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ONEFORIRELAND

Keep an eye out for
ONEFORIRELAND on
Friday 29th April.

This appeal is aiming to raise €1 million to support charities across Ireland who work with young people under the age of 25. Peter McVerry Trust will be one of the charities to benefit from this appeal. Find out more at www.oneforireland.ie



**ONE FOR
IRELAND**
1 CAUSE, 1 DAY, 1 EURO

Homeless Emergency Continues to Grow

The latest figures show that the number of people experiencing homelessness in Ireland continues to grow. New figures collected by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive show that 7,000 people in Dublin alone accessed homeless accommodation during 2015. The number of people in homelessness has now increased every quarter for the past three years.

Children and young people are bearing the brunt of this homeless emergency. In April 2011, the CSO recorded 607 children in homeless services nationally. Now, in 2016 we know there are at least 2,070 children in homelessness across the State. The figures for the initial weeks of 2016 show that the emergency is deepening as more children and young people find themselves living in hotel rooms and B&Bs. Peter McVerry Trust will continue to engage with the Government and all members of the new Dáil to ensure that the appropriate level of priority is given to tackling the emergency.

Children in Homelessness



Peter McVerry Trust's Challenge Events 2016

There are lots of exciting events to choose from. Register your interest online at www.pmvtrust.ie

South Leinster Way
30th April – 1st May



Wicklow Way
28th May



Trek Mont Blanc
July 2016



Camino Portugués
September 2016



Note from Pat Doyle CEO

On behalf of Peter McVerry Trust I'd like to thank you for taking the time to read the 20th edition of our Opening Doors newsletter.

The newsletter is an important opportunity for Peter McVerry Trust to keep you up to date with developments, and to make you aware of upcoming events and fundraising appeals.

As many of you will know the housing and homeless emergency continues to deteriorate with each passing week. Fortunately, through our own advocacy work and your engagement with general election candidates, housing and homelessness was to the fore of General Election 2016.

As I write this there remains much political uncertainty as to the make up of the next Government. We do not yet know what will be included in any programme for government nor are we sure that housing and homelessness will be adequately prioritised. What is certain is that all politicians across the spectrum must come to a clear understanding of the scale of the challenge and the need for urgent action.

As we wait for the political dust to settle, Peter McVerry Trust continues to respond to the needs of those who are homeless. In 2015 over 4,700 unique individuals were supported across our services in Dublin and Kildare, an achievement that could not have been delivered without your support and generosity. As the number of people seeking support from homeless services increases daily,

In 2015 over 4,700 unique individuals were supported across our services in Dublin and Kildare, an achievement that could not have been delivered without your support and generosity.



Peter McVerry Trust continues to respond as best we can. The charity is constantly seeking to increase the provision of shelter and the provision of homes. It requires significant resources and energy to achieve both these goals in tandem but Peter McVerry Trust is determined to offer shelter and homes to those in need.

The difficult and unfortunate reality is that enormous frontline efforts continue to be undermined by political inaction and lethargy. As Fr McVerry outlines in his comment piece, the first step in tackling the emergency is to recognise it as such and call a national housing emergency. At the very least it would set the tone for a national response to the challenge.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for your continued support for Peter McVerry Trust's work to tackle homelessness, drug misuse and social disadvantage. I wish you all a happy Easter and look forward to updating you again in our winter edition of the Opening Doors newsletter.

Pat Doyle
CEO

French Embassy and Maple and Calder's Event

The French Embassy is delighted to announce that a fundraising event in association with leading international law firm, Maple and Calder, will take place on 23rd June 2016 at the French Ambassador's residence.

The event is the first of its kind, a unique collaboration between an embassy and a charity which will gather eminent representatives from both the French and Irish business communities.

The entertainment on the night will feature renowned sommelier, Julie Dupouy, who will lead an informal wine tasting session with food to be provided by Michelin star chef Patrick Guilbaud. For further details, please contact Peter McVerry Trust.

Peter McVerry Trust to Expand Service Provision in Kildare

Peter McVerry Trust has been working closely with Kildare County Council to provide additional services in response to the number of people experiencing homelessness in Kildare. Peter McVerry Trust has operated a 14 bed homeless facility in Newbridge since December 2014. Since then, the charity has been looking at ways it can increase its response to homelessness in the county.

During 2015 the charity proposed the establishment of an out of hours information and advice number for Kildare, to supplement the work of the council's housing and homeless unit. This freephone number became effective last year and now the charity is progressing plans to develop 5 units of sheltered accommodation in Athy. It hopes that these units will be the first of a number of social housing units to be provided by Peter McVerry Trust in 2016.



Employment Opportunities at Peter McVerry Trust

If you are interested in working at Peter McVerry Trust please visit our website www.pmvtrust.ie/about-us/vacancies There you will find our latest job listings and information about our Graduate Employment Programme. You can also sign up to receive Peter McVerry Trust job alerts by email.

Note from the Founder - Fr Peter McVerry



The first item on the agenda of the new Government (if we have one) should be to call a housing emergency. The new Taoiseach should call all cabinet ministers around the table, work out a plan to address this problem and ensure that everyone is working off the same plan.

Housing and homelessness are the most serious social problems facing our country today. In 2012, the average number of families becoming homeless

was 7 or 8 a month. Every single day, over the past two years, five new people became homeless. Last year, on average, 70 new families became homeless every month. Over 100,000 households are on a waiting list for social housing, up from 27,000 in 1996, many of them waiting ten years or more. There are 37,000 private homes in mortgage arrears of more than two years, most of which will be repossessed by the banks over the next few years; each house repossessed is a family potentially made homeless. The shortage of affordable private rented accommodation is now affecting investment, particularly in the Dublin region, as firms will refuse to invest if their employees cannot find affordable accommodation within a reasonable distance from their work. The problem has been growing month by month for the past five years, and without much more radical action by the new government, will continue to escalate out of control.

Housing is a fundamental human right. Without suitable housing, it is difficult, if not impossible, to access other human rights such as the right to education or work. In other countries, such as India and South Africa, the right to housing is inserted into their Constitutions. We are calling on the new government to hold a referendum to insert the right to housing in our own Constitution, as recommended by the Constitutional Convention in 2014.

The next item on the agenda should be to invest heavily in the building of social housing over the next five years. One local authority told me that in 2015, they built no social housing at all; another told me that they have 4,000 households on their social housing waiting list in 2015, and they were building 45 social houses! The social housing stock is now at its lowest ever level due to lack of investment over the past twenty years.

However, it will take several years to build houses. In the meantime, the new government will need to address the issue of inadequate

rent supplement rates in order to stem the exodus of low income families from the private rented sector, where rents just keep on rising. Repeated calls from all the voluntary bodies working with homeless people over the past two years for an increase in rent supplement have fallen on deaf ears.

Everywhere you go, you see empty boarded up houses, often lying empty for years. Within 30 seconds from my front door, there are three such houses which have been empty for at least three years. The new government should enact emergency legislation to compulsory purchase such houses where the owner has no plans to bring them into use.

Many of those becoming homeless have been evicted by banks from their rented homes, when the banks have repossessed their landlord's house. One family, evicted into homelessness two years ago, still see their former home boarded up to this day. Emergency legislation to prevent tenants being evicted when the banks repossess landlords' houses should be enacted.

The mortgage-to-rent scheme should become the normal resolution for those mortgages which are incapable of being repaid. This allows the local authority or housing agency to purchase the house and the family continue living there, no

longer as owners paying a mortgage, but as tenants paying a rent.

NAMA are currently planning to build 20,000 houses, 90% of which will be private housing. They should be instructed to build 20,000 houses, 90% of them for social housing.

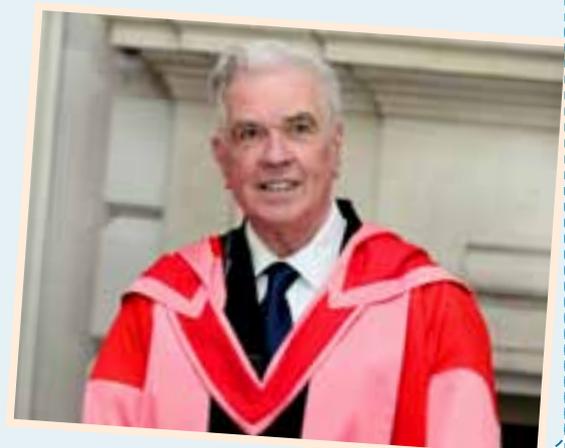
If we had a foot and mouth outbreak, the government would immediately call an emergency cabinet meeting, and plan to control the outbreak as rapidly as possible. No expense would be spared, as the cost to the economy would be immeasurable. The homeless/housing crisis today is no less serious and all the evidence suggests it will continue to get worse. It requires an immediate, emergency response.

Fr Peter McVerry SJ
March 2016.

Without suitable housing it is difficult if not impossible to access other human rights such as the right to education or work.

Further Recognition for Fr Peter McVerry's work

Fr Peter McVerry continues to receive widespread recognition for his tireless work to tackle homelessness. In late 2015, he received a number of high profile awards including a special recognition award at the EY Entrepreneur of the Year awards. He also received an Honorary Degree from the University of Dublin (TCD) and a UCD Foundation Day Alumni Award in Science.



Peter McVerry Trust Annual Report



Peter McVerry Trust published its latest annual report in November 2015. The report was launched by the then Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly TD.

The report highlighted the work undertaken by Peter McVerry Trust in 2014 to tackle homelessness, drug misuse and social disadvantage. During 2014, the charity supported 4,460 people helped by €3.8 million in public donations. The full report can be downloaded from our website at www.pmvtrust.ie



New Apartments Opened in Dublin 2

A partnership between Peter McVerry Trust, the Housing Agency, Dublin City Council and the OPW saw the refurbishment of a block of 8 apartments in Dublin City Centre.

The apartment complex contains a mix of 1 and 2 bed apartments which will be used to house people exiting homeless services. This development represents another important step in Peter McVerry Trust's goal of increasing housing options for young people seeking to exit homelessness.



OPENINGDOORSAPPEAL October 2016

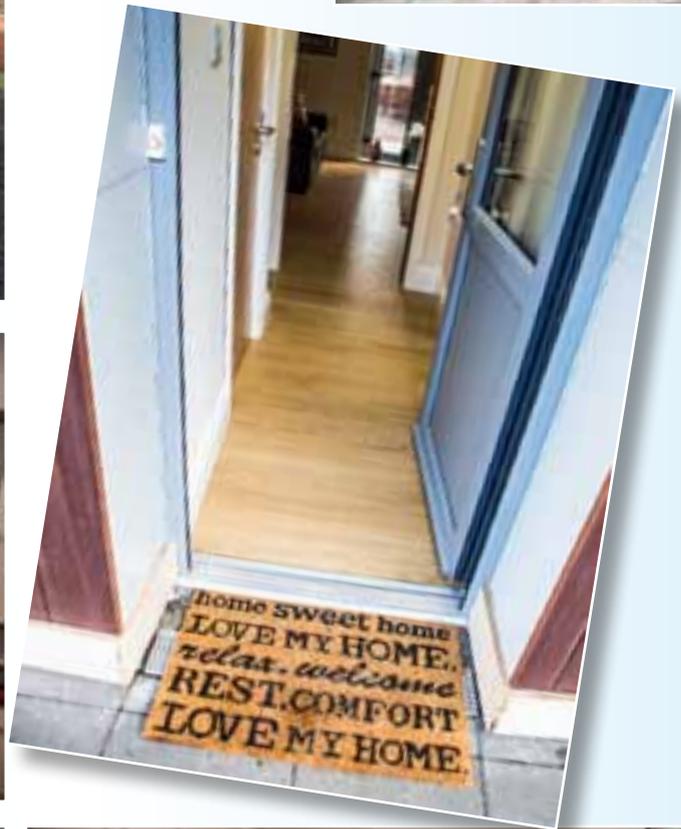
Peter McVerry Trust's Opening Doors Appeal encourages individuals, families, communities, schools, clubs and businesses to take action and help Peter McVerry Trust tackle homelessness. Please visit www.pmvtrust.ie for further information.

Big Build Project at Hogan Court

A major CSR partnership involving members and supporters of the Construction Industry Federation and Peter McVerry Trust saw 12 vacant local authority voids brought back into use following a €1 million investment.

The project saw members and supporter companies of the CIF put forward materials and resources to help bring the dilapidated units back into use. A total of 75 contractors were involved in the scheme and gave time, materials and technical expertise to help turnaround the units in a 12 week period.

Peter McVerry Trust would like to thank the CIF and companies who supported the project. We would also like to acknowledge the support of Dublin City Council in helping to deliver the new units and for their continued support in working with us to secure new social housing units in the city.



Fundraising News and Events



Upcoming events

Take on a challenge in 2016 and help end homelessness.

Peter McVerry Trust has plenty of challenges to choose from which will help you get fit, push yourself to your limits, fulfil a life-long ambition, meet new people AND change the lives of individuals experiencing homelessness.

South Leinster Way

30th April – 1st May

Enjoy the scenery along the South Leinster Way, on our exciting 2 day Irish challenge, staying in the Brandon Manor House Hotel. This is the perfect challenge for a seasoned walker!



Wicklow Way

Saturday 28th May

A challenging 21km walk through Ireland's largest mountainous region, starting in Marlay Park and finishing with celebrations in Johnnie Fox's Pub.



Calcutta Run

Saturday 21st May

Run or walk 5km or 10km through the Phoenix Park and enjoy a well-deserved BBQ afterwards! www.calcuttarun.com



Women's Mini-Marathon

Monday 6th June

Join 'Team Peter McVerry Trust' on the annual 10km event around Dublin city centre.

Trek Mont Blanc

9th-16th July

This walking challenge will bring you on one of the most popular long distance walks in Europe. Circling the Mont Blanc Massif, you will see mesmerising views as we pass through Switzerland, France and Italy on this unforgettable adventure.



Trek Camino Portugués

3rd-10th September

We are walking the most popular section of the Portuguese Way, also known as 'The Friendly Camino' from Tui into Santiago. You will receive your Compostela certificate after reaching the end of the Camino. This is one of the most important Camino routes, steeped in history.



Wexford Cycle

Saturday 17th September

The 27th annual cycle aims to be bigger and better than before. Sign up today!

Other Events/ Appeals

Regular Giving

Thanks to all our regular supporters who contribute by standing order. You can now set up your regular payment online at www.pmvtrust.ie

Northern Lights Gala Concert

National Concert Hall

Thursday 2nd June

Una Hunt, Fionnuala Hunt, Giselle Allen, Carolyn Dobbin, Eugene O'Hagan, Christopher Cull

A Gala concert of light classical music, in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust, given by new ensemble - Northern Lights - comprising of six well-known classically trained musicians.

Visit www.nch.ie for tickets.



Dates for the Diary

Peter McVerry Trust Gala Ball

10th Anniversary!

November 2016

Clontarf Castle Hotel, this fully sponsored event sells out early, contact the fundraising office to reserve your tickets.

Christmas Carol Concert

Saturday 3rd December

St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Further details to be announced.



**Peter
McVerry
Trust**

Opening doors for
homeless people

Peter McVerry Trust,
29 Mountjoy Square, Dublin, D01 C2N4
T: + 353 (0)1 823 0776
E: info@pmvtrust.ie
W: www.pmvtrust.ie

Place of registration Dublin, Ireland.

Registration number: CLG 98934.

Charity registration numbers: CHY 7256 /20015282.



YOUR DONATION COULD GO EVEN FURTHER!

Tax Relief on Charitable Donations

We can reclaim the tax on donations of €250 or more, from both PAYE and/ or self-assessed taxpayers, at a new blended rate of 31%. Please contact the fundraising office to request an annual or enduring Tax Relief Form (CHY3/4), or to find out more.