



CROSSCARE TO OPEN SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE IN BLANCHARDSTOWN

Crosscare, the Catholic social care agency of the Dublin Archdiocese, launched its annual review 2006/2007 in Blanchardstown, this morning (Wednesday) at the first of five planned community based services around Dublin. The Blanchardstown facility is being made available to Crosscare by the local Capuchin friars. As well as bringing much needed social care services to the expanding Blanchardstown area, Crosscare plan to make the premises available to local community groups.

The annual review tells that the agency took 70 people a night off Dublin streets last year through its emergency and homeless services. Demand for Crosscare services, particularly for food and accommodation, looks set to grow even further in 2008 as the service expands to outlying areas of Dublin.

Director Conor Hickey said there was a glaring need in many parts of Dublin to bring Crosscare's counselling, support and welfare services to people not based in the city centre. He added that many outlying communities had expanded at a rapid rate and Crosscare are looking forward to working with local people and groups in the greater Blanchardstown to provide much needed services and supports and to meet otherwise unmet need..

Last year was yet another busy one for the Agency.

- Its four homeless projects helped an estimated 70 people a night find a bed and help in getting ongoing accommodation. Bentley House in Dunlaoire set a new standard of excellence in services for homeless people in that part of Dublin.
- Demand for the cold weather service in Amien Street for intravenous drug users had to be expanded all year round.
- 30,000 hot meals were served through three inner city food services.
- 100 voluntary groups benefited from the Crosscare food bank, giving out surplus food from suppliers. The service is the only one of its kind in Ireland.
- 2,000 migrants, arriving and leaving Ireland sought help from the migrant support project in Cathedral Street. 1,200 people need help with housing and social welfare matters.
- Carers support groups increased to nine on the North Dublin area alone.

There was also considerable demand on services for Teen Counselling, the Drug and Alcohol programmes, Traveller Inclusion, and Disability Awareness, second chance education programmes and young people's care services.

These services in particular will form a central part of Crosscare's expansion around the greater Dublin area in 2008.

For further details please contact Conor Hickey at conorh@crosscare.ie or 087 2257079