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Visit our website www.pmvtrust.ie

Tribute to Niamh Kane

It is with great regret that we have to inform you that on our Wexford Cycle this year, in September, one of the cyclists was killed in an accident with a truck. Niamh Kane, wife of Martin, and mother of four children, had cycled with Martin to raise money for our work on many previous occasions. On this occasion, while cycling through Ferns on the way to Wexford the tragic accident occurred. All of us in the Peter McVerry Trust extend our sincerest sympathies to Martin and his four sons on the loss of his wife and their mother. Niamh was such a wonderful person. More than 2,000 people attended the funeral service, such was the respect in which she was held. Niamh died trying to help those who were homeless and I have no doubt that her support and help will continue from her place at God's side. May she rest in peace. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Fr. Peter McVerry SJ

Balcarris Under 18s Residential Service



Balcarris Under 18s Residential Service was originally known as Balcarris Boys Home, until earlier this year when it became fully integrated into Peter McVerry Trust. This move has huge significance for Balcarris as it provides an opportunity for the service to become consolidated as part of a continuum of care within the broader organisation.

The service was set up by Fr. Peter McVerry in 1999, when he saw the need to provide residential care for homeless male teenagers primarily from the Ballymun area. The service is located in Ballymun, within the health service executive Dublin North East, and operates out of four flats on the ground floor of one of the blocks. The service offers medium to long term placements for four teenagers, aged between 16-18 years. We also have a semi-independent flat, which is offered to clients who are over 18 years old. The service endeavours to create a homely environment where young people can develop relationships and skills necessary for them to move forward in their lives.

Many young people who come into contact with this service have experienced great loss, through abandonment, neglect and sometimes worse. It is remarkable that despite these negative experiences they are extremely resilient and develop many positive qualities. They use their resilience to remarkable effect by becoming productive in their lives. Those who work with vulnerable young people recognise the significance of these achievements. While most people can relate to

some loss in their lives, it should be noted that the young people who find themselves in care would have experienced loss, rejection and neglect on a consistent basis.

We all know how important it is when we leave home for the first time to have the support of our family and friends. Balcarris continues to offer support to young people after they reach 18 years old and for as long as is necessary. This support can be invaluable, as it reduces the risk of them ending up homeless due to feelings of loneliness and isolation.

As part of the regeneration in Ballymun, Balcarris Under 18s Residential Service will be moving to a purpose built unit over the next two years. This move provides further scope to expand the service, with the inclusion of two semi-independent flats on the new premises. It will also provide opportunities to develop the service, ensuring that the various needs of the young people in our care are met.

Eddie Cahill - Acting Manager

PMVT Services are Referral & Assessment, Open Access, Outreach, Education, Training & Development Centre, Transitional Accommodation, Under 18s Residential Service, Residential Community Detox, Residential Drug Aftercare, Settlement & Tenancy Sustainment.

Note from CEO Pat Doyle



Difficult times lie ahead for charities such as Peter McVerry Trust during the current economic climate. With state departments being asked to reduce their expenditure, Peter McVerry Trust has been informed by the Homeless Agency and the HSE that its funding has been cut by 1% and that there will be no inflationary increase of 3% going forward. This 4% reduction in state funding means we rely more than ever before on fundraising activities and voluntary donations to help us provide our services for vulnerable young people.

For 2009, and in the medium term, it appears that there will be very little growth in the economy and so the Trust's main priority during this period will be consolidation of work to date. This consolidation will take place alongside our continued commitment to the effective streamlining of service provision, the maximisation of value for money and the most cost effective ways of service delivery in line with best practice.

In taking these steps, the Trust is holding fast to the following objectives:

- That we ensure a needs-based provision of services
- That we remain client centred and operate to best practice

To meet these objectives, I hope that the Trust can continue to rely upon your support to further serve the best interests of our clients in helping them to move out of homelessness.

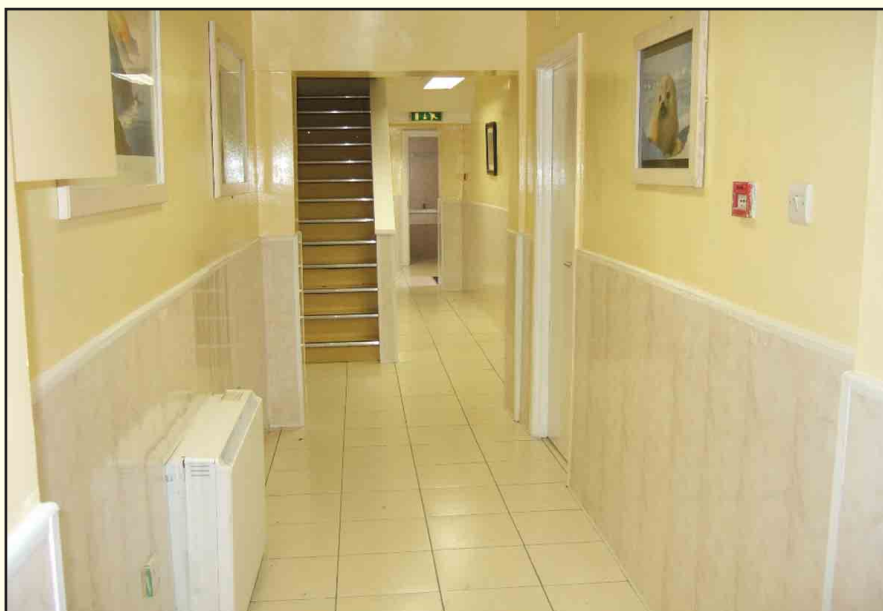
I wish to echo the words of Fr. McVerry, regarding the tragic death of long-term supporter of the charity Niamh Kane, and offer our sincere condolences to her husband Martin, her sons and all her family.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Doyle

Open Access Renovations

The Open Access Centre opened in 1982 as the office of Fr. McVerry. Over the last 26 years, this drop-in centre has provided a safe haven for thousands of young people who have visited for advice, support and somewhere and someone to turn to.



Last month, in response to recommendations from a Health and Safety audit carried out across all of the Trust's services, the centre underwent renovation work, which included installing a new bathroom, kitchen and garden area. The renovations have given the premises a long overdue facelift and now offer a brighter and safer

environment for all visitors.

The centre is the first point of contact for many young homeless people with Peter McVerry Trust. From here they are supported by Fr. McVerry and the Outreach staff to access accommodation, advice and to link with the Trust's other services to address their varied needs.

My Story Cian's story

I come from a loving family. As a child I was told that I had Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), which meant that none of the schools in the area I lived would have me.

As a result, I was sent to an industrial school and after that experience, I became an angry teenager, getting involved in drugs, prison, homelessness - you know how it goes. Then in the middle somewhere I was referred to the Peter Mc Verry Trust - and that was the turning point.

I was referred to a place called Berkeley Street, which is a day service, for their Stabilisation Programme. I remember walking in the door and meeting the staff, they made me feel at home straight away. I was made to feel that I deserved to be there and that I was worth it. They helped me face up to my behaviour in the group-work we did there and to deal with my addiction.

They also put me in one of their houses for residential care. I moved in four months ago. The staff are lovely people. They take the time to listen to you. I

'... if it wasn't for the Peter Mc Verry Trust and the work they do to make you feel accepted and that you are worth it, I would be back on the streets.'

have had tough times over the past few months and will have in the weeks ahead, but if it wasn't for the Peter Mc

Verry Trust and the work they do to make you feel accepted and that you are worth it, I would be back on the streets. I owe them a lot. They have moved mountains for me and all they ask is that I be true to myself and stay clean.

I hope one day I can give back to them what they have done for me. I am in college studying to be a personal fitness trainer. Next year I am starting a course in Addiction Studies and I hope someday to work in the Trust, and help other lads.

I would like to thank everyone in Peter McVerry Trust for helping me to be the person I am today.

Christmas fundraising

We have various fundraising events coming up over the weeks and months leading up to Christmas, and would be delighted if you can support us in any way.

Please contact us at 01 8230776 or visit our website to find out about our Christmas Cards, Gala Ball, Corporate Christmas Appeal and Christmas Collections which we hope will raise the funds we need to continue our work with young homeless people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for your generosity. Every euro you donate makes a difference and is put to the best possible use.

Anne-Marie Connolly
Head of Fundraising



Peter McVerry Trust's fundraising team (l-r) Martina Madden, Mary O'Hagan and Anne-Marie Connolly

fundraising



Gala Ball

Friday 14th November

Book now to secure your seats at this special event held in Clontarf Castle Hotel. Call 01 8230776 for further information.

Trek Lesotho Challenge 17th-26th October

Good luck to our group of intrepid trekkers! Hear about their 90km trek, in the next edition of Opening Doors.

If you are interested in our treks and other challenge events please visit www.pmvtrust.ie for the latest news on the events that we are organising.

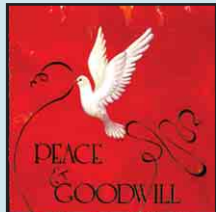


Women's Mini-Marathon

Thanks to everyone who took part in the 2008 event raising €6,500, and well done to Lizanne Sorohan, winner of our beauty hamper, which was sponsored by Johnson & Johnson.

Christmas Cards

Individual packs of Christmas cards are available now to purchase or you might decide to donate your Christmas card budget to us and we will send you an e-card to distribute to your family and friends. View cards on-line at www.pmvtrust.ie.



Corporate Christmas Campaign

We are inviting companies to donate part or all of their Christmas card or gift budget to help people in need of accommodation and support this winter. For further details please contact the Fundraising Office at 01 8230776 or e-mail corporate@pmvtrust.ie.



Turn your trash into cash

Recycle and raise vital funds for Peter McVerry Trust. Used ink cartridges and old mobile phones are worth valuable Euros! Contact the Fundraising Office to sign up.

Happy Christmas and New Year to all our friends and supporters.

News from our Supporters

Calcutta Run



Back in May, the Calcutta Run celebrated its 10th anniversary and what a celebration it was! More than 1,400 participants took part in the annual 10km event around Phoenix Park. A massive €160,000 was raised for Peter McVerry Trust from this event! Thanks to all involved!

Gonzaga Union's Green & White Dinner

Earlier this year, Gonzaga Union raised the fantastic sum of €50,000 for Peter McVerry Trust from their dinner and auction. Thanks to all who organised and supported this event.

Belvedere College Annual Sleep-Out

Please support the students of Belvedere who will be collecting in the city centre from 22nd-24th December to raise much-needed funds for homeless services.

Satellite Theatre Company Cheque Presentation

Pictured are Mary Smyth and Thomas O'Raian presenting proceeds of €5,200 from their play 'Home' to Bernard Crowley (centre) from Peter McVerry Trust.



Volunteers Needed!

Annual Christmas Collections - we are holding a series of collections around Dublin to raise funds. If you can spare a few hours to collect please contact us.

The annual Carol Singing event organised on our behalf takes place on 13th December at the G.P.O. from 10am-2pm. Collectors, musicians and singers needed - please let us know if you can help.

How you can help

For information on ways to donate, volunteer your time, organise a fundraising event or take part in any of our upcoming events please contact the Fundraising Office at 01 8230776 or visit www.pmvtrust.ie.

Tax Reclaim

If you are a PAYE taxpayer we can reclaim the tax on your donations of €250/€21* per month or more made within a tax year at no extra cost to you. Please contact the Fundraising Office to request a Tax Relief Form (CHY2) or to find out more.

The future of our services depends on the goodwill of people like you, so thank you for all your support.