



DEPAUL  
TRUST

## The Art of Survival

Depaul Trust Annual Report 2006

'Everyone should have a place to call home and a stake in their community'.

Welcome to Depaul Trusts Annual Report for 2006. I recently moved into the role of Acting CEO from that of Director of Services whilst Patrick Doherty has moved to work within the Depaul Foundation in establishing much needed services in other parts of Europe and drawing on his experience of establishing Depaul in Ireland.

Depaul Trust was established in Dublin in 2002 and further into Northern Ireland in 2005. In 2006 we have worked with, learnt from and supported over 550 people approaching us. The organisation has grown at a rapid rate responding to the needs of those who are most marginalised within our society. None of what we do would be possible without our dedicated staff and volunteers and I would like to thank them for the commitment they show to the ethos of the organisation.

2006 was a busy, challenging and rewarding year for the charity, with a number of significant achievements:

- We undertook extensive internal service audits, which included interviews with service users in all our projects
- We committed ourselves to facilitating learning in the homeless sector on a cross border basis, sharing our knowledge and skills with others and learning from them in order to benefit our service users
- We delivered our first seminar in Northern Ireland on low threshold working as part of Homelessness Awareness week in partnership with other voluntary bodies
- We had a staff conference at the beginning of the year entitled 'how high are our walls', focusing on ensuring we are continuing to work in the most effective ways with those who find it difficult to access services
- We took part in the Homeless Agency emergency services evaluations and piloted the Holistic Needs Assessment tool
- We attended a number of conferences including the International conference on Harm Reduction

I am delighted that in this report we are able to show some of the talents of our services users. The artwork has been provided by them and demonstrates some of the many skills people in our services have. At Depaul Trust we aspire to offer people more than a home, we want to support people to realise their full potential but in doing this we need to listen to the voice of our service users.

I have worked in homeless services for many years, although I have never experienced homelessness myself, and this makes it all the more important that I, and all the staff in Depaul Trust, are well informed by our service users on what are the challenges and benefits of accessing our projects.

We are committed to looking further at this in 2007 and working in partnership with those we support to ensure Depaul Trust is providing the right service for them.

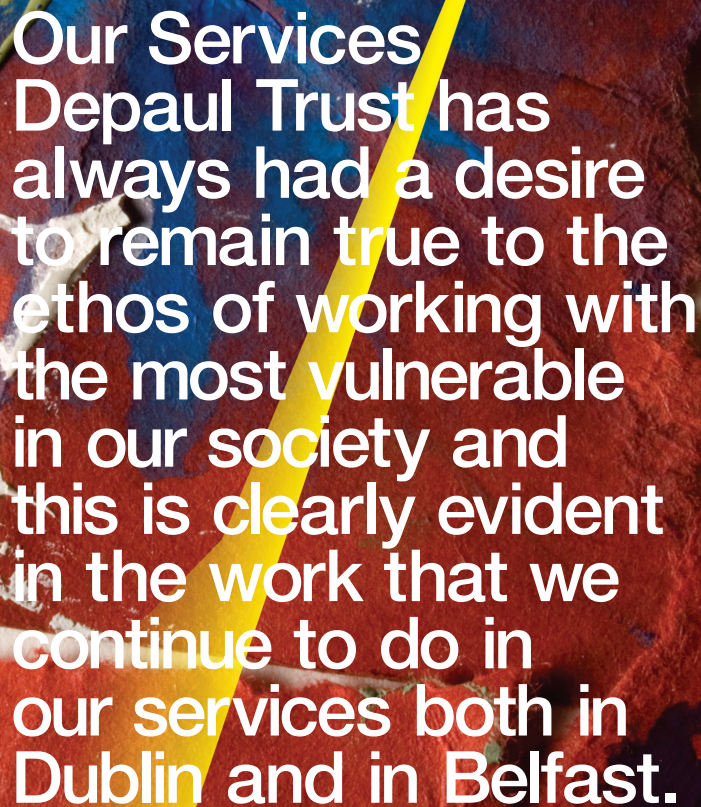
I hope you enjoy the artwork that has been so kindly donated to us for this annual report.



**Kerry Anthony**  
Acting CEO  
Depaul Trust Ireland

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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Our Services  
Depaul Trust has  
always had a desire  
to remain true to the  
ethos of working with  
the most vulnerable  
in our society and  
this is clearly evident  
in the work that we  
continue to do in  
our services both in  
Dublin and in Belfast.

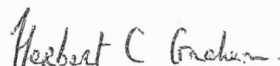
There is still significant demand for quality services in the homeless sector in Ireland to meet the needs of this most vulnerable group. Depaul Trust's 2006 year was reflective of this and while we opened some key services, our limited finances coupled with the lack of fundraising has hampered our ability to achieve all our objectives. Our services are focused on the most marginalised within our society and there is much work to be done.

During 2006 we opened Bluebell as a temporary project and this has allowed some relief to those men who should eventually move to James Street. James Street and a replacement for Aungier Street are now scheduled for opening in late 2007/early 2008. In Belfast we opened Mater Dei and transferred our family service from Atlantic House into this more modern building.

We could not deliver the services we do without the significant support of our partners in both the voluntary and statutory bodies. On behalf of Depaul Board, staff team and service users I sincerely thank the Homeless Agency, the Departments of Environment, Health and Justice, and also Ballymun Regeneration Ltd in the Republic of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Belfast Regeneration Office in Northern Ireland. A special thanks also to the SVP Dublin region for their support during the year. We thank all those who have supported us and we look forward to ongoing relationships with you.

Depaul Trust looks forward to 2007 as another busy year with a number of new developments including our second family service in Northern Ireland, James Street and a replacement for Aungier Street in Dublin. We continue to look to individuals and the corporate world to support the work that we do. We see the next three years as a critical time for Depaul Trust as we develop and work with more service users in both the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. It is essential we continue to listen to those who come to us for support and adapt our services to the changing needs of our service users.

Finally on behalf of the board a sincere thanks to our staff, both paid and voluntary, to Pat Doherty our former CEO and to Liam Fitzpatrick and Brian O'Gorman former Trustees who have moved onto pastures new.



**Herbert Graham**  
Chairman - Depaul Trust Ireland

# TREASURER'S REPORT

2006 has been both a challenging and exciting year for Depaul Trust Ireland and Depaul Trust Northern Ireland. We have now completed our 5th year in existence in ROI and almost two years in NI.

Overall, we have reported an operating deficit in 2006. However, our accumulated reserves for both companies remain positive at the year end. We have grown rapidly in both regions and the financial statements bear striking testament to this.

## Depaul Trust Ireland Limited

Incoming resources in ROI have increased by 14% to €4.8million for the year ended 31st December 2006. Our main statutory funders continue to be the HSE, Dublin City Council (both funds being administered by the umbrella body Homeless Agency) and the Probation Service. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for this continued support.

Costs in the period increased overall by 15.5%. The main driver of expenditure increases was staffing. Indeed, we continue to see income increases being fully utilised in the year to meet expanding staff costs arising from both additional employees and annual incremental and cost of living pay awards. Both North and South, we acknowledge the crucial resource that our employees represent to the organisation. We continue to rely on their dedication and enthusiasm to provide the valuable support to the service users in all our projects.

The higher rate of costs increases over funding expansion has resulted in an operating deficit of €63k. Central services covering functions such as administration, finance, HR, senior services management and organisational management and co-ordination continues to be an important and efficient means of facilitating the delivery of our services. In common with other organisations in our sector, the recovery of full funding of these core costs from statutory funders continues to be a problem. This widening shortfall necessitates reliance on donations from our founding partners and key sponsors to ensure service delivery. We are immensely appreciative of all such financial contributions and would like to take this opportunity to extend in particular our thanks to the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

## Depaul Trust Northern Ireland Limited

This company has exhibited strong growth throughout 2006. We now have three distinct projects based in Belfast. In April 2006, we took over the management of Atlantic House and in October 2006 we moved this project to a new purpose built building.

Income has expanded dramatically by more than 100% in this our first full year of operation in Northern Ireland. We extend our thanks to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Belfast Regeneration Office for funding a considerable part of our NI services.

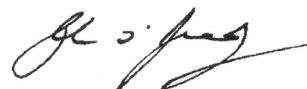
Expenditure trends mirror ROI especially with regard to staffing increases and we have reported a year end deficit of £32k. One of the contributing factors to the year's deficit was the Board's decision to fund the operation of the Drive Ahead project in quarter two. External funding was secured for quarter three onwards through BRO. Pilot scheme funding for this project is due to come to an end in 2007 and we are hopeful of securing funding from other sources to ensure that this valuable service continues. Furthermore, it is acknowledged that Depaul Trust Northern Ireland Limited remains effectively in start up stage and as such project services have not reached full operational capacity. Therefore, core central costs have a lower funding base over which to be allocated in the short term. We look forward into 2007 which will see the introduction of the regions fourth service.

## Conclusion

The reported deficits of both companies have depleted the level of our net assets at the year end and cash flow management remains a challenge. We have put robust and comprehensive financial systems in place both North and South which include regular reporting of financial management information and continual monitoring of financial key indicators.

Furthermore we have enhanced our corporate governance structure to include three sub-committees stemming from the main corporate boards. One such sub-committee deals specifically with finance and fundraising issues and has convened regularly throughout the year and into 2007. Alongside this, we continue to strive to establish full funding for our projects and extend our donation and sponsorship base.

These systems and structures have led to smoother cash flow cycles and tight expenditure management. They serve to form the building blocks of senior management's strategic plan for sustained and strong organisational development and financial consolidation into the future.



**John O'Grady**  
Treasurer - Depaul Trust Ireland



# ACCOUNTS R.O.I

Charity No. CHY1475

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2006.

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2006				
	Note	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	2005 €
Incoming resources	1	4,796,286	4,796,286	4,195,899
Resources expended				
Direct charitable expenditure		4,859,145	4,859,145	4,204,432
Total resources expended		4,859,145	4,859,145	4,204,432
Net incoming (deficit)/resources	2	(62,859)	(62,859)	(8,533)
Accumulated funds at beginning of year		287,371	287,371	295,904
Accumulated funds at end of year		224,512	224,512	287,371
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2006				
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	4		42,147	36,585
Current assets				
Debtors: due within one year	5		470,893	662,853
Cash and bank balances	6		201,005	18,842
			671,898	618,695
Creditors:				
amounts falling due within one year	7		489,534	430,909
Net current assets			182,364	250,786
Total net assets			224,512	287,371
Capital and reserves				
Revenue reserves	8		224,512	287,371
			224,512	287,371

Note 1	2006 €	2005 €
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources is comprised of:		
Statutory income	4,120,450	3,689,214
Donation and Fundraising income	352,711	138,283
Consultancy	96,548	75,842
Other	226,577	292,560
	4,796,286	4,195,899
By donor:		
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	639,926	1,677,454
Ballymun Regeneration Unit	88,000	24,155
Health Service Executive	2,002,019	1,321,896
Dublin City Council	1,695,394	665,710
POBAL	5,000	-
Other	365,947	506,684
	4,796,286	4,195,899

Note 2	2006 €	2005 €
Net incoming (deficit)/resources		
Incoming resources:		
Staff costs	4,796,286	4,195,899
Depreciation	(3,549,750)	(3,043,503)
Other operating charges	(38,674)	(23,160)
Net incoming (deficit)/resources	(1,270,721)	(1,137,769)
	(62,859)	(8,533)
Net incoming (deficit)/resources for the year has been arrived after charging		
Staff costs:		
Wages and salaries	3,200,284	2,725,490
social welfare costs	325,229	281,926
employer pension contributors	24,237	36,087
Auditors' remuneration	3,549,750	3,043,503
	8,000	8,000

**Note 3**  
Taxation.  
The charitable status of the Depaul Trust Ireland has been approved by the Revenue Commissioners.

<b>Note 4</b> Tangible fixed assets	Office equipment and furniture	Total
	2006 €	2005 €
<b>Cost:</b>		
At beginning of year	92,009	92,009
Additions in year	44,236	44,236
Disposals in year	(1,101)	(1,101)
At end of year	135,144	135,144
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>		
At beginning of year	55,424	55,424
Additions in year	38,674	38,674
Disposals in year	(1,101)	(1,101)
At end of year	92,997	92,997
<b>Net book value:</b>		
At 31st December 2006	42,147	42,147
At 31st December 2005	36,585	36,585

The estimated useful lives of fixed assets by reference to which depreciation is calculated on, are as follows:

Furniture and office equipment      3 years

<b>Note 5</b> Debtors	2006 €	2005 €
Trade debtors	55,348	547,040
Other debtors	164,517	-
Amounts owing from Depaul		
Trust Northern Ireland	222,739	71,139
Amounts owing from Depaul	-	4,377
Foundation	28,289	40,297
Repayments and accrued income	470,893	662,853
All amounts included above fall due within one year		
<b>Note 6</b> Cash and bank balances		
Cash and bank balances	201,005	18,842

<b>Note 7</b> Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2006 €	2005 €
Trade creditors	103,381	205,099
Other creditors	21,266	-
Amounts owing to Depaul	-	
Trust UK Limited		23,104
Deferred income	57,309	-
Amounts owing to Depaul		
Foundation	59,632	-
Accruals	109,147	16,087
PAYE & Social Welfare	138,799	186,619
	489,534	430,909

<b>Note 9</b> Employees	2006 €	2005 €
The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was 110, (2005 - 70)		
<b>Note 10</b> Pensions		
Employer pension contribution	24,237	36,087
The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme		
<b>Note 11</b> Subsidiary Undertaking		
The company has a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking, Depaul Trust Northern Ireland. Details are as follows:		

<b>Note 8</b> Reconciliation of movements in reverse	
Net incoming (deficit)/resources for the year	(62,859)
Accumulated funds at beginning of year	287,371
Accumulated funds at end of year	224,512

<b>Net Assets at 31/12/2006</b> STG£21,896	<b>Deficit for y/e 31/12/2006</b> (STG£31,589)	<b>Business</b> Charity	<b>Registered Office</b> 38 University St. Belfast BT7 1FZ
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The company has not prepared consolidated financial statements for the year ended 13 December 2006 as it is availed of the size exemptions specified in the European Communities (Companies: Group Accounts) Regulations, 1992 and its present undertaking, Depaul Foundation, an entity registered in the United Kingdom, has prepared consolidated accounts which are publicly available.

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2006

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2006			
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
Incoming resources	1	1,058,200	2005 £ 443,125
Resources expended			
Direct charitable expenditure		1,089,789	1,058,200
			1,089,789
Total resources expended		1,089,789	389,640
Net income (deficit)/resources	2	(31,589)	389,640
Accumulated funds at beginning of year		53,485	(31,589)
Accumulated funds at end of year		21,896	53,485
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2006			
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	23,886	36,975
Current assets			
Debtors: due within one year	5	192,830	111,990
Cash and bank balances	6	1,789	33,369
		194,619	145,359
Creditors:			
amounts falling due within one year	7	(196,609)	(128,849)
Net current assets		(1,990)	16,510
Total net assets		21,896	53,485
Capital and reserves			
Revenue reserves	8	21,896	53,485
		21,896	53,485

Note 1  
Incoming resources

	2006 £	2005 £
Incoming resources is comprised of:		
Supporting People Fund	720,795	350,833
Belfast Local Strategy		
Partnership Funding	24,095	73,776
Housing Benefit	166,897	-
Other	146,413	18,516
	1,058,200	443,125

	2006 £	2005 £
Staff costs:		
Wages and salaries	599,363	121,680
social welfare costs	49,126	10,355
employer pension contributors	204	-
	648,693	132,035
Auditors' remuneration	4,000	4,000

Note 2

Net income (deficit)/resources

	2006 £	2005 £
Incoming resources:		
Staff costs	1,058,200	44,125
Depreciation	(648,693)	(132,035)
Other operating charges	(21,179)	(18,487)
Net income (deficit)/resources	(419,917)	(239,118)
	(31,589)	53,485

Note 3

Taxation.

The charitable status of the Depaul Trust Northern Ireland has been approved by HM Revenue & Customs

Net income (deficit)/resources for the year has been arrived after charging

<b>Note 4</b> Tangible fixed assets	Office equipment and furniture	Total
	2006 £	2005 £
<b>Cost:</b>		
At beginning of year	55,462	55,462
Additions in year	8,089	8,089
At end of year	63,551	63,551
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>		
At beginning of year	18,487	18,487
Additions in year	21,179	21,179
At end of year	39,666	39,666
<b>Net book value:</b>		
At 31st December 2006	23,886	23,886
At 31st December 2005	36,975	36,975

The estimated useful lives of fixed assets by reference to which depreciation is calculated on, are as follows:

Furniture and office equipment 3 years

<b>Note 5</b> Debtors	2006 £	2005 £
Trade debtors	-	100,651
Other debtors	130,620	-
Repayments and accrued income	62,210	11,339
	192,830	111,990
All amounts included above fall due within one year		
<b>Note 6</b> Cash and bank balances	2006 £	2005 £
Cash and bank balances	1,789	33,369
<b>Note 7</b> Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2006 £	2005 £
Trade creditors	15,870	5,947
Other creditors	4,688	-
Accruals	9,361	1,237
The Depaul Trust Ireland Limited	150,666	48,445
The Depaul Foundation	-	55,000
PAYE & Social Welfare	16,024	18,220
	196,609	128,849

# THANK YOU

Depaul Trust pledges to utilise all funds donated in the continued effort to work with homeless and disadvantaged people, offering them the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

We would like to acknowledge the help of the following groups, individuals and organisations:

AIB Better Ireland Fund  
 Anglo Irish Bank  
 Ballymun Regeneration Ltd.  
 Belfast Regeneration Office  
 Bewleys Foundation  
 BIH Housing Association  
 British Council  
 Children in Need  
 Chris Walsh  
 Coca-Cola  
 The Community Foundation  
 Dublin Bus  
 Dublin City Council  
 Electric Aid  
 Health Service Executive  
 Holohan Leisure  
 Home Bond  
 Homeless Agency  
 Leargus  
 Lloyds TSB  
 Newington Housing Association  
 Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
 Pobal  
 Probation Board (ROI)  
 Snow Patrol  
 Society of St Vincent de Paul  
 St Annes Cathedral Christmas Appeal  
 Ulster Garden Villages



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## AUNGIER STREET DUBLIN

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Aungier Street opened in December 2002 in Central Dublin as a response to the recognised need for a project focused on long term street drinkers. In 2006 the staff at Aungier Street provided dedicated care and support to thirty two men and women. This service continues to operate along the principles of harm reduction, meeting people 'where they are' and working with them to address the range of issues that may be impacting on their alcohol use.

Depaul Trust continues to remain committed to being as accessible as possible to those most in need and in 2006 two beds were opened up to outreach workers in the city to ensure immediate access to those not currently referred to the service.

Although there is a commitment to service user involvement within the project Depaul Trust is also committed to supporting people to become involved in the community and this was illustrated when earlier in the year the service users collected and donated over €1000 to Crumlin Children's Hospital and this was presented at a public event hosted in the City Hall by the Lord Mayor.



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## JOAN'S STORY

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A key value of Depaul Trust is to recognise and believe in people's potential. This is demonstrated clearly in Joan's story.

Joan who is from Dublin, moved to England, trained as a nurse and was married. However, due to domestic violence the relationship broke down and Joan began drinking more heavily. Unfortunately this led to her losing her job and she returned to Ireland. Living on the streets in Dublin Joan met and fell in love with Sean. They found it difficult to access hostels due to strict rules around alcohol and so lived together on the streets for some time. This was difficult as both their health and general well being deteriorated significantly in this period. At this time both Joan and Sean had been disowned by their family and were feeling very isolated.

Eventually Sean and Joan moved into Aungier Street allowing them to continue to drink whilst supporting them to try to change their drinking habits and re-engage with other services and family.

Sadly Sean died and Joan was devastated, but this also ignited a determination in her. She went into detox and stopped drinking completely. She is now living in her own flat and wants to return to work as a home help. She has re-established a relationship with both her own father, to whom she is now the main carer, and with Sean's family. Joan is a remarkable woman who has made great strides in changing her life.



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## BACK LANE

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Back Lane Hostel, situated in the Christchurch area of Dublin is over ninety years old and has continued to provide emergency accommodation to homeless men since then.

Delivered in partnership with the Society of St Vincent de Paul, the project now offers high quality accommodation to seventy four men on any given night. With a commitment to direct self referral this project offers easy access from the streets into homeless service provision and the support that comes with this through assessment of need, key working and support planning. This year 192 men were supported in Back Lane.

In 2006 service users at Back Lane launched their own independent newsletter which provides regular information and stories for and from those living in the project. A photography project was undertaken by some of the service users and the work depicting and representing their lives and how they perceive them is currently displayed on the dining room walls of the project.

In 2006 Depaul Trust and the Society of Saint Vincent Depaul funded in partnership a part time befriending co-ordinator to deliver a programme of support to men moving into independent living from Back Lane. This has been extremely successful and delivered solely by the use of volunteers working together and visiting people in their homes, providing support and advice in what can be a very daunting time.



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## CLANCY NIGHT SHELTER

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Since 2002 Clancy Night Shelter has been supporting young people with a history of drug use and rough sleeping in Dublin City Centre. Although this service is not open 24 hours a day the level of advice and support is to the same high standard as in other Depaul services. Clancy enables many young men and women between the ages of 18 and 35 to sleep in a safe and secure environment and supports them to access other relevant services during the day including access to medical advice, drug treatment and day centres.

There is an ongoing commitment to service user involvement to help improve the project and following on from questionnaires undertaken with the young people, talks have been given on issues identified by them such as methadone awareness, health matters and harm reduction strategies.

2006 has been a changing and busy time for Clancy. Complete redecoration of the building was undertaken early in the year and replacement furniture bought for communal and staff rooms. The need to be able to provide a 24 hours a day service to this client group has highlighted the need to relocate and it is hoped in 2007/2008 this move will take place, enabling greater and enhanced service provision.







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## SUPPORTED HOUSING SERVICES

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### **Tus Nua**

Tus Nua project, delivered in partnership with Society of St Vincent de Paul, provides transitional housing and support for single women between 18 and 65 leaving Dochas prison who have been identified as homeless or at risk of becoming so. Accommodating up to six women at any given time, the project in 2006 provided advice, support and access to training for twenty four women.

Service users at Tus Nua contributed significantly to the focus of the staff team day, their 2007 work plan and the review of services taking place within the project, enabling the focus in the new year to be in line with the needs of the women, identified by them.

Also taking place in 2006 was the involvement in International Women's Day by the project with a day of pampering and relaxing in the Sanctuary. Two successful craft fairs, displaying and selling items made by the women themselves took place during the summer and at Christmas.

### **Bluebell**

In 2006 Depaul Trust opened a temporary project in Bluebell in advance of the opening of a new supported housing service in James Street. This was funded through the Homeless Agency and was in recognition of the fact that some of the men living in Aungier Street needed more one to one support in order to address their high health support needs.

The building was renovated and provides accommodation to four men at any given time. These men are supported by a staff team of care workers. It is envisaged that in 2007 these men will move into their new home in James Street and receive ongoing medical and emotional support.





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## STELLA MARIS

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Stella Maris opened in September 2005 in a response to the increasing number of street drinkers in Belfast who found it difficult to access other services. This is the only service of its kind in Northern Ireland and has gained much acclaim and praise amongst statutory and private funders, businesses and politicians alike.

Drawing on Depaul Trusts experience in delivering a similar service in Dublin, Stella Maris also operates within the principles of harm reduction and seeks to provide those living there with a place to feel safe, secure and at 'home', as they address the issues that they present with and those associated with alcohol misuse. For some this project will have been their only home for many years and will provide the foothold they need to re-establish connections with their families, or move back into independent living. During 2006 five people moved on from Stella Maris to nursing homes, back to family or into private rented accommodation. For some others Stella Maris provides a place to live and be supported in their declining health, advocating to ensure that medical services are made accessible to them.

Throughout the first full year of operation the project sought through both life skills and holistic therapies to address the support needs of the service users. This has resulted in art and photography classes amongst others, and the work is displayed throughout the project. Advice on health care, detox and harm reduction is given through a dedicated key worker and an individually devised and monitored care plan. Service users have also been trained alongside staff on issues such as health and safety.



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## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

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Depaul Trust continues to have an ongoing commitment to the use of Volunteers in our services in Dublin and Belfast, recognising the huge benefits they can bring to the lives of our service users and the complimentary role they have within a team of full time staff members.

The programme is made up of two main parts, firstly, the part time volunteers who undertake from 3-16 hours per week of work with service users. These volunteers are usually local people who have an interest in giving something back and can bring with them different skills, knowledge and abilities that compliment the staff team and provide for a more holistic package of support to our service users. These can be incredibly beneficial relationships for all concerned.

The second component is that of the European Volunteer Scheme which allows for young people aged from 18 to 30 to spend between six and twelve months working and living in Ireland. In 2006 Depaul Trust hosted 10 such volunteers who undertook creative activities such as jewellery making, craft workshops, organised social activities and accompanied service users to doctor's appointment and social welfare offices.

The programme also offers individuals the opportunity to become involved in the work of the organisation and develop and enhance new and existing skills through the Volunteer Learning Programme, incorporating courses on drugs and alcohol issues, crisis prevention and intervention and first aid. There is little doubt that those coming to Ireland on this scheme will leave with enhanced knowledge that may open doors to them in the future for employment or further volunteering. It is equally true that the contribution they make to the organisation is invaluable.



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## TRAINING, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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This innovative training programme first began in Depaul Trust in England over 10 years ago and was designed to provide pre-employment and life skills training to unemployed and marginalised young people. In 2005 this programme was established in Belfast and restructured and developed to address the needs of young people in North Belfast.

Drive Ahead delivers training and employment opportunities for males and females aged between 18 and 30 who are currently unemployed.

Using the acquisition of a fork lift truck and general driving licence as the basis for all training throughout the 10 week course, the programme focuses on first aid, IT, motor maintenance, budgeting and general life skills. Packaged around driving lessons in both cars and forklift trucks the programme has proved highly successful and immensely popular within the local community. In 2006 thirty young people successfully completed the course and a local drop in centre was established to support and advise new participants. At the end of each course there is an award ceremony and a lunch for the young people and staff to celebrate their achievement.

Since its beginnings in Northern Ireland Drive Ahead has worked with young people to access employment and some examples of this include a young man who is now a foreman in a leading DIY store, and a young woman who is working towards establishing her own hair dressing business.

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## FAMILY SERVICES

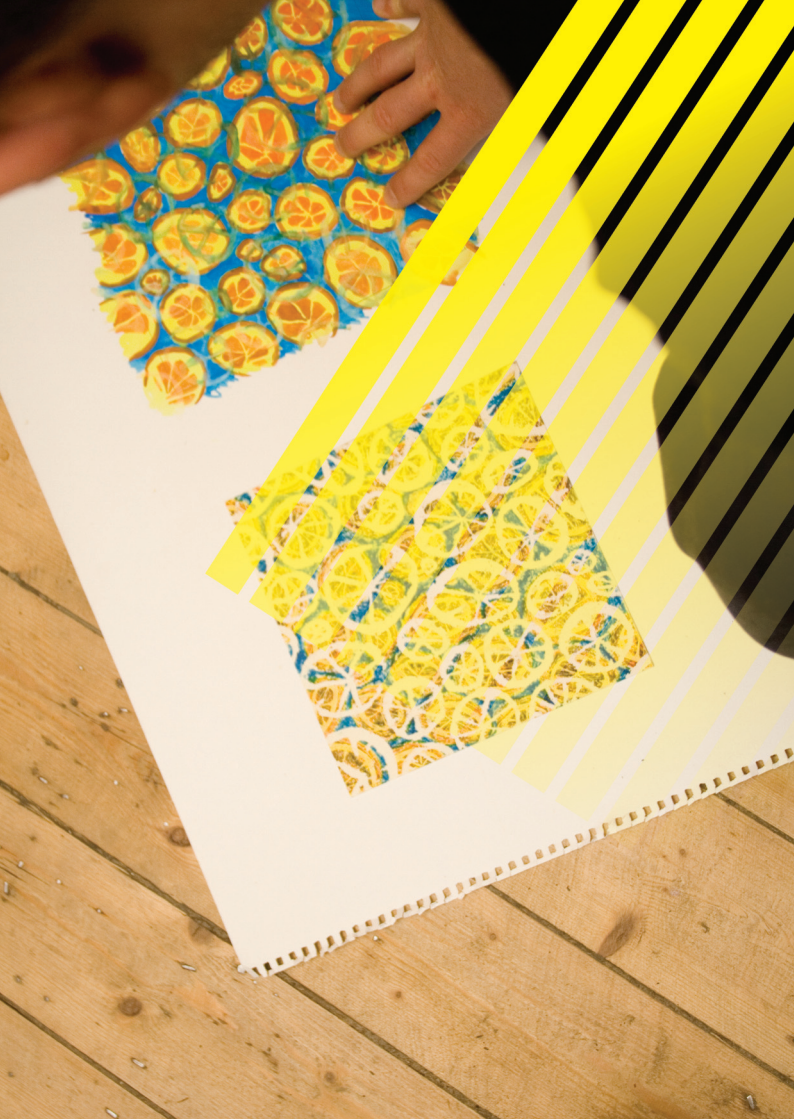
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In 2005, at the invitation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Depaul Trust took into management a family service in North Belfast called Atlantic House. Atlantic House provided communal living space within the building and due to legislative changes, families could only stay for a maximum of six weeks. Depaul Trust supports the commitment by the Department of Social Development to provide high quality accommodation.

In 2006 this service was transferred to a new building refurbished by Newington Housing Association providing flats for thirteen families. This building is of the highest standard and the support offered to the families within it mirrors this. This year we supported fifty nine individuals through this service.

Mater Dei is Depaul Trusts first family service in Northern Ireland and the service users have been involved in the move to the new building, informing the staff team about what will work best for them in this environment. There is a real desire to create a sense of community for these families even for a temporary time and this can be taken with them when they move on to independent living. The Senior Services Manager in Northern Ireland states that, "In Mater Dei we have such a great building it allows us to work proactively with the families giving them a degree of independence but also working to create a community atmosphere for those living here".





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## OUTREACH SERVICES

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### **Ballymun**

Ballymun Case Management Team was established in November 2005 to address the need for support services for those in the Ballymun area with alcohol related issues, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

During 2006 the team worked with seventy eight cases and supported them with advice, direction and guidance on a range of areas such as tenancy sustainment, healthcare and medical service support and provision. The team were also successful in reaching people in Ballymun termed "invisible drinkers". These are men and women who are isolated and drinking alone within their homes and may be at risk of homelessness or street drinking in the future. By addressing their needs at this stage the hope is that there will be appropriate support in place to prevent future homelessness.

### **Medical Services**

Depaul Trust recognises that many service users within their projects have a number of specific and often complex health related issues. These may include those related to primary health care, mental health and health issues impacted on by continued substance misuse. Many of these service users have difficulty accessing mainstream health services and as a result Depaul Trust, funded by the Health Services Executive, provide a peripatetic medical service to people using Depaul Trust services in Dublin.

Based in Back Lane but with the remit to hold weekly health clinics around all projects, the medical service offers one-to-one healthcare to all service users. In 2006 a Nurse Manager was appointed to develop and lead this initiative into the future and link with other organisations providing a 'safety net' service to homeless people whilst advocating for the appropriate 'mainstream' treatment for those in need.