



Crosscare is the social care agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin. It draws its inspiration from the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. This places responsibility on us to work to the highest possible standards and to treat every person who uses our services and who works for or with us with the utmost respect, courtesy and love.

The Crosscare Community Adult Education Programme reflects the principles of the Crosscare organisation by advocating the value and quality of community adult education. It promotes empowerment, equality, leadership and celebration to help us to "Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with our God". (Micah 6: 8)

CROSSCARE

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ENABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITH ADEQUATE FUNDING



An objective reading of the various contributions received for this, the second edition of the Crosscare C.E.N. Newsletter creates the strong impression of a vibrant sense of community. That sense is also reflected in many of the social activities outlined. These activities are a product of the many expectations, values, beliefs and meanings shared by the network members and the people they serve. The various articles in this issue show clearly that community really is a social entity.

In the first edition of the Crosscare C.E.N. Newsletter, Community Adult Education was outlined. In this, the second edition, the articles themselves give evidence of the practical application of community adult education theory. However, it is important to name and highlight not just the dynamics of the centres on the network but their qualities.

Development & Leadership

In most organisations, and particularly in government circles, there is a persistent expectation that development means quantitative growth. In the case of community development that usually means bringing more facilities to a community. But, in reality, as the experience of the groups on the community education network shows, social transformation is, essentially, qualitative and it is brought about by strong and committed community leadership.

The enthusiasm, self-motivation, self-reliance and optimism of community leaders and their willingness to fight for what is right are the driving force for most qualitative, social change. The deep trust that exists between community leadership and their members fosters a growth in capacity. This

effective and sustainable leadership is one which follows the decisions and desires of the community as a whole by adopting an enabling and facilitating role.

Suggestion

The ongoing struggle of community development groups to find funding and the fight to have community adult education recognised in its own right was explored in the last issue of this newsletter. It is the

hope of most community leaders and members that government and funding agencies would show the kind of enabling leadership associated with the community leaders described above. Funding is the main channel through which governments and government agencies can show their confidence in their communities. Government agencies need to trust community leaders to continue to do their work effectively by empowering and enabling them through appropriate and, at least, adequate funding. If that happens, community spirit will continue to grow.

No less than with any individual or group, communities are always stronger when they exist in an enabling environment. ■

We cannot all do great things, but we can all do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa, July, 1981

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MIND YOURSELF

When Marie contacted me on the first day back at work after the Christmas break I was, as usual, delighted to hear from her. We had often exchanged many ideas about a passion we hold in common, community adult education. After the initial exchange of new year greetings, she asked if I would consider writing an article for the Crosscare C.E.N. Newsletter. We talked it over and I joked about how radical I could be in my views and if I express these views, I asked, "would she put them in print"? She responded saying that she was looking forward to reading my 'revolutionary passion'.

I started the process of thinking about what I would say to my new audience by reading the past issue of the newsletter. The words that jumped out at me were the words describing the work on the ground such as 'the struggle,' 'the fight,' to have the work of community education providers recognised, supported and adequately resourced by statutory bodies. I read about the untiring efforts of those working in the field of community education and the results of their effort, which is of a standard second to none in the adult education sector in Ireland.

It seems to me that the most striking thing to encounter when visiting community education groups is the dynamic relationships between participants and tutors and between tutors and the coordinator. This energy translates into participants continuing to return for more courses. What's also striking is that those who lead these groups are often unpaid volunteers – volunteers with a very deep commitment to their community. There is however an unseen cost to the under resourced and short-term nature of funding for community adult education. It is the human cost – the extraordinary energy coordinators must spend to keep their centres viable. So, in the 300 or so words I have to express my 'revolutionary ideas', I settled for this one.

Those who truly know of this way of being have already realised how revolutionary this idea is, how sustainable it is and how it can bring about real change – for others it is new! Take time out today and do one self-nurturing thing for the most important person at the centre of all the activity, YOU. My 'revolutionary' message to you for 2008 is, simply, to take care of yourself.

Pat Morrissey, Community Education Facilitator
Supporting Adult Community Education.
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DRIMNAGH RESOURCE CENTRE

The Drimnagh Resource Centre was founded in 1991 in response to the needs of women and men in the local community. The Mother McCauley Centre provided the venue and with the assistance of Crosscare, the first Personal Development course took place.



Margaret Mulrooney

The Personal Development Courses have been the flagship project since 1991. It is a first step, community-based initiative targeting people most in need. The

Centre is run by a voluntary committee and the costs to cover facilitators are met by way of an annual grant from the Department of the Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs. Courses and classes are offered to people who would not have had the opportunity to seek them out for themselves. Consistently, feedback received from participants is very positive from a self-confidence point of view as well as a skills-learning viewpoint and many have returned to the workforce as a result.

Margaret Mulrooney Tel: 4559200

SR. REGINA KING WINS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PERSON OF THE YEAR

In the early 1980s Corduff was just a fledgling community and one of a number of communities in the Blanchardstown area which bore the brunt of the economic recession. High unemployment and money shortages led to much isolation and frustration. Crosscare had the insight to invite Parish Sisters into these areas.

The Parish Sisters worked hard and consistently in the communities with local people to identify their needs and help build communities. They were the unsung heroines of those formative years and the foundation stones they helped to lay are still firmly in place.

Sister Regina came to Corduff in the early 80's and has, over many years, been diligent in working with people to encourage both personal and community development. Hundreds of women took part in personal development courses and went on to join the workforce or work locally in their own community. As a result of this work there is a strong community spirit.

The area now has its own Community Creche, Counselling Service and Community Project, plus many other projects. "Reflection leading to action" was the model of development adopted and with the help of courses like Training for Transformation, this process is ongoing.

Towards the end of 2007, local people nominated Sr. Regina King for the Fingal Community Person of the Year. It is a great honour to announce that Sr. Regina's work was given official recognition, much to her own surprise. People who live in Corduff were not surprised but were delighted that she won the award for her hard work, creativity and dedication.

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Corduff Community Development Project
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ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISH

St. John Vianney Parish in Ardlea supports their Active Retired women in the Parish Community Centre. This project, coordinated by the energetic Lelia McCormack, has been running Personal Enrichment courses facilitated by Annette Cassidy. These courses have had a very important impact on those who participate.




St. John Vianney Ardlea receiving their Crosscare Personal Development Certificates

At the Crosscare Award Ceremony in December, participants commented on how the Lelia's support, coupled with Annette's marvellous facilitation skills, had helped the group to commit to one another and, more importantly, how this commitment became a survival 'tool' when life's difficulties occurred.

Now instead of living in isolation these women have put into practice the 'tools' that Annette has given them and form a very fun-loving, dynamic group ■

THE NEW ST. MATTHEW'S FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

 Saint Matthew's F.R.C. (Family Resource Centre) is an informal education, training, and development project, funded by the Family Support Agency under the F.R.C. Programme. A wide variety of courses and activities are available in the centre, and an open door policy is in operation. To deliver the project the Voluntary Board Management employs one full-time coordinator, Mary Poland, and a part-time development worker Marie Hartigan.



Celebratory Thanksgiving Mass for the Refurbishment of St. Matthew's F.R.C.

The Centre also delivers FETAC accredited courses. In July 2007 the centre received €150,000 from the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government to build an extension to the premises.




A very much relieved and delighted Mary Poland, Coordinator of St. Matthew's F.R.C.

The completion of the refurbishment in St. Matthew's has paved the way for integrating facilities catering for pre-school, youth, elderly and those with disabilities. This integration is having a very positive impact on the well being of all those interested in accessing the facility. Here they can come together and receive proper support which facilitates them to identify their collective needs and to develop programmes and activities to support their needs. This injection of funding is greatly appreciated, and truly well-deserved. The centre has been in operation as an F.R.C. since 1994, and has spent the last seven years constantly applying for funding to extend the premises. As social inclusion is fundamental to our community and society, this new extension and refurbishment has enabled St. Matthew's to overcome the physical limitations within the centre which excluded so many from the community. It is also a great relief for its staff that the

struggle to seek substantial funding is over, enabling them to completely focus on the needs of its participants. ■

Mary Poland, Coordinator,
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UNA DUNBAR – A TRIBUTE

 St. Joseph's Family Centre in Bonnybrook was set up 34 years ago and coordinated in a voluntary capacity by Una Dunbar. Una recalls how the abject poverty in Bonnybrook created such hardship for local people.



Una Dunbar

To support members of the community who were coping with such poverty, Una set up Personal Development courses together with social events through St. Joseph's Family Centre. Thirty-four years later, Una has continued to give of herself, her energy and her time. She has been instrumental in supporting so many families, helping them to get back on their feet and triumph over poverty.

With such dedication and commitment, it is only fitting that Una Dunbar be recognised for all her hard work and constancy. What may not be known is that Una is currently waiting for a much needed hip-replacement operation. While experiencing constant agony, Una's spirit wishes so much to continue with her work but, alas, her hip problems have slowed her down. What Una finds most difficult during this time is that she is not physically able to continue to participate in a Literacy Scheme in Darndale. It is a wonderful resource for the community, and it has given Una personal satisfaction to watch her participants evolve and transform their lives as they became more competent.

We wish Una every success with her operation and a most speedy recovery and we also thank her for her extraordinary work over such an extended period. ■

D12 WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP

 The Dublin 12 Action Group is a voluntary group of women who are committed to promoting women's issues in the Dublin 12 area. The group offers a safe, warm and friendly informal space to access information, training and support. Opening hours are from 9.30am to 4pm., Monday to Friday.

The group was set up in September 2002 and is made up of a Voluntary Committee, Jobs Initiative Worker and a Manager. To date significant work has been done by local women in identifying issues of interest to them such as voter awareness, healthy eating and policy training. A multicultural day was held in November, 2007 at which a Research Booklet of Statistical Evidence of Ethnic Minority Families living in the Dublin 12 area was launched.

The group also supports Drimnagh Walking Club. If you would like to make new friends and get some exercise come along on Tuesdays at 9.30am outside the Marble Arch Pub. ■

Marie Mooney, Coordinator,
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Noticeboard



▲ Kay O'Grady with Nora O'Carroll, An Sli and Natalie O'Connor in the background at the Crosscare Christmas Lunch

The Vincentian Refugee Centre is launching a "Living in my Home" information leaflet in February 2008. The launch will be presided by the Minister for Integration. For further information, contact Ursula Mullen at 8102580 or email to: refugeecentrephishboro@eircom.net



▲ Margaret Mulrooney, Drimagh and Marie Mooney, Dublin 12 Women's Action Group

Funding Seminar

The Crosscare Community Education Network is holding a Funding Seminar in Clonliffe College in the Theology Room on Tuesday, 12th February at 10.30am. The Seminar will address queries that concern coordinators and give relevant information regarding other sources of funding. Marie Mulvillhill from the Dublin 8 Community Adult Education Centre and Pat Morrissey from CDVEC will lead the seminar. In March 2008, the Community Ed. Network is producing a booklet based on the Funding Seminar which will, hopefully, be a useful resource for coordinators.

All Hallows – Creative Writing Course

It is a great pleasure to announce that our very own Sr Eilis Coe is running her Creative Writing Course following the Amherst method for four sessions starting the 18th February at 2pm in All Hallows. Those wanting to know more about this course can contact All Hallows at www.allhallows.ie – Send applications to Mary Anne Maxwell in All Hallows College, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

Community Links Integration Project

The following activities are being launched by Community Links Integration Project

- ◆ Capacity Building Training Courses Feb-March 2008
- ◆ Personal Development Course: Life coping skills - February 2008

Aim: To develop awareness and self-confidence, to provide skills and knowledge needed to cope with life's

challenges, to develop a positive attitude and to provide skills for problem solving and decision-making.

Target: People seeking asylum, with refugee status and in need of protection (leave to remain).

For more information please contact with **Majella Dennehy at 8148644** or visit our website www.jrs.ie.

Positive Parenting Course – March 2008

Aim: To enable parents to feel much more confident about their parenting.

Target: People seeking asylum, with refugee status and in need of protection.

For more information please contact with **Majella Dennehy at 8148644** or visit our website www.jrs.ie.

Community Links Integration Project

Community Links Integration Project has developed a booklet called "Your Child and Schools in Ireland". This booklet brings together information about the Irish educational system from a number of sources, including the Department of Education and Science, the INTO, Citizens Information Board, the Reception and Integration



▲ Lelia McCormack St. John Vianney, Ardlea with Noeleen Kelly, Carmelite Community Centre Agency, and the National Educational Welfare Board. It is aimed at migrant and refugee parents.

The booklet was developed in response to requests from school personnel, who noted that migrant and refugee parents often come from countries where the educational system is very different to the system in Ireland and that clear information – in relevant languages – about education in Ireland can be difficult to come by. Therefore, this booklet is available in Romanian, Polish, Russian, Lithuanian, Arabic, Chinese and French as well as English.

Topics covered include enrolment, different types of primary and secondary schools, information about the school day, health checks, getting financial help with the cost of sending a child to school, choosing a secondary school, special educational needs, language support and the role of parents and guardians in their child's education.

This booklet will be launched on Wednesday, 20th February at 5.45pm at Belvedere College. For more information please contact **Caroline Fahey, at 8148644**.

After the Network's Christmas Party in the Red House.



▲ Conor Hickey (Director of Crosscare) with Rosemary Dwyer, Lusk CDP



▲ Sr. Eilis Coe with Anne Smith, Corduff Community Development Project

Intercultural and Interfaith Calendar 2008

The 2008 edition of the Community Links/Jesuit Refugee Service Intercultural and Interfaith Calendar is now available, at a cost of €6 plus postage and packing. The calendar provides month-by-month information on special days in the lives of the main religious and cultural communities in Ireland. It includes religious feasts, national days, international UN celebrations and bank holidays in the Republic of Ireland.

The religions represented in the calendar include Baha'i, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Shinto, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism. The calendar is aimed at raising awareness of diversity in Ireland, and provides an explanation of the main celebrations each month. The theme of the 2008 calendar is Integration. Please contact **Caroline Fahey** if you would like to order a copy/copies for yourself or for your school. Our website is now accessible at www.jrs.ie, and on it you will find further information about the Community Links Project, as well as the broader work of JRS Ireland.

