



L-R: Louise (Resident) and Mary (Staff) at the Westside Family Hub in Galway City.

Peter McVerry Trust opened its first service in Galway in May of this year. The modular family hub can support up to 15 families. It is the first of its kind in Ireland, and was developed by Galway City Council in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, and The Housing Agency.

New Family Hub Service in Galway City

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Christmas Cards 2020

Sending a greeting card will really lift someone's day. You can purchase our Christmas Cards online www.pmvtrust.ie/shop, through an order form or by calling **+353 (0)1 823 0776**.



Christmas Corporate Appeal

Even in the most difficult of times, we can all **move to a new chapter**, to a brighter future. Given the right opportunity, or just that open door, the people we support out of homelessness can change their story for the better. This Christmas, we are asking businesses and corporate partners across Ireland to help people move to a new chapter. Read about the impact that your support can have, as well as details of our corporate supporter packages www.pmvtrust.ie/newchapter.





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the winter 2020 Opening Doors newsletter. I hope that all of our supporters', and their friends and families are safe and well. It is undoubtedly a difficult time for many in society, and we appreciate that those of you reading this newsletter are facing your own challenges at this time. We don't, nor have we ever, taken your support for granted.

As always, the newsletter offers but a snapshot of our work. We have been working closely with statutory agencies to provide extra supports and services to at-risk groups during COVID-19. During the ongoing pandemic, Peter McVerry Trust has provided additional emergency accommodation for people to cocoon, self-isolate or quarantine, and we are working with people right across all Dublin-based homeless services, not just our own services. We have worked closely with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive, the HSE, the Department of Justice and the Department of Housing to make sure we are doing whatever we can to keep people safe and supported.

I want to pay tribute on behalf of our Founder, our Board of Directors and the management team, to our staff who have worked tirelessly on the frontline throughout what has and continues to be an exceptionally

challenging time. Our staff continue to act with empathy and professionalism in the delivery of our supports and services in line with the ethos as set out by Fr McVerry.

The last seven months have been some of the most challenging and difficult we have ever experienced. Yet, despite all the challenges we have faced, Peter McVerry Trust has continued to deliver positive solutions and outcomes for the people we support. Our Housing First work with rough sleepers continues to go from strength to strength as we house more and more people. We have recorded our best ever week in housing outcomes in late September when we secured 30 homes for families in one week.

As we approach Christmas, we are hugely dependant on the generosity of people who support our work. 2020 has seen the cancellation of all but one of our fundraising events, which means a loss of income of close to €1 million. This includes the cancellation of our annual Christmas Carol Concert, which traditionally would have taken place at the start of December. I would urge those who can, to support us this Christmas and into the New Year. All of your help is greatly appreciated.

I wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and hope for all of us 2021 will mean brighter days ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pat Doyle'.

Pat Doyle, CEO

PMVT LEARNING CENTRES



Peter McVerry Trust operates two specialist learning centres in Dublin, the Carline Learning Centre and the CMS Learning Centre. This year, the centres welcomed 38 students in the Junior Certificate programme. During the summer, 20 students graduated from the Carline Learning Centre.



HOUSING DELIVERY

CORK CITY



BEFORE



AFTER

Peter McVerry Trust delivered its first property in partnership with Cork City Council in July, under the Repair and Leasing Scheme.

CORK



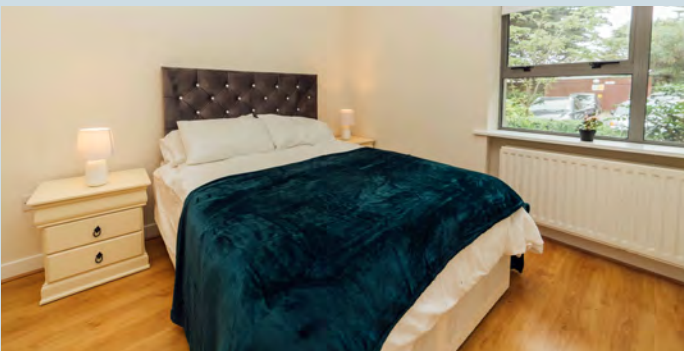
Peter McVerry Trust delivered eight apartments in partnership with Cork County Council in June, providing permanent accommodation for 15 people on the local housing list.

KERRY



Peter McVerry Trust delivered 15 apartments in partnership with Kerry County Council in September 2020.

DUBLIN



Peter McVerry Trust delivered five apartments in partnership with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

LOUTH



BEFORE



AFTER

Peter McVerry Trust refurbished another long-term vacant property in partnership with Louth County Council in August, under the Buy and Renew Scheme.

PERSONAL STORIES



GALWAY – WESTSIDE FAMILY HUB

Peter McVerry Trust opened its first service in Galway in May of this year. The modular family hub is the first of its kind in Ireland and was developed by Galway City Council in partnership with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, and the Housing Agency. The modular hub provides support to 15 families, who have access to their own accommodation, cooking and laundry facilities, a play area as well as onsite key working support from Peter McVerry Trust staff. Since the service opened in May, Peter McVerry Trust staff have worked to progress seven families in Galway into permanent housing.

LOUISE, GALWAY

"The support I got from Mary alone was absolutely brilliant, she's like a mammy figure to me. She made sure that I was always happy and if any problem came up, we'd discuss it."

Louise and her two children were living in emergency accommodation for two years, before they came to Peter McVerry Trust's Family Hub in Galway. Louise got the keys for a HAP property after just three weeks in the Family Hub.



CRAIG, CORK

"I've a full team on my side and great help and support here. I'm hoping to get into work fairly soon and just get myself occupied. I think it'll be great for me, a place to settle down and make a few friends and just get on with my life."

After struggling with his mental health for a number of years, and living between his car and B&Bs, Craig was given the keys to his new apartment with the support of Peter McVerry Trust.

TREVOR, GALWAY

"Peter McVerry Trust has definitely changed my life for the better. I'm overwhelmed that I have a place to call home."

Trevor got the keys to his own home in Co. Galway in August, where he will receive ongoing support from our Housing with Supports team.



FUNDRAISING



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT DONATION FROM HEROES AID

Peter McVerry Trust received an extremely generous donation of Personal Protective Equipment from the charity Heroes Aid. The donation included face masks, visors and gowns that are vital to keep our staff and residents who are cocooning and in self-isolation safe from the spread of COVID-19.

OPENING DOORS APPEAL 'BETTER DAYS AHEAD'

Our annual Opening Doors appeal took place during October, in recognition of World Homeless Day on October 10th. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the campaign. This year we asked people to think about 'Better Days Ahead', a message that is especially important at this difficult time for many of the people we work with.



BASIS.POINT

Thanks to a grant from basis.point and the Irish Fund Industry's Emergency Relief Fund, we have been able to support children's learning and development with weekly activity packs throughout the COVID-19 emergency.

VIRTUAL WEXFORD CYCLE CHALLENGE 2020

This year's Wexford Cycle saw more than 300 people take part in the adapted virtual event to raise funds for Peter McVerry Trust. A huge well done and thank you to everyone who took part, including many stalwarts of this event, as well as our CEO, Pat and his family.



GONZAGA GREEN JERSEY DAY 2020

In May, Gonzaga pupils, past and present, donned their synonymous green jersey to mark the last day of term and asked the public to support Peter McVerry Trust. Many past pupils and familiar faces put on the green jersey and asked for donations whilst sharing a message of community and support.

IRISH LIFE

We are grateful to have received a very generous donation from Irish Life to support our COVID-19 Emergency Response. This enabled Peter McVerry Trust to provide additional supports to people who had been sleeping rough, along with those cocooning, in self-isolation, or in quarantine throughout the pandemic.



ESB

Peter McVerry Trust was recently awarded a grant from ESB Networks Energy for Generations Fund to ensure we could continue our fight against COVID-19. These funds have played a vital role in ensuring that we can continue to protect those across our homeless services during these unprecedented times.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

THANK YOU!

2020 has been a year we won't forget, and we want to express our sincerest gratitude to all our supporters for continuing to give generously over these past challenging months. We faced difficult decisions, and had to reduce resources, cancel events and adapt our fundraising plans to ensure we could continue to operate our core services and support the most vulnerable at this time. We have been overwhelmed by the ongoing generosity of Peter McVerry Trust supporters – you have helped to safeguard vital services and allow additional accommodation and supports to be provided during the pandemic.

Many annual events were cancelled this year, including our Christmas Carol Concert, which I know many of you attend. Whilst we are disappointed, your welfare and that of those we support and the wider public remains paramount. We hope to re-introduce many of our long-running events in 2021. In the meantime, you can read about some fundraising activities that have taken place this year, and what's coming up. Lastly, we can't say it enough - thank you for choosing to support Peter McVerry Trust - we could not continue our work without you. Wishing you a safe and peaceful Christmas.

Anne-Marie Connolly
Director of Fundraising



HOUSING PARTNERSHIP KILDARE

Peter McVerry Trust would like to acknowledge and thank Blasco Solicitors & Notary Public, Maynooth for their ongoing support. Our partnership with Blasco solicitors has been instrumental in growing our social housing and building programme in Kildare in recent years, allowing us to move more people out of homelessness for good.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



LONG WALK HOME MAY 2021

Will you take on the Boyne Valley Camino? A 25km looped walk in the heart of the Boyne Valley. Located just an hour north of Dublin, the area is rich in history and will challenge and inform you as you walk to raise funds for Peter McVerry Trust.



TREK CAMINO SEPTEMBER 2021

The Camino de Fisterra is the only trail which starts in Santiago, passing through towns such as Negreira, Santa Marina over 6 days, before arriving at Fisterre on the Atlantic coast of Galicia, where you can enjoy a well-earned swim in the sea!



ANNUAL GALA BALL AUTUMN 2021

We would like to thank Clontarf Castle Hotel for their continued support and sponsorship of our annual Gala Ball event. The 2021 Peter McVerry Trust Gala Ball will take place next autumn.

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Opening doors for
homeless people

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