



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018



Sr. Patricia Wall, Ballingarry: Volunteer of Year 2017



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From Communities Creating Jobs Ltd. (CCJ)

Editorial



The CCJ network is looking forward to the launch of the national policy and 10 year social enterprise strategy. For a sector with such potential it is hard to believe how little interest successive governments have taken in its development over the years. Volunteer teams working in the sector are well aware of the assets, opportunities and needs in local communities. There is a vast array of resources in state, community and private sectors that can be leveraged for community development when identified and coordinated.

Due to the uncertainty and instability surrounding the political situation at local national and international levels there are many reasons why the Irish Government should strongly engage with communities in implementing regeneration programmes. There is an urgent need to communicate and build bridges that creates respect, understanding and trust with the people. There is no better way of achieving this objective than by empowering people with a policy and strategy that will enable them create the change that will make their communities stronger economically and socially. Empowered people have the capacity to improve life styles and living standards in every community throughout the country.

It is essential that the people take responsibility for improving services and facilities. They have to develop a self reliance and resilience through working in collaboration with state agencies on projects of importance to them. Hopefully the Department of Rural and Community Development's new policy and 10 year strategy will be supported by a management and implementation structure with co-ordinated set of supports.

Senan Cooke
Chairman



Sr. Patricia Wall, Ballingarry: Volunteer of Year 2017



Within the voluntary sector, Sister Patricia Wall is revered as a legendary achiever. She has been so effective getting things done for communities in South Tipperary over the past 20 years. Patricia is currently 80 years of age and will be celebrating her 60th Diamond Jubilee as a nun in 2018. A member of the Presentation Order she retired as Principal of Presentation Convent Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary on closure of the convent in 1996 at which time the secondary school was handed over to a lay board of directors. She remained living in the area, in Assumption Terrace and she dedicated her life to voluntary work in the Ballingarry- Slieveardagh- the Commons, Killenale and Glengoole communities. Her record in leading and facilitating community development in disadvantaged rural areas is without parallel throughout the country for any one individual. With Sister Patricia it is the team and the beneficiaries of the work completed that has always mattered. She is so busy working she has little

time to think about herself. She works unsparingly for the betterment of others all the time.

A Lifetime of Service: Patricia was born in Clonmel in 1938 but spent most of her young life in Thurles. She joined the Presentation Order in 1955. She spent 6 years teaching in New Zealand, 6 years in Thurles, 3 in Ballingarry (as principal), 4 in Kilkenny, 6 in Zimbabwe, 4 in Dublin and last 20 years since she retired in Ballingarry. She is a sister of celebrated Tipperary hurler Tony Wall who was an officer in the Irish army. Her energy and bravery knows no bounds. In 2013 she earned the title "The Flying Nun" completing a sponsored parachute jump at 75 years of age and raised €40,000 for community projects in Slieveardagh, Co. Tipperary and AWARE, which supports people with depression. Sister Patricia was interviewed on the Late Late Show promoting the parachute jump. She has proven to be a master at leveraging scarce resources from State, private businesses, high net worth individuals and other organisations for communities. She has raised so much money for good causes and the work she has overseen is extraordinary. Her energy knows no bounds.



Sr. Patricia Wall before completing her sponsored parachute jump

So Many Irons in the Fire: She remains to this day company secretary of Ballingarry Community Development CLG since 2005, Millennium Family Resource Centre chairperson since 2000, Slieveardagh Rural Development Board member since 2005, Ballingarry Community Employment Scheme Co-ordinator since 1996, Community Alarms Co-ordinator since 2009, Assumption Terrace Residents Association secretary since 1998, Fethard Area Residents Association (FARN) treasurer since 2003, South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum Board Member since 2008, St Bernard Group Homes Board Member (2005-2016), South Tipperary Development Company Board Member since 2004.

Kilkenny Presentation Convent Board Member since 1998, Ballingarry Camogie Club (1997-2004), Foroige Youth Club (1998-2003). She remains the ultimate multi-tasker filling so many official roles each with specific responsibilities.

Over the past 20 years she has been focused on three community, being a founding member and driving force behind the projects that are up and running and providing so many services and facilities for people in the areas. These are:

Ballingarry Community Development CLG has established a thriving Childcare Centre, turned a derelict site into a historical corner in the village with monument, supported fund raising for local playground committee and acted as Co-ordinator for Ballingarry-Killenaule Community Employment Scheme with 25 workers covering 4 parishes. Ballingarry has an enterprise centre that accommodates small business start ups providing new employment opportunities.

Slieveardagh Rural Development CLG manages a rural development project which promotes and supports local enterprise, an environment project Lake Derra Villa which houses the local library. Sr Patricia joined as a committee member in 1996 and became chairperson in 2006. She dedicated a lot of time to the Centre and secured funding from Pobal for 2 full time staff members. The projects in the area support over 60 full time jobs and impact on over 500 families. Other projects include Millennium Resource Centre, Community development project providing family support, elderly services, disability services, Childcare, Men's Sheds and community development.

Fethard Area Residents Network (FARN) as secretary she has never relented in securing resources including funding, for projects in the area that are beneficial to the community. She has led the process in organising, engaging with state agencies, completing business plans, leveraging grants, voluntary fund raising, calling on leaders of council and government, agencies and private enterprises, politicians and church to provide the necessary support required to complete the work. She is a tremendous networker, very resilient and sticky. Those with whom she approaches are more likely to concede early and provide whatever is required sooner rather than later. She is so well intentioned, persistent and convincing; it is very difficult for those who have the resources to refuse her. The resources are invariably for those who need help and the provider knows that the best possible use will be made of them by Sister Patricia.

Conclusion: Sister Patricia has throughout her life proven to be a gifted with outstanding leadership skills and is a worthy recipient of Volunteer of Year Award 2017. She is a legend among her peers and voluntary community in South East Region if not the entire country. She has promoted many of her projects on television and radio. She was interviewed on Late Late Show and on Ray Darcy's Liveline radio show. She has influenced Ministers, TDs, Senators, MEPs and several Taoisigh to support her. Her commitment to education, training and upskilling has helped so many people out of poverty. Such is the esteem in which she is held her name opens many doors and opportunities not easily accessible to others. She is a great example of the committed volunteer, hardworking, fearless and focused. Long may she live to continue in her work and inspire the voluntary sector to reach for the stars, that nothing is impossible with the right spirit and co-ordination. This is part of her legacy that others will in the future be willing to pick up the flag and keep the regeneration momentum at full speed in communities throughout the country. We are delighted to feature her profile on the cover page of our spring 2018 issue.



Waterford City & County Social Enterprise Research Project 2017



In June 2016 several members from the board of the Social Finance Foundation of Ireland (hereinafter referred to as SFF) visited Dunhill Ecopark and two other Social Enterprises within the Copper Coast area of Waterford. A presentation was then made to the SFF and a proposal to map the Social Enterprise sector here in Waterford. An agreement was reached and Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd were contracted to complete the research over a twelve month period.

On completion of this project the report was then used as part of the process in the development of the new national ten year strategy for the social enterprise sector, an initiative between the SFF and the Department of Rural & Community Affairs (DRCD). It is expected to be finalised by the end of March and an official announcement will be made by minister Michael Ring in early April.

The final findings and outcomes on this research are available on the (CCJ) Communities Creating Jobs Ltd. [Click here to view.](#)

Contact

Seamus Goggin Project Officer

Email: sethedeise@gmail.com

Mobile: 087-2222081

Website: www.ccj.ie

Spotlight on Kerry Social Farming: Making Social Inclusion a Reality

The pivotal role of Local Development Companies in establishing Social Farming in rural communities

“Given the positive association between social farming and community and rural development, it is recommended that in expanding, mainstreaming and further promoting social farming, initiatives ought to reside within, and be driven by Local Development Companies. Inter-LDC networking and collaboration will be important in promoting knowledge transfers. [Kerry Social Farming] KSF is ideally placed to offer a consultancy/mentoring role here.”



Michael Creed Minister DAFM launches KSF Evaluation Report 7th July 2017

This is one of the key findings/recommendations of an independent evaluation on the Kerry Social Farming Project, carried out in 2017 by Dr Caroline Crowley (Crowley Independent Research), Dr Shane O’ Sullivan (Limerick Institute of Technology) and Dr Brendan O’Keeffe (formerly Mary Immaculate College). The evaluation was funded by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM) as part of a €140K CEDRA funding that was awarded to South Kerry Development Partnership CLG (SKDP) to develop a model project of Social Farming. The evaluation report, ‘an Evaluation of Kerry Social Farming’ (2017) can be accessed [here](#).

Under the legal umbrella of lead partner SKDP, the model of social farming that has been developed by the Kerry Social Farming Project is unique in Ireland in that it is an innovative, voluntary (i.e. farmers and participants volunteer their time to engage in social farming practices), community based, shared service that provides person-centred social inclusion opportunities for people who are at risk of social exclusion, all on farms within their local communities.

The Kerry Social Farming Project was developed in 2013 as part of a suite of innovative local and community development activities and practices implemented by South Kerry Development Partnership CLG (SKDP), which has over 30 years’ experience in rural development. Social farming in the South Kerry area was implemented to tackle social exclusion of people with disabilities within the region, as well as harnessing the rich social capacity building that smallholders can bring to their community. The strong relationships developed between SKDP and the farming rural community, along with the strategic collaborative use of programmes such as the Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Tus programme, and SICAP funding, to support the project financially, in the initial and growth phases of the project (2013-2016), have been key to developing social farming in Kerry



Kerry Social Farming launch included Minister Michael Creed, Sean Kelly MEP South

Social Farming Project in a sustainable, local-led and bottom up manner. Likewise, the relationships between SKDP and key community stakeholders, partners of the Kerry Social Farming Project, has been crucial in developing the project as, in keeping with the bottom up

ethos of LDCs, representatives from each of the member stakeholders form the Kerry Social Farming Project Working Group, which meet on a regular basis to steer the project under the governance of SKDP. Partners of the Kerry Social Project include participants and their families, host farmers, LDC North East West Kerry Development Company (NEWKD; to develop the project in the North Kerry region), service providers (Kerry Parents and Friends Association, St John of God Kerry Services, Enable Ireland), community groups/organisations (Down Syndrome Kerry and Cunamh Iveragh) as well as statutory bodies (Kerry County Council and the HSE)

The voluntary model of the Kerry Social Farming Project is anchored in the phenomenon of the importance of volunteerism to rural vibrancy, which, as indicated by prior research conducted by Dr Brendan O Keeffe, is a vital sustainable mechanism to overcome rural challenges such as cutbacks to public services and isolation, with the former compounding the latter. The fact that farmers offer their time on a voluntary basis lends itself to the development of real working relationships and friendships between the host farmers/farm families, the participants, and the neighbouring farm community, as highlighted by the published report on the "Evaluation of Kerry Social Farming". The voluntary element of the project has proven to be cost effective whilst also offering sustainable long term placements for participants; many of the participants have been attending the same farm for several years. Furthermore, a combination of practical factors led to the development of a voluntary model of social farming in Co. Kerry due to a) lack of funding (statutory or otherwise) to pay farmers and b) the fact that it was clear that farmers did not want to be paid to support people with disabilities for a variety of reasons including a combination of altruistic motives and wanting to avoid bureaucracy (motives, which have been confirmed in the evaluation of Kerry Social Farming). In the evaluation report farmers highlight that the supporting participants has been highly beneficial in tackling rural isolation for farmers and also is a great farming health and safety initiative. The social element for farmers is also facilitated by the regular host farm walks and field trips organised by Kerry Social Farming Project for host farmers and participants.

While implementation of the Kerry Social Farming Project was predominantly funded by the strategic use of LDC SICAP funds (2014-2016), in 2016 SKDP were awarded a sum of €140K by DAFM to develop the voluntary model of the Kerry Social Farming Project into 2017. A further €123K was awarded to SKDP in 2017 by the DAFM (via the CEDRA funding mechanism) to develop the project into 2018.

The funding from DAFM covers the necessary costs such as farm upgrades (e.g. health and safety upgrades necessary on the farm to make it safe for participants), funding for a full time facilitator to cover all aspects of the day to day running of the project such as a liaison between the host farmer and the staff of partner service providers, co-ordinating garda vetting and training for host farmers and to ensure ongoing support for the farmers and participants. Any additional insurance costs are also fully covered by Kerry Social Farming funds. As the farmers generously offer their time on a voluntary basis, the Kerry Social Farming Project ensures that no farmer is out of pocket and supports the farmer to carry out any upgrades that are required on the farm. Here, the involvement of the SKDP Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and Tus have been crucial in providing cost effective manpower to carry out work on new host farms.



Earl Leahy attends Ger O'Sullivan's farm - Cahersiveen



Michael Cremin's attends Helen O'Mahonys farm - Castleisland

From the small beginnings of four host farms in 2013, with a total of 76 social farm days between the six-month period July-Dec 2013, the project has grown organically with a total of 318 social farm days between the six-month period July-Dec 2017, with a total of 17 host farms involved, five of which are newly signed up/being set up in both the North and South of the county. Overall the project has supported 36 people avail of social farming opportunities and there is a growing number of people seeking social farming opportunities across the county.

Thus, the Kerry Social Farming Project clearly shows the importance and success of a local-led approach to the sustainable continued development of social farming regionally. Likewise, the project highlights the positive impact of collaboration between LDCs in developing the growth of social farming in different regions. The collaboration between NEWKD and SKDP in extending the project to the North Kerry region has begun to pay dividends, with more host farmers across the county, North-Mid-South Kerry coming on board.

[Click here to check out their website!](#)



ILDN visit to EU HQ in Brussels, January 2018



Liz Riches, SICAP Social Enterprise Co-ordinator, Waterford Area Partnership on a recent visit to Brussels with Sean Kelly MEP South and colleagues from the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN).

TrustLaw Hosts its First Workshop for Social Enterprises in Ireland



L-R Sarah Farrelly, Lauren Meyer (Thomson Reuters Foundation), John Evoy (Social Innovation Fund Ireland), Chris Gordon (Irish Social Enterprise Network), Rónán Ó'Dálaigh (SEDCo) and Chris McLaughlin (Arthur Cox). Thomson Reuters Foundation/February 6, 2018.

TrustLaw, in partnership with the law firm **Arthur Cox**, brought together leaders of the social enterprise sector in Ireland last week to discuss the challenges they face and the legal frameworks and support available to them.

TrustLaw, the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono platform, offers free legal assistance to social enterprises and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in more than 173 countries. Arthur Cox, one of Ireland's largest law firms, has been an active member of TrustLaw since 2014, working pro bono on ten different projects covering a range of legal issues.

Social entrepreneurship is a topical issue in Ireland, with the Irish Department of Community and Rural Affairs coordinating a "Developing the Potential of Social Enterprise in Ireland" consultation with hopes of publishing a strategy later in 2018. However, as the sector grows and matures, Irish social enterprises encounter various challenges. In 2016, the Thomson Reuters Foundation conducted the **world's first experts' poll** on the best countries for social entrepreneurs. The US, Canada and the UK came in the top three with Ireland ranked second last.

“With the increasing number of people seeking to make an impact and the lack of real legal entities by which to do so, Ireland is potentially missing out on becoming a social innovation world leader,” said Chris Gordon, CEO of the Irish Social Enterprise Network.

According to Rónán Ó'Dálaigh, CEO of SEDCo (Social Enterprise Development Company): “In Ireland there is enormous potential to create jobs, transform communities and end poverty by promoting and facilitating more social enterprises. One report estimates that 65,000 jobs can be created if we reach only the EU average of active social enterprises. I believe we can reach and exceed this target, however, it requires a coming together of private, public and third sector organisations. Companies such as Arthur Cox can play a simple and highly effective role in bringing about a better Ireland.”

Through TrustLaw, Arthur Cox has supported SEDCo with pro bono legal advice for over a year now and has made an “enormous impact” on their work by helping them to grow faster, reach more people and gain confidence in their legal structures and operations.

The panelists at the event included John Evoy (Social Innovation Fund Ireland), Chris Gordon (Irish Social Enterprise Network), Rónán Ó'Dálaigh (SEDCo) and Chris McLaughlin (Arthur Cox), who spoke on a wide range of issues from the current landscape facing social enterprises in Ireland to the funding available for the sector through the newly launched Social Enterprise Development Fund. The panelists and participants deliberated over working within existing social enterprise frameworks and brainstormed innovative ways to encourage the growth of their organisation, including through greater use of community benefit clauses in procurement contracts.

“I am grateful to the team at both the Thomson Reuters Foundation and Arthur Cox for giving me the opportunity to share about our new Social Enterprise Development Fund and more importantly to hear about the fantastic work that they do for social enterprises. The offer of pro-bono legal services to the social enterprises of Ireland is very generous and one that I will be encouraging those in our network at the Social Innovation Fund of Ireland to take up without delay,” said John Evoy, Social Enterprise Development Manager at Social Innovation Fund Ireland.

Social enterprises present also took this opportunity to explain how legal support through TrustLaw has helped them to expand their organisation, launch new initiatives and ensure their legal issues are taken care of, allowing them to focus on their social mission.

[Click here to visit their website!](#)

A €1.6M Fund for Social Enterprise Development



A new €1.6m fund to support social enterprises in Ireland has been established by Social Innovation Ireland (SIFI), in partnership with Local Authorities of Ireland and funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, from the Dormant Accounts Fund and IPB Insurance. The €1.6m fund is the largest of its kind to be invested in Ireland's social enterprise sector.

The fund will be delivered over the course of two years and up to eight successful applicants per year will each receive a grant of €50,000 to invest in growing their organisation. The successful

applicants will also receive a place on Social Innovation Fund Ireland's six-month Accelerator programme. The programme is designed to help social enterprises develop their business skills and to provide them with ongoing peer support and advice so that they develop sustainable enterprises that have a powerful impact in their community. Additional places on the Accelerator Programme are reserved for the most promising applicants.

For more information or to apply, go to <http://www.socialinnovation.ie/social-enterprise-development/>

Two New Funds for Organisations Empowering Young People



Social Innovation Fund Ireland has developed two new funds aimed at organisations empowering young people through education and positive mental health.

As part of the applications for these funds, we are asking applicants to demonstrate that they have secured private or philanthropic funding for the duration of their project. If applicants are successful, we will match their donations by providing a 50% uplift on their funds, as well as delivering other supports such as training, impact measurement and capacity building. This is a great opportunity for organisations to leverage these opportunities to se-

ecure multi-annual private funding.

physical, and emotional pressures of early adolescence, adolescence and early adulthood. The fund is open to all innovative projects offering either preventive supports or interventions for young people and their mental health.

To find out more, go to: <http://www.socialinnovation.ie/youth-mental-health-fund/>

The deadline for the Youth Mental Health Fund is the 18th May 2018.

Through the Education Fund, we are aiming to improve access to higher and further education for students (up to age 25) affected by disability or disadvantage. We are calling out to innovative projects or programmes in Ireland that improve the retention of youth learners up to age 25 who are affected by disadvantage or disability and demonstrate movement of learners along the NFQ ladder or equivalent.

To find out more, go to: <http://www.socialinnovation.ie/youth-education-fund/>

The deadline for the Youth Education Fund is the 18th May 2018.

[Click here to visit their website!](#)



Social Innovation Fund Ireland Survey



As part of the Social Enterprise Development Fund, Social Innovation Fund Ireland have created a survey to find out more about social enterprises in Ireland.

We're looking for your contribution.

The survey is anonymous and will take approx. 4 minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TMVFKHV>

WIT Students Visit Dunhill Ecopark



The photo depicts a group of third year students from the Waterford Institute of Technology who are studying the BA in Health Promotion. As part of their course they are taking a module called 'Community Development'. As part of that module they are required to visit some Community Development projects that are in situ in various communities, including rural communities such as the DFBA Social Enterprise. This site visit to Dunhill Eco Park offered students the opportunity to see first hand the successes that can be achieved by a Community working together.

BA in Health Promotion - Year 3 Community Development Module

Description of Module

The aim of the Community Development module is to examine the role of communities and the community development approach and examine the evidence regarding impacts on health, poverty, equality, social in/exclusion, local development and social change.

Topics that are covered as part of the module include:

1. Exploring the Community Development Approach and the advantages & disadvantages attached.
2. The principles of community-based work
3. Community development in Ireland – national policy & current practice.
4. National community development programmes.
5. The issues underpinning Community Development Work e.g. poverty, inequalities, lack of opportunities / resources, exclusion, racism, and how these are being addressed in communities.
6. The importance of completing a needs analysis within the community.
7. Measuring the impact of Community Development work.
8. The political nature of Community Development work.
9. Social analysis awareness.
10. Profile of the skills and competencies required of a Community Development Worker

Students are required to attend a number of Community Development site visits that are arranged as part of the module and well as undertaking a large project on a case study community of their choice whereby they must conduct a profile analysis of that community and an evaluation of one of its projects / programmes.

Lecturer:

Rosie Donnelly - Department of Sport and Exercise Science W.I.T.



Dr. Nabla Kennedy - Department of Science W.I.T. with 3rd year students on their visit to ICW ponds in Dunhill Ecopark on January 22nd 2018



The Following Links are Information that Might be of Interest to You!



Resource Efficiency Quick Wins for SMEs - published by SRWMO - easy ways of achieving cost savings and reducing environmental impact - waste, energy & water

Presentations from events run by the Green Business Programme in association with local organisations - recent events held in Carlow, Cashel and Nenagh

Smile Resource Exchange - New Case Study on re-use of Astro Turf, Powder Paints and Cable Reefs

A COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO FOOD POVERTY WITHIN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Established in 2015, Foodshare Kerry, a joint initiative of North, East & West Kerry Development and Saint Vincent de Paul, is the only Foodbank operating in County Kerry.

Foodshare Kerry is an independent not-for-profit organisation set up with the dual purpose of combating food poverty and foodwaste by operating a foodbank. We rescue quality surplus food from supermarkets and food producers and make it available to organisations who know how best to redistribute it to those in need.

Foodshare Kerry supports people living in food poverty in the Tralee and surrounding areas by linking food suppliers who have waste food with clients who require food.

The Rationale was clear from the onset:

Firstly, there is demand: A recent report state 1 in 9 in the County live in food poverty (impact report on food poverty). The high number of people in debt, low wage growth and high unemployment are all contributing to income pressure which contributes to food poverty. Secondly there is also a potential supply. Tonnes of food are dumped every year. Food suppliers attempt to reduce waste but nonetheless incur costs in dumping unwanted food.

FOOD POVERTY - Food Poverty is defined as inability to afford or access healthy food. It impacts most on children, lone parent families, the unemployed, ill, PWD and low income households. Food Poverty is on the rise in Ireland with over 600,000 people being affected in 2013 (DSP). Affordability is a key issue –low income houses spending up to a quarter of their income on food. The percentage of low paid workers is the 4th highest of 29 OECD countries. Kerry has one of the lowest disposable incomes in the Country. The issue of food poverty is a significant social inclusion issue in Ireland in which the situation was exacerbated by the economic crash. Food poverty means that someone missed a meal in the last fortnight because of a lack of money. "Lost Education", a study commissioned by children's charity Barnardos and Kellogg's, interviewed more than 500 primary and secondary school teachers about food. The findings were stark and worrying. Just under one in five teachers say they had seen an increase in the number of children arriving hungry at school. Almost 40 per cent of teachers said they had taken food into school for a child who is regularly hungry, while 19 per cent said children are arriving hungry for lessons every day. Just under a third of teachers have seen children fall asleep in the back of the classroom because they hadn't eaten.

FOODWASTE - Every year millions of tonnes of food are wasted needlessly by food retailers (supermarkets, restaurants, canteens) and also households. According to the study on "Food waste across EU27"¹ by Bio Intelligence Service for European Commission, around 90 million tons of food are wasted every year in Europe excluding the food which is wasted at production stage (agricultural production, post-harvest handling and storage). It is estimated that 180 kg per person of food goes to waste in Europe (excluding the primary agricultural and fisheries production phases of the supply chain). So, up to 50% of edible and healthy food gets wasted in EU households, supermarkets, restaurants and along the food supply chain every year. At the same time this perfectly edible food is going to land fill many people in society are going hungry as they cannot afford to purchase sufficient food for their families.

Foodshare uses INNOVATIVE APPROACHS everyday to tackle social, environmental & economic problems through a social enterprise model- we are the only Foodbank operating in Kerry, and the only group to tackle the issues of food poverty and food waste through social enterprise principles.

Foodshare Kerry has a REAL SOCIAL IMPACT. We target those most in need in the community - In 2016 we were awarded European Aid For the Most Deprived (FEAD) funding. This makes us the biggest provider of FEAD in the country. FEAD commenced in November 2016 and to date has moved a massive 850 ton of food to those most in need in the community including Homeless, children, people with disabilities and children.

Foodshare has a REAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. We are committed to benefiting the environment through reducing food waste - We are now in operation for almost 2 years with the prevention of 23 tons of food from landfill. We are proactive in raising awareness about foodwaste and the environmental impact of it

Foodshare is EMBEDDED IN COMMUNITY. We have created strong links with community & voluntary groups to provide essential services - We distribute 3 days per week to over 34 charitable groups and support both families and the particular target groups of the charities. We have prominent stakeholders at the foundation of the service, including St Vincent de Paul, North, East and West Kerry development and Kerry CoCo,

We provide SUPPORTED WORK EXPERIENCE to those to those most distanced from the labour market. Through the recruitment of staff from schemes such as TUS, RSS and CE we are providing supported employment to those most distant from the labour market, while also enhancing life skills, developing employment skills etc. for example driver training, warehouse training etc. We recognise and support the desire and ability of individuals to grow and improve, and the difficulties some people have to achieve this

Foodshare Kerry is growing from strength to strength each year. In 2016, we received support from Dormant Accounts to purchase a new refrigerated van. This year we have received news that we will receive a Community Service Programme contract from Pobal to assist the recruitment of staff within Foodshare. This important news will provide valuable employment in the area whilst also ensuring Foodshare can continue to have impact in the community.

[**Click here to visit their website!**](#)

New Event Series Aims to Strengthen Dublin's Social Impact Ecosystem

**LET'S
SPARK
SOCIAL
IMPACT!**
RSVP TODAY



According to the Social Enterprise Taskforce report Adding Value Delivering Change - The Role of Social Enterprise in National Recovery, social enterprise could create 65,000 jobs in Ireland. In Europe the social enterprise sector accounts for between 4% and 7% of GDP, but in Ireland it represents just 3%. Setting a European average target of 5% of GDP would provide at least 65,000 jobs and make a huge economic - as well as social - impact in Ireland.

How can we strengthen Ireland's social impact ecosystem? How can we coordinate efforts, raise awareness of supports and spark innovation and collaboration? How can we support existing social entrepreneurs and encourage new people to start something?

Key social entrepreneurship organisations are coming together to host the first and only get together for all social impact projects across Dublin.

On March 14th, the launch event of this new series - titled Catalyst - took place in the Chocolate Factory. At the event, social entrepreneurs came together to learn about supports, share ideas, explore common challenges, and brainstorm innovative solutions.

Catalyst's mission is to strengthen the social impact ecosystem in Dublin and to catalyse community collaboration. With a stronger ecosystem we can encourage more social enterprise to start and help reach that 65,000 target.

The series is hosted by Community Finance Ireland, a Charity which provides loans exclusively to other third sector organisations such as community groups, charities, sports clubs and social enterprises in the Republic of Ireland. Other organisations within the social impact ecosystem that have come on board as supporting partners include SEDCo, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, Social Enterprise Network, Ashoka, and the Social Innovation Fund Ireland.

The Catalyst series is unique in its design. While most events are top-down, with hosts guessing at what attendees want, Catalyst will be different. Connect the Dots, a start-up backed by Enterprise Ireland, have come on board to share their people-first event design process which uniquely gives attendees a say in the event content and format. By engaging attendees beforehand and co-creating events with them, Connect the Dots ensures that the events are as relevant, engaging, and impactful as possible. Catalyst, therefore, will be a unique event in both its content and format - the first event that is for social entrepreneurs...and by social entrepreneurs.

For more information, please contact:

Marisa Denker

marisa@connectthedots.ie

0892288108



Pictured above: The official opening of Ionad Naomh Pádraig in 2006 by President Mary McAleese

'Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair' is a community led development group based in a remote peripheral part of the Donegal Gaeltacht, who have been the primary engine for rejuvenation and the building of local community capacity since 1996. Our aspiration is to inspire people from all walks of life to believe in themselves and to make a difference in their life and the lives of others.

Raising over €710,000 worth of funding (including the community's own contribution of €125,000) culminated in the erection of the first phase of a local resource and enterprise centre (Ionad Naomh Pádraig). This key focal point for over 2,500 people within the community and its surrounding areas provides recreational, sports, social and cultural activities, educational and IT classes for approximately 1,180 people each week, within the facilities of its computer suite, auditorium/sports hall, games room, meeting spaces and enterprise unit.

2009 saw the completion of an €800,000 extension, providing a tea-room, heritage room with internet access, music & recording studio and additional classrooms. These facilities now enable community members to engage in cultural and research activities for both wider social and personal benefit. The tea-room is also an informal space for social interaction for all generations and especially the young people.



Pictured above: Scoil Phadraig Dobhar recording in the music room



Pictured above: Children doing arts and crafts

The entire 'package' of facilities now available between physical space and organised activities has generated many different platforms for the bringing together of people to share experiences. These people are of all abilities, many different social and economic backgrounds.

Voluntary members are an integral part of the management and organisation of the facility as well as participation in the wide range of activities available. The changing nature of community life and the economic difficulties now faced by our community members, has reinforced the need for our centre.

Our core vision is one in which we strive to make a real difference in the lives of those living in this disadvantaged Gaeltacht area. This can only be achieved through incremental steps in a process of support and direction provided to both young and old members, a process which by its very nature is a long term commitment.

The direction adopted by 'Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair' since its inception in 1996 has been both innovative in its approach and forward thinking in its methodology. Rather than acting as a sole voice/representative on behalf of the community, the committee seek to foster the ideals of community capacity building and engagement within all sections of the local community as a means to address and resolve issues previously viewed as insurmountable. In this way, all activities facilitated by the Coiste have become totally community led as opposed to being driven by external forces or sources of funding.



Pictured above: Mental Health Conference - Guest speaker Bressie (Niall Breslin)

Over the past 10 years, we have continued to build on our services and activities concentrating on job creation, natural environment, health & well-being.

We have completed, implemented and achieved our aims and objectives for the Centre and the surrounding area within our Development and Language Plan 2012 – 2016.

As part of our ten year celebrations we re-launched our heritage room with history and folklore archives, going back to the 1800s.

There is a strong passion for the Irish language and culture with an enthusiasm to keep what is unique in the area alive. Ionad Naomh Pádraig played an integral role in producing a 10 year Language Plan.

This plan is to be implemented over the next 7 years to preserve the Irish language in Gweedore and the Lower Rosses.

Donegal Cancer flights and Services operate as a sub-group of Ionad Naomh Pádraig, we were pleased to announce in December 2016 that we are now responsible for co-ordinating reduced flights for cancer patients and their companions using Donegal Airport to travel to Dublin to receive treatment for cancer related problems. We are working in close co-operation with the HSE and Donegal Airport to provide this service. We also provide free counselling services, pamper days, information days for Cancer patients and their carers and are affiliated to the Irish Cancer Society. We organised a major fundraiser in March in which we have raised approximately €14,000 to enable us to continue providing this service to cancer patients and their families.

Last year we launched a document "Investigating the Needs within the Community to Benefit Future Planning/Development of Services within the Community and Health Sector" in partnership with Bunbeg/Derrybeg Primary Care Team (Health Care Professionals). Both qualitative and quantitative data methods were used including focus groups, questionnaires and data analysis. Focus groups were conducted with 20 different groups across the geographical area. We continue to work on the initiatives and objectives as community involvement becomes a more integral part of our organisation.

The local needs assessment takes into account:

- Geographic considerations
- Social and demographic factors
- Community attitudes, views and expectations in terms of existing and future service provision
- Existing local health and voluntary services provision

We continue to work with Learn International and build on bringing international students on Erasmus Programmes. This year will see six groups visiting who are studying a variety of degree programmes, Medical Students, Youth Work, Bilingual Education, Heritage/History and Celtic Culture.

We welcome the return of Coláiste na bhFiann in June and July with students throughout Ireland will come to be enriched with our native Irish language and culture. This is of great economic benefit to the area with regards to mná tí, local shops and businesses.

Some of the new initiatives which we have established recently are a Women's Shed which is hugely popular and is going from strength to strength. We also employ a Social Prescribing Co-ordinator. Social prescribing is about supporting the health and wellbeing of people by using community based activities and supports such as exercise, gardening and also the opportunity to attend self help sessions such as stress control. The programme supports people's health and wellbeing or those isolated, stressed or depressed.

We continue to build on our ever increasing initiative 'Meitheal Oibre Tacaíochta' which is a project to assist the elderly with household chores and maintenance inside and out. We continue to employ two men under Scéim Tús, also an electrician, tiler, painter and cleaners on a voluntary basis.

We have a new member of staff under the Scéim Tús who has just completed a course in order to provide a new initiative in our Community Garden, this will involve working with the children from the adjacent school to become more hands on and creative in organic gardening.



Pictured above: Clannad at the official opening of the community garden.

We organise and execute a yearly event in conjunction with the Primary Care Team. The first year we organised a hugely successful Mental Health Awareness Event, last year we held the Caring for Carer's Event and this year we will focus on Primary School children with regards to healthy living.

Over the past 10 years Ionad Naomh Pádraig has created a core foundation of community capacity in which we continue to build social and economic initiatives. We have carried out major refurbishment works over the past two years in order that we can maintain and continue to deliver additional activities. Experience has shown us that both young and old continue to benefit from our efforts, however we firmly believe that much more can and needs to be done in our community to help address and tackle the area's clear problem of economic and social disadvantage.

[Click here to visit their website!](#)