B y all accounts, MQI’s most mental health-based service – a 100% donor-funded position – Derek Parker is a busy man. The out of every 10 homeless clients be seen have previous mental health issues. They also have no access to services. Until MQI came along, they kept falling through the cracks. Help for Hamish

But Hamish seemed to have fallen off the face of the earth. “He came around, just asking for help finding a bed. It soon became apparent he had mental health problems and was really vulnerable,” Derek describes. “We arranged for a short-term bed with Focus, and got his consent for a doctor to present him medication.” Out of his way to medication, and learning to trust Derek at MQI, it was discovered that Hamish had a family back in Scotland. In the past they’d only been contacted when Hamish was in trouble (often by police), so no evidence was retained to show he was good hands. The day after his family located he was ready to go home, they booked the flight. “It was really vulnerable,” Derek at MQI, it was discovered that Hamish had a family back in Ireland, where he was from New Zealand – 10,000 miles from home. Since the age of 16 he’d been in and out of psychiatric hospitals. Street life and mental illness made Christian an easy target. By the time he wandered into MQI, he’d been searched several times. Again Derek put the puzzle together, getting Christian back on medication – and reunited with his family. “They had no funds to his home to New Zealand, so his family were very grateful we could help. In the end they were able to repay us,” Derek smiles. “Another link we are building is with the family overseas.” It’s working well, and they are looking to expand their contact with us. Without MQI’s mental health programmes, he could have ended up dead.”

Thank you for supporting MQI’s mental health programme! For other extraordinary ways you help people in urgent need, see pages 2-4.


10,000 Miles From Home

Lost and alone on the streets of Dublin, it seemed they’d fallen off the face of the earth. Then you solved the puzzle that helped bring two men home... World’s Greatest Christmas Wish List

At MQI, it doesn’t take baubles or bows to touch the life of another. Your gift of any urgently needed item below will brighten Christmas by far, for a man or woman facing life on the streets...

• Ticks and jocks (must be new in package)
• Waterproof mack and trousers
• Warmth under layers
• Thermos
• Warm and Jumpers

As you can imagine, dignity and self respect mean as much to our clients as it does to you and me. Please, for them, donate only clean clothing in good condition that you yourself wouldn’t be ashamed to wear. Thanks a million.

Post to: MQI – Wish List Gifts, PO Box 1198, Dublin 18. (Or drop in and see us!) Thank you!

Rent Deposit Fund...

Announcing MQI’s Rent Deposit Fund

As Ireland’s housing crisis puts a lock down on MQI’s aftercare clients finding a place of their own, the new Rent Deposit Fund is opening doors...

In Memory of You

In Memory of You: A fighting chance at housing, because of you. For details on how you can leave a legacy, please ring Emmie Murphy on 01 524 09 65 or email emmie.murphy@mqi.ie. (continued inside)
**At A Place Called Riverbank: How you keep this beacon of hope shining for Ireland’s homeless and hungry in ways old and new...**

**Safekeeping for their meds**

“A lot of our clients are homeless or living in hostels accommodation, and doctors would prescribe them a medicine for a period of time to treat their conditions. However, they come to us without any medicines. So, to make sure they get proper treatment, we organize our mobile pharmacy service where we go out into the streets and deliver medicines to them in a safe and clean manner.”

**Mental Health**

“Many clients are dealing with psychological issues and have a tendency to self-harm. We provide them with the necessary support and guidance to overcome these challenges.”

**Medical Care Unit**

“Our clients are faced with multiple complex problems, it seems to them – and sometimes – that they need a really big answer. And sometimes it’s just lots of little answers, like heading a chest infection in the dead of winter, getting a cold, getting the flu, worries, a lot of our men and women feel degraded. Many have chronic absences from work in winters and miles all day and night. Apart from the intense pain, there can be anxiety, they feel embarrassed being around other people. You can imagine how demoralizing that is, how difficult it must be to consider any aspect of your life while that’s going on. The ease of access and drop-in medical service here is hugely impactful to them. It’s been a real knock-on effect.”

**Outreach Team**

“Meeting people in dire need, wherever they are at.

To us, this time of year is about getting docked and cold in the evenings, the people on the street are not made of iron – they’re human beings. They have a family somewhere. MQI’s outreach team, we go out into the streets to make sure our clients are all right. We don’t judge anybody. One woman has been in hospital now for 4 weeks, she has dementia but got so bad she couldn’t look after herself. Before I brought her in, I found out she hadn’t eaten for three days because she was allergic, she asked anybody to feed her. But we can keep her clean here and she can have a hot dinner. I make sure they’re taken care of by social welfare as well, and made arrangements with the post office to put some of their money into savings each week. If she took the total lot with her into the streets, she’d be robbed.”

— Mick Lawless, MQI Outreach Team

**Open Access**

“Everybody coming in from the streets that has been out all night, it’s not an easy world out there. People passing by, people passing them by – they mightn’t have heard their name in a long time. We call them by name as soon as we can, throw them a Paw, How did you sleep?”

—to give them that open a whole new experience for them. We open mornings at half seven and thanks to our donors we’re open right the way through. Our homeless men and women are so grateful to come in out of the cold. We make sure they get the best of what MQI has to offer.”

— Martina Mannix, MQI Project Worker

**Planning a visit?**

**New Location Reminder: MQI Offices**

If you’d like to make your donation in person or simply pop in to visit the MQI offices, we’d love to see you. We are located on the Quays, opposite the Four Courts, at: Merchant’s Church, 4 Merchants Quay, Dublin 8.

Note: Our mailing address hasn’t changed. You can continue to send your kind gifts and post to Merchants Quay Ireland, PO Box 11916, Dublin 8. Thank you!

**In honour of the joy you bring— Please Join Us:**

**Free Christmas Concert**

You and your family & friends are cordially invited to enjoy the Dublin Orchestral Players at their wonderful, free Christmas Concert on Sunday, 9th November from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. Stil at the beautiful Adam’s & Eve Church, 4 Merchants Quay, Dublin, the concert will be followed by light refreshments in MQI’s nearby Riverbank Centre. To reserve your FREE place, call Aslinn or Martina on 01 524 0139 or email to martina.mannix@mqi.ie.

There is no MOL... without you. Thank you!