbishment with Tiger Trust
(Photo Andrew Newman)



St. Patrick's Day
(Photo Fran Veale)

We operate 13 projects at nine sites across the city. The outreach service makes approximately 450 contacts per month. The Soup Run volunteers work closely with the staff of the outreach team to identify and follow up people in need. The service's relocation to the city centre has enhanced its focus on street work. The team has responded to the changing profile of its users by deepening links with the citywide drug services as well as the new Health Services Executive 'ACCESS' mental health outreach team.

Our 30 bed emergency facility on Harcourt St participated in the Dublin 'emergency services network pilot', which focused on hard to place service users and resulted in a review of working practices. As a result, five beds were ring fenced in a women's annex. Thanks to the 'Tiger Trust' this facility was refurbished in 2005.

We also provide case management and resettlement services to Dublin City Council's emergency accommodation service for women. The start of a women's only night at the social club has met a critical need for positive social engagement.

The Alcohol Services continue to address this critical issue with a Detox Unit, Residential Alcohol Service and Aftercare service. In 2004, the detox program had a 78% success rate. The Residential Alcohol Service's success rates were equally impressive with 21 people completing the 12-week program. The Alcohol Support Service offers a continuum of support for people who have come through the services. An important part of this program is the shared house facility.

We have three supported houses, which together accommodate 51 people. They provide varying levels of 'floating support' to maximise people's independence. In the last year a number of new measures have been introduced in these projects to empower residents and maximise their independence.

Our Transitional Housing unit provides self contained apartments while the Re-settlement team works closely to support clients access permanent accommodation and make the fastest possible transition to home of their own. Our training and employment service has expanded its services to offer meaningful activities and life skills programs.

The volunteer led Social Club continues to provide a vital resource for people who are homeless. It operates four nights a week with special evenings reserved for women and the alcohol services

We are delighted to have been awarded the Homeless Agency's contract for Tenancy Sustainment services. The new service is due for roll out in late 2005 and is in line with our efforts to focus on providing long-term solutions to homelessness.



Sam McGuinness
CEO



LOCAL COMMUNITIES

DUNDALK SIMON COMMUNITY

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Day Trippers



Aine, Buki & Micheal en route to mini marathon

We run a Community House in Barrack Street with capacity for 25 people. In 2003, 118 people stayed in the Community House for an average of 71 nights. The Settlement programme has helped to house over 200 residents in total from the Community house into their own homes. In 2004 the settlement team supported 31 people in the transition to permanent housing.

The Gatehouse project offers accommodation to up to seven rough sleepers every night meeting people's immediate needs with a meaningful emphasis on acceptance and a minimum of rules.

With the North Eastern Health Board the Community manage and staff a residential house for four adults with learning disabilities.

Training is available in areas including home management, practical living skills, personal development, computer skills and art design. A referral service advocates with other agencies regarding counselling, addiction, welfare rights, moving on, visitation and support services.

In partnership with Women's Aid and the Dundalk Rape Crisis Centre, the Community run a Community Employment scheme.

The Community also run a charity shop in York Street, which is staffed by part time staff, FÁS employees and volunteers. All proceeds from the shop go directly to the community.

Among the recent highlights are the soon to be opened 'Seatown House', which will serve as a day centre for our service users. This building will also serve as a base for the settlement, administration and outreach services.

We have now successfully acquired five properties with the assistance of the Department of the Environment, the Federation Office and the EBS. In addition service audits were undertaken at every level of the organisation so that we can fulfil our obligations in terms of the services we offer, best practice and accountability.

Our priorities for the year ahead include actively working with a number of housing associations in the planning and provision of new housing options and working with the federation on a number of core strategy issues including best practice, volunteers, housing, training and campaigning.



Paddy McBride
Project Leader



Carmel Maguire
Non Residential Services Manager



LOCAL COMMUNITIES

GALWAY SIMON COMMUNITY

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We operate ten housing projects, which offer a range of supported housing options with varying degrees of independence as well as providing follow on support and tenancy sustainment. In addition the Community owns or has allocation rights to ten apartments. Most of the projects are open to both men and women. Some projects are 'homes for life' while others are designed for those who wish to remain for a while and then move on. Professional care workers assisted by full and part time volunteers' staff the projects.

During 2005 Galway Simon Community continued to develop its move-on housing provision. A particular highlight was the purchase of two new apartments under the CAS scheme in partnership with the Federation, and with the support of EBS Building Society. We have also obtained apartments for service users from Galway City Council and Respond! Housing Association. The residents are now tenants of City Council and the Housing Association respectively with ongoing support being provided by Galway Simon Community. There are plans in train to obtain further move on accommodation through these and other options. We believe that this model of tenancy support, in line with the 'Settlement First' report, is the best way to go, and look forward to continued good relationships with other housing providers in order to provide the best possible service to people who have been homeless.

There is, however, still a need for a high quality, staffed, supported residential project as well as the more independent living options already outlined. We are in the process of setting up such a service for a group of people who have for some time been inappropriately placed in emergency accommodation. We are delighted to be in a position to further enable people to make a significant improvement in their quality of life.

In the last six months we have piloted an 'outcomes' system, as part of our key-working and care-planning process. Our Residents' forum has continued to flourish, and as a direct result of their initiative a national Simon Service Users forum has convened, with assistance from the Federation's Best Practice Coordinator and an external facilitator provided by Galway Simon Community. In the spring of 2006 we will undertake a full-scale independent survey of service users needs and experiences within the Community with a view to constantly reviewing and improving our services.



Marlene with Dermot O'Leary from EBS Galway at one of the properties purchased with their assistance.



Enjoying the sunshine in West Cork



Marlene O'Connor
CEO



LOCAL COMMUNITIES

MIDLANDS SIMON COMMUNITY

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Following our formation in June 2003, the Board of Directors of the Midlands Simon Community set about developing our first Strategic Plan. This Plan is intended to be the first step towards our vision of ending homelessness in the Midland counties of Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois.

The Plan was launched in January 2005 by the Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen TD and was warmly received by Statutory and Voluntary Agencies in the Midlands Region.

The Midlands Simon Community has also established its first service in 2005. This is a settlement service aimed at supporting people to move out of homelessness by assisting service users to source and maintain a permanent home.

Two settlement workers have been employed, Jacinta Daly who will work with service users in Longford/Westmeath and Brendan Cunningham who will work with service users in Laois/Offaly.

As part of the process of developing our Settlement Service, a partnership with the Statutory Agencies in the Midlands, namely the Health Services Executive (HSE) Midland Area and the four Local Authorities has been developed. From this a service protocol has been compiled; it acknowledges that a person who experiences homelessness may often present with a variety of needs. An effective service that seeks to support someone out of homelessness needs to be a partnership approach, where the relevant agencies work together. All of the parties agreed to the Protocol, which is the first of its kind in the country. It will provide a sound basis for the work of the Settlement Team and their client's interaction with the statutory agencies. We acknowledge with thanks the assistance we have received from the statutory agencies.

In June 2005, Laois County Council approved funding for the purchase of five permanent homes for people experiencing homelessness in Laois. These properties will be occupied by the end of November 2005.

A new Simon Retail Shop has opened in Sean Costello Street, Athlone. The shop is selling excellent quality second hand clothes and household goods. Profits from the shop will go directly to delivering services in the region.



Tony O Riordan
CEO



Minister Cowen speaking at launch
(Photo James Flynn)



Front: Majella Darcy (Vice-chairperson), George Lamden (Westmeath County Council), Minister Brian Cowen, Cormac Lally (Chairperson), Molly Buckley (Treasurer).
Back: Frank Heslin (Offaly County Council), Declan Byrne (Laois County Council), and Peter Tone (Longford County Council).
(Photo James Flynn)



LOCAL COMMUNITIES

SOUTH EAST SIMON COMMUNITY

South East Simon Community

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Chris with Aidan Power, Martin O'Hare and Eibhlin Carr from the EBS in one of the new houses purchased by the community with the support of EBS.
(Photo Leo Murphy)



South East Simon's Tenancy Sustainment Workers, Sinead and Miriam, at Simon / Amnesty training

We were established as a company and affiliated member of the Simon Communities of Ireland in 2003; and President Mary McAleese officially launched the community in June of 2004.

Our work programme is informed by research commissioned by the Board and our strategic planning process out of which emerged a clear picture of the unmet needs of people homeless and at risk of homelessness in counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South Riding, Waterford and Wexford.

In January 2004 the Board appointed the first staff member the Regional Development Officer, this role was complimented by the appointment of a part time administrator in December 2004. In May 2005 two social care practitioners were appointed to the roles of Tenancy Support Worker.

As a new community we have faced many interesting situations and challenges. Our service has evolved and we offer a range of service in two different areas: advocacy and outreach, and resettlement and tenancy support. In addition to our regional administration based in Waterford, we have a second operational base in Kilkenny.

In the last year of engaging with people homeless and at risk of homelessness we have had a total of 673 contacts with 24 men, 33 women and 47 children. We were able to assist 27 individuals/families into housing or emergency accommodation and were able to assist in having two cases of negative decisions about Rent Supplement Allowance overturned. In addition we successfully addressed the accommodation needs two young people aged under 18. We have established joint working partnerships with other statutory and voluntary service providers throughout the region.

This next year brings huge challenge. If we are unable to obtain statutory funding the viability of community is seriously threatened. We may need to withdraw services from two of the six counties we currently operate in. We also face the challenge of ensuring that we incorporate a rights based approach into all aspects of our work and of ensuring that people homeless and at risk of homelessness continue to be at the centre of all that we do and all that we are.



Chris Anderson
Regional Development Officer



FEDERATION

SIMON'S FEDERATION OFFICE-UPDATE

The Federation office's primary goal is to facilitate the work of the Simon Communities in combating homelessness. The last 12 months has seen our progress continue in key areas of development and housing and great energy has been generated by the new national strategy, which was approved by the board at our AGM in June '05.

The work of the office can be divided into three areas

- Responding to the needs of people who are experiencing homelessness
- Advocating on behalf of our service users and influencing change in policy and resource allocation at national level
- Generating sustainable income for our work across the country

Responding to the needs of people who are experiencing homelessness

New Simons - North West and Mid West

Continuing on from the successful establishment of the new Simon Communities in the Midlands and South East, development work has concentrated on the North West of the country in Sligo, Donegal and Leitrim and the Mid West in Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary. North West Simon is well underway and has recently recruited its first member of staff to begin the process of developing services to meet the needs of the area. In the Mid West recruitment of board members is ongoing and this community expects to incorporate as a legal entity in May of 2006. June 2006 will bring to a close the development of new Simon Communities in Ireland. We will soon have full national coverage and the potential to develop services to respond to unmet needs in any location. Great thanks and credit are due to Noel Daly our development officer who has driven this development on our behalf and indeed to Galway Simon for seconding Noel to the Federation office and allowing us avail of his expertise.

Independent living - Targeted Housing

The Federation has now developed 16 properties in Dundalk, Galway, Portlaoise and Waterford, with a further 28 at various stages in the development 'pipeline'. Now that properties are starting to be acquired, the momentum should continue to a point where we have a rolling programme of properties being acquired, properties on site and those that are just coming into management.

The Independent Living Initiative with EBS Building Society has been a tremendous boost and has enabled us to acquire properties which we may otherwise have lost. The partnership extends beyond just financial help with different groups with the EBS lending support and time in a variety of ways.

However, this last year has not been without its problems. Several potential developments failed to proceed due primarily to negative attitudes to housing people in local communities and subsequent political opposition. Our job now is to find new solutions to these old problems and to develop the houses required to meet people's needs at local level. The next 12 months will be both exciting and challenging as we continue to take on this task.

Developing our Practice

This year has seen good progress in terms of service user participation. A training module has been devised and delivered in some of the Communities,



Board members of the new North West Simon Community



Conor Hickey, Federation Director



Claire McTiernan, Development Officer, North West Simon Community



FEDERATION

and an awareness of the issues has grown swiftly. The National Service Users Forum was set up this year as a result of the Galway Service Users Forum desire to meet with other service users. Although still in its infancy the forum is showing the potential of becoming an important group and one that wants to work side by side with staff in developing all areas of participation. The recently developed National Strategic Plan is underpinned with a commitment to service user participation.

A tool for managing outcomes through key working has been piloted by Galway Simon and has shown to be very effective - both by staff and service users. Although the main aim of the tool is to be able to measure the impact of the services we offer on individual service users, it has also created a tool that enhances key working itself. The final changes will be made to the tool following the pilot phase and it will be available to all Communities in early 2006.

We have continued to audit all of our services against the standards in "Putting People First" and the new National Strategy has exciting initiatives planned in developing continuous improvement across all of Simon.

Recruiting and Supporting full time volunteers

This year we had 36 Full Time Volunteers in our communities at any given time. In total we received 256 applications, interviewed 97 and gave placements to 45 volunteers. The vast majority of these volunteers stayed with us for twelve months and successfully completed their stay. Most of them came from abroad and all have actively sought out Simon. We have welcomed volunteers from places as diverse as Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Zambia and indeed Ireland.

Regardless of where our Full Time Volunteers have travelled from they have been attracted to our organization and committed themselves to our ethos and values. Each has given and gained in immeasurable amounts.

All volunteers attended training and from next year all will receive a training manual as soon as they arrive. The manual will be used as a tool to assist in the development of skills and will guide the volunteer through their work.

Over the next twelve months we shall continue to develop the role of the Full Time Volunteer and ensure that our organization provides the best possible standards for all those who commit their time, energy and skills to our work.

Advocating on behalf of our service users and influencing change in policy and resource allocation at national level

Over the last 12 months we continued to build on our work to deliver a right to housing and other services for people who are homeless. In June '05 we launched an extensive, independent review of current law and policy in meeting the housing needs of people who are homeless - 'Settlement First'. It highlights important gaps in service provision and proposes a new model of meeting people's needs that would end the cycle of homelessness.

We also partnered with Amnesty International Ireland to explore how we promote and protect human rights within our own services. We delivered training and tools for a selection of project workers from each of the communities and hope to mainstream this work into our new strategic plan.

We participated locally and at a national level in the independent review the



Human Rights Training



Launch of 'Settlement First'



Launch of 'Settlement First'



FEDERATION

Integrated Strategy, which we had lobbied extensively for. We are very hopeful that the review will take on board our proposals, shifting homelessness policy definitively towards prevention and meeting long term housing needs. Simon News continued to keep policy makers informed of key issues and we were actively involved in the processes around the 2005 housing needs assessment and the introduction of the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

Generating sustainable income for our work across the country

The Simon Communities of Ireland depends on the public for a significant portion of its annual operating expenses, despite the support received from the government. Last year was no exception. By year end the Federation office had an income of €1,755,214 of which over 95% comes from voluntary sources. Although down on last year this is a large amount of money and our income has grown dramatically over the last five years.

Income received through the post continues to be a very strong area for us and we are very grateful for all those people who send us money on a regular basis. Our new supporters are recruited by 'cold' mailings at Christmas and the endorsement of Marian Finucane is very helpful in this context. Cold mailings require significant investment but they are very effective in raising immediate income and building long-term sustainable support.

Last year we launched a 'Share Giving' scheme to encourage individuals to consider giving Simon shares. This has produced some good results and we hope that in the future more people will consider supporting Simon this way.

We have been the beneficiary of a number of significant legacies over the last 12 months and we are extremely grateful to those people who placed such value on our work that they thought to include Simon in their wills.

Many businesses in Ireland have a high regard for our work and this is reflected in the corporate support we receive. Valued relationships include EBS, Anglo Irish Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland. The EBS relationship is in its second year and goes beyond financial support to include professional advice from staff and marketing support.

The corporate sector again responded in great numbers to our House of Cards appeal at Christmas and thank you to everyone who participated in this campaign which last year raised a record amount.

Early in the year Simon joined up with the the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland (RIAI), for a special fundraising initiative called "Simon Open Door". Participating RIAI Architects around the country opened their offices to give members of the public an hour's consultation with an architect in return for a donation to Simon of €45. We hope to repeat this event.

2005 saw Simon open two new retail charity shops one in Athlone and one in Waterford. It is intended that these shops will create a new source of income that is also adding value to the local communities by providing good quality clothes at reasonable prices in a bright clean and well-managed environment. Great effort is being made to develop a new sharper image for the shops and this allied to a competitive management system will give them every chance of success.



Rose of Tralee launching House of Cards Appeal



New Simon Shops



New Simon Shops

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2004

Federation Office

Financially Simon's Federation office has performed well in 2004. The success of our fundraising efforts in raising over €1.6million is a source of great encouragement and is a direct result of the continuing support of the public for our work. This support has also been reflected by the corporate sector and in particular the EBS (Educational Building Society) and Anglo Irish Bank have helped us significantly over the year.

On the statutory side we were successful in securing a grant of €78,000 from the White Paper Implementation Group for Voluntary Activity and this was added to our annual "grant in aid" of €60,000 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

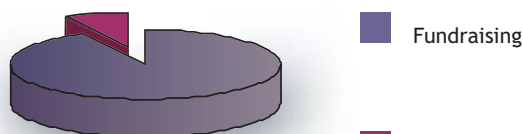
The costs of the work of the Federation office (see pages 9, 10, 11) for the year totalled approximately €1.2million. Staff, programmes and office costs totalled €848,566 while the costs incurred in raising the €1.6 million came to €349,453. This rate of return on investment is extremely positive and we are working hard on keeping our costs as low as possible again this year.

The largest expenditure item for the Federation office was the distribution of funds to the local Simon Communities. 2004 saw us distribute the largest sum ever, over €1 million to support the vital work of the Simons at local level across the country.

Again this year our organisation has received enormous support from the state, the corporate sector and the public and for this we are very grateful. We are keenly aware of our responsibility to those who use and fund our services and we continue to strive to give best possible value and make a lasting difference to the lives of the people experiencing homelessness across Ireland.

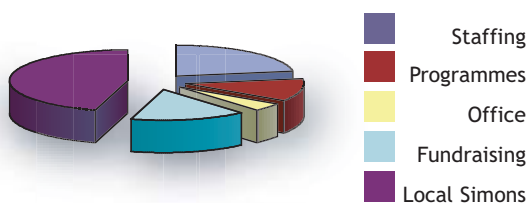
Audited accounts 2004*

Income 2004



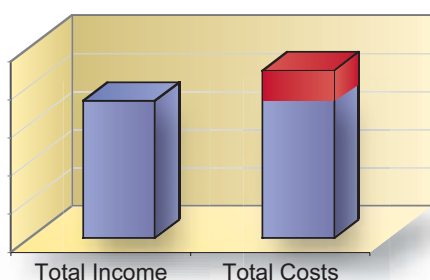
Fundraising	€1,664,902
Grants	€138,000

Expenditure 2004



Staff	€497,802
Programmes	€261,058
Office	€89,706
Fundraising	€349,435
Local Simons	€1,002,373

Income v's Expenditure 2004



Total Income	€1,802,902
Total Costs	€2,200,376
Deficit	€397,474

*Full audited accounts available on request

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

DONATE, VOLUNTEER, CAMPAIGN.

Donate

Although statutory funding has increased over the last number of years, Simon still relies heavily on the generosity of the public to provide services to people who are experiencing homelessness. We need funding for a wide range of services including short and long term accommodation projects, street outreach, resettlement and training programmes. There are a number of ways to help Simon including; making a donation, organising an event to raise money, nominating Simon as your workplace charity, naming Simon as a beneficiary in your will. To make a donation or to find out more, please visit our website at www.simoncommunity.com or telephone 01 6711606

Volunteer

Simon has both part-time and full-time volunteers. Part Time Volunteers work in various roles like the soup run, fundraising, shop workers, committee members, social clubs and as visitors to people living in the community. To volunteer on a part time basis, contact your local Simon Community.

Full Time Volunteers must be 18+ and make a commitment of at least six months with Simon working alongside men and women experiencing homelessness. We provide accommodation supervision training and pocket money. This opportunity facilitates the development of many skills both on a practical and professional level and is an ideal opportunity to gain valuable work experience. No formal qualifications are required. However, personal qualities such as compassion sensitivity adaptability and a commitment to social justice are most important. If you want to get involved on a Full Time basis, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at the federation office: volunteering@simoncommunity.com

Campaign

Our campaigning mandate is to effect changes in economic and social policy in Ireland that will contribute to the elimination of homelessness and its causes. Our priorities are to increase supply and access to housing for people who are homeless, influence policy and legislative change to deliver on the right to housing and to other support needs, and to build alliances with the public and the political system to deliver these changes.

Simon is committed to delivering solutions orientated campaigning, which is firmly grounded in our experience as a national service provider. You can play your part in this important work by joining our network of supporters who receive quarterly updates on our campaigning work. To join contact: campaigning@simoncommunity.com

