



Donal Cashman, Chairman Enable Ireland, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO Enable Ireland, cycling legend Seán Kelly, Miss Kerry Helena Hanbridge, Cllr. Brian Bermingham, Lord Mayor of Cork and Miss Cork Jean Kenny pictured at the Launch of the Tour de Munster 2008 Charity Cycle in aid of Enable Ireland.



L-R: Sean Kelly, Cyclist, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Enable Ireland, Paul Sheridan, Organiser, Tour de Munster, Sean Scally, Regional Fundraising Manager, Enable Ireland pictured at the cheque presentation dinner in November 08.



Service user Martin Coleman (front) with Enable Ireland and Tour de Munster representatives

TOUR DE MUNSTER

This August, Enable Ireland was the beneficiary of the 8th annual Tour de Munster. More than 70 amateur cyclists took part in a gruelling 600km trek across all the counties of Munster to raise over €110,000 for Enable Ireland services in the region.

On the 17th August Sean Kelly, an avid supporter of the Tour De Munster joined the cyclists for breakfast prior to their departure. He then set off for the Cork City Hall with the group where supporters included the Lord Mayor of Cork Brian Bermingham and Chairman of Enable Ireland, Donal Cashman. Heavy rain did not deter this group who were committed to this test of endurance for a worthy cause.

This adventure was the culmination of months of preparation by the cyclists and the journey saw them cycle from Cork city into County Waterford for a big climb at the Vee and through Tipperary

and Limerick to Killaloe, County Clare. Day two took in Limerick and North Kerry, via Tralee to Castlegregory. Day three saw more big climbs over the Conor Pass and Molls Gap as they make their way via Dingle, Killarney and Kenmare to Lauragh on the Beara Peninsula. Day four started with a tough climb over the Healy Pass and finish in Cork city.

A love of cycling is the thread that connects this eclectic group of people and a desire to make a difference to the community at large. Paul Sheridan, Tour Organiser, is passionate about the Tour De Munster and as the driving force behind the event maintains that there is a great camaraderie between the cyclists who keep each other going through the difficult stretches of the journey.

Special thanks to our media sponsors
The Irish Examiner, RED FM and Radio Kerry

Pedal Passion raises over **€188,000** for Enable Ireland in summer 2008



Mayor of Kerry pictured with some Enable Ireland representatives at the cheque presentation for the Ring of Kerry cycle, which raised over €352,000 for four charities.

RING OF KERRY CYCLE

TAKING TO THE SKIES!

On Saturday 20th September 2008 six brave souls including a service user from Limerick took to the skies to complete a sky dive from 10,000ft, free falling 5,000ft to raise funds and awareness for Enable Ireland. Taking part in the tandem jump with Skydive Ireland were Michelle McManus and her son Mark, Louise Ryan and her brother Mark and their friend Neil O' Brien and last but certainly not least Gerard O' Grady a service user completed a tandem jump with Skydive Ireland. The facilities at the Silvermines had full access, as was the plane to all wheelchair users and we would like to thank all the staff at Skydive Ireland for the support they gave us on the day. All the skydives can be viewed on the website, www.skydiveireland.ie.

Congratulations to all.



Barbra Walshe and her brother Andrew, who attends Limerick Adult services, before they took to the skies for Enable Ireland!



AIB BETTER FOR ENABLE IRELAND

Enable Ireland Disability Services in Kilkenny, North Tipperary, Tralee and Cork are set to benefit from this years AIB Better Ireland Awards.

In May 2008 communities around Ireland have been voted for local children's projects that they felt was most deserving of the €10,000 that each AIB branch had to offer. Voting closed on June 6, with winners announced on the 30 June.

In Kilkenny, beneficiaries of the Dublin Road and Thomastown branches, the centre has earmarked the Better Ireland money to buy a specialist electronic mobility device which improves independence, spatial awareness, and self-esteem, encourages use of initiative and improves interaction with peers.

In Tralee, money will go towards the new Children's Services centre (see page 3) and in Tipperary, it will go towards the planned respite centre.

The School of the Divine Child in Cork, will benefit from the Cork Music works, Cork Institute of Technology branch success. The school celebrate 50 years of excellence in education in January 2009 and will celebrate success through music performance with partners in CIT and Cork Musicworks.

The Better Ireland Programme focuses on enhancing the lives of children effected by physical or sensory disabilities, intellectual or general learning disabilities, drug or alcohol abuse, homelessness or lack of access to mainstream education due to poverty.



Pictured at the launch of the Big Buster Night at the Dogs in May are L-R Dave & Eoin Kiely, Ger & Ronan Flaherty, Oliver Hester Galway Greyhound Track & Joanne Murphy, Enable Ireland.

GALWAY GOES TO THE DOGS

The second ever Enable Ireland Big Buster night at the Dogs was held at Galway Greyhound Stadium in May and was a great night for families and friends, old and young alike. The event was a tremendous success with funds raised through ticket and advertising sales as well as race sponsorship. The human celebrity race was won by Declan Varley of the Galway Advertiser who retained his title from last year.

MAYO WALK



Enable Ireland Mayo Services and Western Care Association were the beneficiaries of the Belmullet to Inver 10 mile walk on the 1 July. Cheques to the value of €4,000 were presented to each organisation on the night at a function held in the Lighthouse Tavern in Inver. Pictured here L-R are Mary Mulryan, Enable Ireland Mayo and Kathleen Ruddy who nominated Enable Ireland as beneficiaries of the event.



Pictured: Attendees at the 2008 Mid Summer Ball which took place at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in June

MIDSUMMER MAGIC AND HIGH SPIRITS AT ENABLE IRELAND MIDSUMMER BALL!

On 21 June, over 170 guests at the 4th Enable Ireland Midsummer Ball were in high spirits in the historic surroundings of the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. Guests were more than enthusiastic about spending time inside the magnificent building to raise money for children and adults with disabilities in Dublin and Wicklow.

Guests were highly entertained on arrival by MC Paul Collins, of Today FM fame, and auctioneer Paddy Mulligan, former Irish International and soccer pundit.

The Legato Singers and The Soul Sisters set the musical tone for the night, which saw us raise valuable funds to the tune of €30,000. All proceeds will go towards our Dublin and Wicklow Services, which this year provided over 300 children and 110 adults with our community-outreach and centre-based services.



EVENTS CALENDAR

19 NOVEMBER 2008

Galway Night of Giving

Enable Ireland Galway are one of 14 charities to benefit from the Night of Giving at the Eyre Square Shopping Centre on Wednesday 19 November 2008. This exclusive shopping event provides an opportunity to avail of many discounts across the Centre for one night only! To avail of the discounts simply purchase a 'Night of Giving' Ticket for just €10 to have exclusive access to the Eyre Square Shopping Centre on the night. Tickets also include car parking at the Centre on the night. Proceeds from the sale of the tickets will directly benefit Enable Ireland. This is an excellent opportunity to avail of discounts on presents and gifts for family and friends in time for Christmas. To purchase your ticket in support of Enable Ireland call Joanne on 091 526 321 or email galwayfr@enableireland.ie. This event will also be held in Scotch Hall Shopping Centre in Drogheda

21 NOVEMBER 2008

Postural Management : Equipment Exhibit and Evaluation Day

Enable Ireland Eastern Region Postural Management Service will host a Posture Positioning and Seated Mobility Equipment Evaluation Day on Friday the 21 November from 9.30am. The event will take place at their centre in Sandymount. This day event is for service users and service providers and will include the following equipment: Manual Wheelchairs, Powered Wheelchairs Buggies, Night Positioning Systems, Buggies. For more information and to register for this event contact Linda on 01 261 5926 or email lwynne@enableireland.ie.

23 NOVEMBER / 30 NOVEMBER / 15 DECEMBER

Retail volunteer 'Thank You' Lunches for the East, South and West.

These events are invitation only. For further details contact Bernie Creaner on eiretailadmin@enableireland.ie or 01-8857161.

28 NOVEMBER 2008

Mayo : Club Stars Charity Banquet

The Mayo News Club Stars Charity Banquet in association with O'Neill's & AIB Bank will take place on Friday November 28 at 7.30 pm in the Knockranny Hotel Westport. Master of Ceremonies is Liam Horan. Guest speaker on the night is former Armagh GAA football Manager Joe Kernan. All Proceeds to Enable Ireland Mayo Services. Tickets costing €60 are available from Mary Mulryan at 0949060234.

1 DECEMBER 2008

Official Opening of the Galway Hydrotherapy pool

Minister for Health, Mary Harney TD officially opens the Galway Hydrotherapy pool.

15 DECEMBER 2008

Cork Adults Service Centre Official Opening, Little Island

Minister Micheal Martin TD will perform the official opening of the Adults Services Centre in Little Island.

25 DECEMBER 2008

Galway: Christmas Day Swim

The Christmas Day Swim in Salthill has become a permanent fixture of the Enable Ireland Galway Fundraising Calendar. Despite the chilly waters and sometimes biting wind the sponsored swim on Christmas Morning in Galway Bay is great fun. The prom is thronged with people and families young and old socialising and supporting those brave enough to dip in the sea. Why not challenge your friends and family to take part and build up your appetite for Christmas Dinner! If you would like to participate this year in aid of Enable Ireland Galway or would like more information contact Joanne on 091-526321 or email galwayfr@enableireland.ie.

19 – 23 JANUARY 2009

AT Training Course 1 – University of Limerick

Contact Shirley Deakin at sdeakin@enableireland.ie for further details.

6 MARCH 2009

Grid 2 Workshop

Train the trainer advanced workshop targeting participants who wish to be able to train others in the use of this software. Contact Shirley Deakin at sdeakin@enableireland.ie for further details.

26 APRIL 2009

Galway : London Marathon

Participate in the Flora London Marathon 2009 in aid of Enable Ireland. Places are now available on the Enable Ireland Marathon Team. The Enable Ireland London Marathon package includes:

- Guaranteed Race Entry plus coach from hotel to race start for runners
- Return flights ex Dublin, Cork, Shannon or Belfast, including all taxes and fees
- 2 nights accommodation as booked in a standard twin/ Double room, with buffet breakfast at the 4 star Melia Whitehouse Hotel
- Travel Insurance
- Guide services during the time in London.

The fundraising target for London 2009 is €1750 per participant. For more information or to register you interest contact Joanne on 091 526 321 or email galwayfr@enableireland.ie

17 MAY 2009

Kerry Choral Society Concert

The Kerry Choral Society will be holding a concert in aid on Enable Ireland Kerry Services on 17th May at St Brendan's Church Tralee. For further information please contact Sean Scally on 066-7128220 or email sscally@enableireland.ie

18-21 MAY 2009

AT Training Course 1 – University of Limerick.

Contact Shirley Deakin at sdeakin@enableireland.ie for further details.

16 – 18 SEPTEMBER, 14-16 OCTOBER & 11-13 NOVEMBER 2009

AT Training Course 2 – Microsoft HQ.

Contact Shirley Deakin at sdeakin@enableireland.ie for further details.

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Please send your news, views, reviews, comments and photo's to the editor at the above email address by mid-February 2009.

We Wish You A Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

EDITORIAL MATTERS

We are delighted to bring the Winter 2008 / 2009 edition of our national newsletter. As you are aware the newsletter aims to provide a forum for exchange of information and acts as a communication tool for staff, service users, their families and other associated bodies. We hope that readers find this newsletter a useful source of information on what's happening in Enable Ireland and beyond.

Thanks to all who so enthusiastically contributed to this issue and we look forward to another bumper issue in Spring 2009.

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