

# Opening Doors Newsletter

## Winter Issue 2021



Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien TD, Pat Doyle, CEO and Fr Peter McVerry at the launch of our New Street South project

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### Christmas Carol Concert

Returning to St Patrick's Cathedral on December 4th at 7.30pm, this year's Carol Concert will be a celebration of the start of the Christmas period with our usual programme of festive music, carols and hymns. With the Gardiner Street Gospel Choir performing, among others, we look forward to welcoming you back. The Carol Concert will take place in line with Covid-19 government health advice. Please check our website [www.pmvtrust.ie](http://www.pmvtrust.ie) for any changes.

Tickets are priced at €35 and are available to purchase from our website or by calling +353 (0)1 823 0776.





## Welcome

Welcome to the winter 2021 Opening Doors newsletter, I hope it finds you and yours healthy and well. There is no doubt that the pandemic has been a challenge to everyone and I want to thank you for your continued support of our charity. The generosity of our donors enabled us to continue our work in a very difficult time.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, in partnership with State agencies and other voluntary organisations in the sector, Peter McVerry Trust kept the vulnerable safe and continued to help those in need. We provided an immediate and urgent response to Covid-19 and supported over 7,000 people to self-isolate.

Now, with the on-going easing of restrictions, we're delighted to reopen our Information and Advice Centre in Berkeley Street, Dublin. The drop-in service provides vital support to those experiencing homelessness in the city.

Our regional work continues to expand and we're now working with 28 out of 31 local authorities across the country. In July

we welcomed An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD, to launch our five-year strategic plan and our new southern regional office in Cork City.

We're also making a much-anticipated return to in-person fundraising events. Our Wexford Cycle in September was a big success and I hope you will all join us on Saturday 4th December for our Christmas Carol Concert in St Patrick's Cathedral.

As we head into winter, the busiest period of the year for our team, please do consider how you, your friends, families and colleagues might support our work now and in the future. It is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to wish you and yours a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Pat Doyle, CEO.

## Growing it their way at Carline Learning Centre

Students at our Carline Learning Centre in Lucan are looking forward to growing their own vegetables this year.

The planters, kindly donated by ISG Construction and Shannon Valley Group over the summer, will teach the teenagers gardening skills and healthy eating habits.

The Centre's kitchen will use the fresh produce in the daily lunches and vegetable boxes will be sent home with students.





# Inside Our Services

## Success with FIT Employability Programme

This September, FIT awarded 14 young people certificates of completion for finishing their 6-week employability programme at St. Catherine's Foyer, a Peter McVerry Trust youth homeless service in Dublin.

The Foyer provides safe and supportive accommodation to 18-25-year-olds who are homeless or in serious need of housing. Focus is placed on personal growth and development with a holistic approach to meeting individual needs.

The employability programme, delivered by FIT (Fastrack to Information Technology), helped participants to explore their own skills and the types of careers they may be interested in, prepare a CV and find and apply for courses.

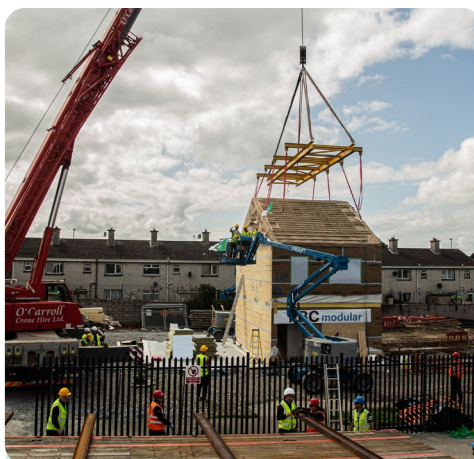


## 7,000 people helped during Covid-19

We provided an urgent response to Covid-19 and supported over 7,000 people to self-isolate. Our eight isolation services catered to four groups; people living in homelessness, patients leaving HSE services, children in Tusla services and asylum seekers. We provided rapid access to essential supports including addiction and mental health services. To date, over 1,500 of our participants have received the Covid-19 vaccine.



**Our Information and Advice Centre and Youth Café service reopened in September.**



**One of our modular homes in Limerick lifted into place in August.**



**We worked with over 7,800 people in 2020.**



# Personal Stories



**Joanne**

**“When I walked in, I was totally amazed because, when I realised everything was already in here for me, right down to the bed, the bedding, the furniture, everything was here. I thought it was just a dream come true.”**

At the end of 2020, Joanne moved into her new home in Limerick with the support of Peter McVerry Trust.

**Jonathan**

**“I’m forever grateful to Peter McVerry Trust. It wasn’t just my life, but the lives of everyone around me, that changed when I walked into their Residential Community Detox Service. I recovered, and my family recovered too.”**

In 2021, with the support of Peter McVerry Trust, Jonathan overcame addiction and moved from our Drug Free Aftercare Accommodation Service into his own home in Dublin.



## Taoiseach opens new southern regional office in Cork

An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD, launched our new southern regional office and five-year strategic plan in Cork city in July. Our new Cork home, located in a renovated bank building, also features five one-bedroom apartments.

Our strategic plan 2021-2025 will deliver 1,200 new social housing units before the end of 2025. This growth will go hand in hand with delivery of our traditional services and supports in the areas of homelessness, addiction, Under 18s residential care and education and employment. Our goal is to ensure we offer as many sustainable housing pathways for people out of homelessness as we can.





# Fundraising

## Call for fundraising volunteers

Volunteering is a wonderful and important way to support Peter McVerry Trust. As we begin to see a return to fundraising events and collections, we are always grateful for your time and energy in supporting us. If you would like to find out more about how you can volunteer, please email; [fundraising@pmvtrust.ie](mailto:fundraising@pmvtrust.ie) or call +353 (0)1 823 0776.



While teams have been working from home for over a year and a half, opportunities to get together to make a difference have been sorely missed. We were thrilled to have the team from Ebiquity Marsh come down and help out at our Residential Detox service.



GOING GLOBAL - 30,000KM



## Calcutta Run

The Calcutta Run 2021 took place virtually this year. With a goal of covering 30,000km in 10 days, participants across Ireland and the world walked, jogged and ran to support the event from September 17th - 26th. A sincere thank you to The Law Society of Ireland and the legal community who, year on year, continue to support Peter McVerry Trust. We look forward to getting back to an in-person event in 2022.

## Golf Classic

The Annual Golf Classic returned in September at Milltown Golf Club. 36 teams teed off on a lovely autumn day testing their skills on the green. We were delighted to welcome back so many familiar faces and it was great to see new teams coming on board to support the event and our work. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and to the committee who worked tirelessly to ensure that the event could take place safely.



## Corporate Partnerships

We were delighted to be part of Just Eat's waiter service at Taste of Dublin in September. It has been great to see events taking place again and we are so grateful to Just Eat, and to all of our corporate partners, for continuing to support us.







## Wexford Cycle 2021

Over 170 cyclists took part in the 32nd Peter McVerry Trust Wexford Cycle on Saturday 18th September – our first return to physical fundraising since the outbreak of Covid-19.

After a foggy start at the UCD Bowl at 7am, the sun came out as cyclists tackled the 140km route to Wexford town.

We welcomed back many familiar faces, as well as lots of new ones and would like to thank everyone who took part in the physical and virtual cycle events for their wonderful support.

## Christmas Cards

Send greetings to loved ones at home and abroad this Christmas and support people experiencing homelessness by purchasing Peter McVerry Trust's Christmas cards this year. You can view the range of cards on [www.pmvtrust.ie](http://www.pmvtrust.ie) or in the enclosed brochure.

Cards cost €5 per pack of 10.

## 2022 Events

### January



Step into January Challenge

### February



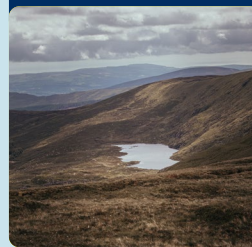
Gala Ball, Clontarf Castle Hotel

### April



Long Walk Home, Boyne Valley Camino

### May



Long Walk Home, Lugnaquilla Mountain Trail

### June



Vhi Women's Mini Marathon

We would like to thank you sincerely for your continued support for the work of Peter McVerry Trust. Your generosity ensures that we can continue to support people as they leave homelessness behind.

Fundraising contact details;

Fundraising@pmvtrust.ie | +353 (0)1 823 0776 | [www.pmvtrust.ie](http://www.pmvtrust.ie)

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