

THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION NETWORK OF CROSSCARE (CENC)

MAY 2009



“I CHANGE MYSELF - I CHANGE THE WORLD”

Coming into the Spring Term, it is a normal part of my work to evaluate Personal Development and other types of courses delivered in the CENC's member centres.

While holding Evaluation Sessions is a very important exercise for both centres and facilitators alike, the focus of this Editorial is on the participant.

Stories:

As a 'listener' of participant stories, I am always humbled by their sharing and how such courses have led to profound personal transformation. Reflecting on the 'outcomes' of each course evaluated, the common thread is best captured by participants' own comments:

- “The course helped me look at myself and make changes”
- “I have a reason to get out of bed”
- “I have a renewed confidence in my own ability”
- “Because I've done this course I want to go back to do my Leaving Cert”
- “I don't feel so isolated any more and feel as if I have enough confidence to start a new course”
- I've found myself communicating better with my family, especially my partner”

Obviously, there is not enough space to relay each and every comment but it is important to point out that the above comments come from three different groups who are different by virtue of geography and age but nonetheless their stories are all one of personal growth.

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- St. Matthews FRC Supporting St. Paul's Community Centre

Course 'Evaluation' Achievements:

To mark the end of term, the following are the achievements of those Evaluated in Spring 2009 – this is only a sample of the level of achievement across the CENC as a whole.



In 2009, both Karen Hollowed from Loreto Crumlin & Marie Mooney from the Dublin 12 Women's Action Group received their Diploma's in Women's Studies from UCD.

*A very proud Sr. Brede Quirke,
the Director Loreto Crumlin and Marie of the CENC.*



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MORE CELEBRATORY MOMENTS



Our very own Deirdre Lawlor (Dublin 12 Domestic Violence Service) also provided mentoring to some of the students on this course – this is what's called "Passing it on"!!



St. Matthew's FRC in Ballyfermot having completed their Third Age Programme receive their Crosscare Certs

"BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN"



Apart from Karen above, another group from Loreto Crumlin also celebrated the completion of their Personal Development course.



The Basic Computer Class in An Sli Walkinstown broke with tradition and celebrated their first Crosscare Award Ceremony

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THE OPENING OF THE BUNGALOW

The Bungalow was opened on the 1st May 2009 by the Lady Mayor Eibhlin Byrne. This was a tremendous achievement considering the humble beginnings, which were spearheaded by the Daughters of Charity way back in the 1990's.



With the inspirational leadership of Marian Taggart, Sr. Hannah and then later by Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Bridget, the work of building a caring community in Cherry Orchard began.

The influence of the Daughters of Charity has been immeasurable to this community. Many of the families who had moved from the inner city found themselves very isolated in this new area without the support of friends, neighbours and facilities of any kind.

Initially Sr. Hannah and Marian Taggart first invited

neighbours into their home for a cup of tea and a chat. Eventually there was a small group of eight local women and soon Cookery classes began.



As word spread the numbers of people attending increased and soon outgrew the small accommodation the Daughters had to offer.

Approaches were made to Dublin City Council for use of the vacant bungalow on the estate and after a dignified refusal to take 'No' for an answer and a very patient sit-in at DCC offices in Dublin by Marian Taggart, the Bungalow was allocated to the Daughters for the use of the community.

The legendary Sr. Bernadette came to Cherry Orchard in 1990 and with her big smile and warm welcome encouraged all to participate. Sr. Bernadette also used her considerable

charms and negotiation skills to raise funds and the size of the building was increased to facilitate all those who wanted to take part in the many programmes offered.



In 1997, Sr. Bridget came and followed in the footsteps of her predecessors and in a gentle way continued to expand the work of the Centre. She oversaw the entry of the Bungalow into the Family Resource Centre Programme and the birth of the Bungalow as Cherry Orchard FRC Ltd was achieved.

The baton was then given to Marie Delaney in 2007 to bring the Bungalow to its next stage of development – a very competent and equally talented leader as those before her. Consequently, the Bungalow, which was re-opened on the 1st May 2009 is now at least four times its original size, with a fully state of the art kitchen, computer room, meeting rooms, rooms for craft classes and other activities. This truly has been an incredible journey of commitment, and collaboration dedicated to the community of Cherry Orchard deserving to be served in the manner that it is today.

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St. John Vianney Parish Centre, Ardlea



In the company of Annette Cassidy (one of the CENC's Facilitators) Lelia McCormack and Nellie Barron, I had great pleasure in attending the 10th Anniversary of the Parish Centre.

The Parish Centre not only provides for the needs of elderly parishioners with a Coffee Morning each Thursday but under the leadership of Lelia also runs a Women's Group who participate in Personal Development Courses facilitated by Annette Cassidy

It was a great honour to be present for Lelia and the other volunteers who help make this Centre viable on the proverbial

'shoe-string'.

St. Matthew's F.R.C. & St. Paul's Community Centre, Blackhall Place

In May 2009, Eileen & Darren from St. Paul's Community Centre in Blackhall Place visited St. Matthew's F.R.C. to observe Mary Poland's class in De Copage. The work of the participants under Mary's watchful eye was an incredible journey of creative pleasure. The class worked on a mixture of De Copage and Linen Painting to decorate various types of covers.



Being difficult to access affordable qualified teachers, Mary told us she had initially taught herself how to do De Copage and where to access the materials. Due to its popularity with participants, Mary ended up training women from the Killinarden's FRC in De Copage.



Possible Innovation

In 2004 Anna Dangerfield with Miriam Gogarty from the St. Finian's Craft Group in Finglas wrote up a FETAC Craft Training for Trainers module. Given the current downturn in the Economy, the need for more training is apparent coupled with helping other Community Centres such as St. Paul's build up their own Craft activities, the CENC may be in a position, in the near future to return to developing more trainers in De Copage who could attain their FETAC Accreditation in this craft – watch this space and see what happens!!!

