

# National Newsletter

## TAOISEACH LAUNCHES ENABLE IRELAND STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2008



Hailey Byrne (age 7) presents a St. Valentine's Day memento to An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern T.D. at the launch of the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008 at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham.

An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern T.D. recently launched the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008 at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. He joined forces with Donal Cashman, Chairman of Enable Ireland, and Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO. Speaking of his support for the Strategic Plan to a gathering of 100 stakeholders, the Taoiseach announced that the Government would shortly be considering proposals for the allocation of €18 million from the Dormant Account Fund for services for people with disabilities. Following his speech, Hailey Byrne (7) presented a St Valentine's Day memento to the Taoiseach to commemorate his visit.

The plan creates a blueprint for the future,

mapping out how Enable Ireland will use a projected €100 million euro of State funding over the next three years to provide services for people with disabilities.

The launch was an excellent opportunity to promote the Strategic Plan 2006 - 2008 at national level. It was attended by members of the Enable Ireland Board, service users, staff, supporters and well-known figures from the disability sector. Fionnuala O'Donovan presented a detailed outline of the plan. In a moving speech, Enable Ireland Chairman Donal Cashman stressed the need for people throughout Ireland to promote equality and inclusion for people with disabilities and for disability legislation to be reinforced at all levels. He used the example of a recent walk through

a newly-built housing estate, where he had witnessed doorways and footpaths too narrow for a buggy or wheelchair to navigate.

At the post-launch reception, the Enable Ireland Board of Directors, Staff and Stakeholders mingled with guests and media.

According to Fionnuala O'Donovan, "The plan takes into consideration the enormous challenges that Enable Ireland faces in moving forward and the fundamental changes and advances in the health and disability sectors. New quality initiatives in how we deliver our service and advances in the way that we work will be the hallmark of our services in the future. We look forward to implementing the plan and making further strides in providing quality services to people with disabilities".

The Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008 was launched in 14 regions during January and February. See pgs 2 and 3 for regional coverage and pg 9 for a summary of the plan.



Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO Enable Ireland, An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern T.D., Hailey Byrne and Donal Cashman, Chairman Enable Ireland at the national launch of the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008.

### FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DESK

I am delighted to bring you the first and a very special edition of the National Newsletter for 2006. Enable Ireland has had a momentous start to the year, with the launch of the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008. In January, a series of launches took place around the country, culminating in a national launch with An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern on 13th February, in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. This newsletter records these events.

An Implementation group will report annually on the progress of the Strategic Plan. I will chair the group and members are drawn from Services, Retail and Fundraising and Head Office staff. The group met in February and March and its first task is to agree the system to record our achievements against objectives set out in the Strategic Goals. Progress reports will be collated annually and formally reported in January of each year.

I look forward to the Plan's implementation and being part of "one team with one purpose".

Fionnuala O'Donovan

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# NATIONAL STRATEGY 2006 – 2008: SNAPSHOT OF THE REGIONAL LAUNCHES

Across the country, Directors of Services launched the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008 in 14 regions throughout January and February. Launches were attended by stakeholders, donors, volunteers and staff and many local TD's, Mayors, members of Town Councils and representatives from the Health Service Executive. Enable Ireland CEO Fionnuala O'Donovan presented the plan with the Director of Services at each location. The presentation outlined the main points of the Strategic Plan, and Enable Ireland's commitment to providing quality disability services now and in the future. Presentations were followed with question and answer sessions. Local press and radio stations covered the event throughout the regions. A special thank you to all regional staff who worked so hard to make these launches a success for the organisation.

## MAYO



*Pictured at the Mayo Launch, back L-R: Frank Murray, Local Health Manager of Primary & Community Care Mayo, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Theresa Compagno, Regional Director of Services and Jimmy Mulryan, Board Member. Front L-R: Clare Lenehan, Director of Services and Mary Mulryan.*

## GALWAY

*Pictured at the Galway launch, L-R: Clare Lenehan, Director of Services, Pdraig McCormack T.D., Theresa Compagno, Regional Director of Services, Dr Kevin Dunne, Consultant Paediatrician and Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO.*



## MID WEST - LIMERICK, CLARE & TIPPERARY CORK



*Pictured at the Mid West launch, back L-R: Carol Hanly, Nancy Geary, Dolores Ryan, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO and Tony Murphy, Director of Services. Front L-R: Rebecca Hannon, Tommy Quille, Deirdre Corry and Gerard O'Grady.*



*Pictured at the Cork launch, L-R: Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Pat Beirne, Director of Services, Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr Deirdre Clune and Donal Cashman, Chairman.*

## KERRY



*Pictured at the Kerry launch: standing, L-R: Pat Beirne, Director of Services, Mary Relihan, Sean Scally. Seated, L-R: Paula Henry and Ross O'Connor.*

## KILKENNY



*Pictured at the Kilkenny launch: Back L-R: Fidelma Murphy, National Director of Adult Services, Cllr Andrew McGuinness, Finbar McCann, Head of Finance and HR, John McGuinness T.D. and Phil Hogan T.D. Front L-R: Siobhan Long, National Director of Assistive Technology, Lucy Dooley, Director of Services, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO and Theresa Compagno, Regional Director of Services.*

**WICKLOW**

*Pictured at the Wicklow launch, L-R: John O'Sullivan, Regional Director of Services, Cllr Caroline Burrell, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Triona Kearns, Director of Services, John O'Donovan, Health Services Executive and Cllr John Brady.*



**DUBLIN ADULT SERVICES**



*Pictured at the Dublin Adult Services launch: Back L-R: Dolores Waldron, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO and Amy Waldron. Front L-R: Sheila Walsh and A.J. Walsh.*

**MEATH**

*Pictured at the Meath launch, L-R: Ann Kelly, Retail Regional Manager and Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO with Deirdre Reid, Mairead Reynolds, Bridgid Murphy and Margaret Tiernan from the Enable Ireland Drogheda shop.*



**CAVAN & MONAGHAN**



*Pictured at the Monaghan launch, L-R: Alison Milford, Sharon Goldrick, Gary Goldrick, Gary Goldrick Junior, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, and Mary Fox, Director of Services.*

**DUBLIN CHILDREN'S SERVICES**



*Pictured at the Dublin Children's Services launch, L-R: Chris Kane, Children's Services Manager, Dorothy Barry, Retail & Fundraising Director, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Ann Kelly, Retail Regional Manager, Kathleen Maczka, Director of Services and Michael Gallagher, Cookstown Recycling.*

**KILDARE**

*Pictured at the Kildare launch, L-R: Niall McGuire, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Lucia Quealy, Geraldine Kelly and Willie Callaghan.*



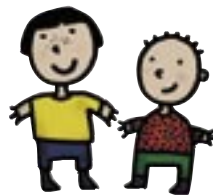
**TALLAGHT**



*Pictured at the Tallaght launch, L-R: Margaret Fitzpatrick, Health Services Executive, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Mary Duggan, Health Services Executive and Anna Meegan, Director of Services.*

RESEARCH

CP RESEARCH CONTINUES



In November, Vicki McManus of Enable Ireland Cork presented a paper on Dyskinetic Cerebral Palsy at the European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD) in Monaco. This paper, entitled "Dyskinetic cerebral palsy in Europe: Trends in Prevalence and Severity", was produced as part of the SCPE (Study of participation of children with cerebral palsy living in Europe) collaboration.

(SCPE). Dyskinetic cerebral palsy (CP) is characterized by abnormal patterns of posture and /or movement, accompanied by involuntary, uncontrolled, recurring, and occasionally stereotyped movements.

According to the report, cerebral palsy remains the most common cause of significant motor disability in childhood. For the past decade, the incidence of cerebral palsy in Europe has remained constant at a rate of 2 per 1000 live births

This was part of a multicentre collaborative study including all children born with cerebral palsy between the years 1976-1996. SCPE is the largest international collaboration of CP registers.

Further information from Vicki McManus: Enable Ireland Cork, Lavanagh Centre, Ballintemple, Cork, Ireland. Tel: 021 4294803 e-mail: vmcmanus@enableireland.ie

STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS FOR PARENTS

A series of discussion groups with parents of children with cerebral palsy took place in 2005. These focus groups were devised to help develop a relevant measure of environment for children with disabilities in European countries, building on preliminary studies in the UK which had suggested some potentially important themes. Parents of 28 children with cerebral palsy from five countries participated (Denmark, France, Italy, Republic of Ireland and Sweden). One focus group was held in each country with an average of seven parents per group. The research was qualitative in nature. Details of this study have been published in Child: Health Care & Development Jan 2006. The project was implemented by V. Mc Manus, S.I. Michelsen, K. Parkinson, A. Colver, E. Beckung, O. Pez and B. Caravale.

TRAINING

42 TEAMS – EFQM UPDATE

Implementation of the EFQM Model in Enable Ireland was rolled out through 2005 and the hard work continues into 2006. The Training Department is pleased to announce that there are currently 42 teams nationwide

across Enable Ireland - approximately 500 staff members - actively engaged in the EFQM results setting process and it is their intention to ultimately involve everyone in the organisation in this process.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: 1ST JUNE, 2006 SHARE THE LEARNING IN 2006 – "COMMUNICATION"

1<sup>st</sup> June is the date set for this year's 'Share the Learning' event. This internal event for Enable Ireland staff will take place at the Radisson Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick. Last year's conference held at Croke Park, Dublin was a great success and the organising team looks forward to building on experience and feedback gained in 2005 to produce an even more informative and action-packed

learning event in 2006. The theme for this year's conference is 'Communication'.

Proposals are currently being invited for Poster Displays, Workshops and Formal Presentations. Contact Renee O'Donovan at regionaloffice@enableireland.ie for further information.

Terry Datson, Director of Training, Enable Ireland and Des Fitzgerald, Training Centre Manager in Cork make a presentation at the 2005 'Share the Learning' Conference.



NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE OF IRELAND

TÁNAISTE LAUNCHES NEW NAI WEBSITE



The Tánaiste, Mary Harney T.D. launches the NAI website with NAI members.

The Tánaiste launched the new Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) website, www.nai.ie, on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2005 in the Alexander Hotel, Dublin. Enable Ireland is a member organisation of the NAI.

The NAI site is intended as a valuable resource for all those interested in the development of Neurology services in this country and as a one stop shop to update users and health professionals on the service needs of people with neurological conditions. The

NAI also launched a new information leaflet on 9<sup>th</sup> September. It provides details of the aims, activities and contact details of all the NAI member organisations. This leaflet is seen as a valuable resource for neurology departments, general medical centres, health practitioners and other community organisations and is a one stop shop source of information on supports available to people with neurological conditions. Copies of the new leaflet are available on request from the NAI office at 01 8724120 or by

**MID WEST**

**ENABLE IRELAND AND LSAD GIVE WHEELCHAIRS A FUNKY MAKEOVER**

Enable Ireland and Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD) joined forces on 2nd February 2006 to showcase an innovative project which will change the face of wheelchairs forever. Students of the LSAD Fashion Department teamed up with service users to design funky accessorised wheelchairs, customised to reflect the individual's personality.

Twenty-four third year students from LSAD, under the guidance of Course Co-ordinator Patricia Kielthy, took up the challenge: to change the way a regular wheelchair looks. "We were approached by Enable Ireland to come up with an inventive way of making wheelchairs a little bit funkier. It is a great way for every wheelchair user to express themselves. People modify their cars all the time and wheelchairs, as a mode of transport, can now experience the same makeover. This project is part of our overall



*Stephen O'Donoghues "Come on baby light my fire" wheelchair designed by Katie McDonnell, a third year fashion student form the Limerick School of Art and Design.*

disability awareness programme and we really feel it will be beneficial to all parties involved," she said.

Students travelled to the Enable Ireland Services Centre in Limerick, and spoke with individual wheelchair users to identify their design preferences. Service users at the centre were thrilled at this initiative and enjoyed working with the fashion students on the project.

The fruits of their work were revealed in a fashion show in Enable Ireland's Limerick

Adult Services Centre, where individual service users displayed the final designs.

According to Dolores Ryan, Centre Manager, the project is a positive move forward. "Wheelchairs tend to be very generic. A wheelchair is a mode of transport but it can also be a mode of personal expression. Each service user was able to discuss their ideas with the students and together they have created themed chairs that are unique to each person. We are delighted with the great results – they range from the very subtle to the utterly glamorous!" she said.

**DUBLIN**

**AFTER-SCHOOLS SPORTS IN SANDYMOUNT**

Enable Ireland Sandymount began an after-school sports programme in early autumn 2005. Activities are held in Sandymount from 3 – 4 pm every Monday. The programme is open to children attending the Sandymount school and support services. Sports include boccia and football as well as a range of other activities.

Enable Ireland Sandymount would like to invite other centres to get involved. In the future, the centre would like to develop matches between centres to give the children an equal opportunity to participate in friendly competition as most of their peers do. They also invite volunteers to help out and welcome any suggestions on training for different sports (volleyball, basketball, hurling etc).

For more information, please contact the physiotherapy department at 01 261 5900.

*Dylan Nelson, Darragh Hogan, Ian Lambkin, Joshua Lakin and Ayoub Deboub enjoying the programme.*



**NORTH EAST**

**PARENT PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION IN MEATH**

Enable Ireland Meath Services provides Early Intervention Services to children and families in Trim and Dunshaughlin. As a result a strong partnership with parents has developed. Ursula Hickey, a parent from the Meath service presented a 4 week Lámh Sign Course to parents and Special Needs Assistants assisted by an Enable Ireland staff member. Ursula said that she "loved doing it, giving knowledge to other people which can help them". This partnership approach gave a new perspective to families who are learning this manual sign system to support their child's communication. It gave parents a "living with Lámh " perspective.

Orla Murray attended the International Conference on Services for Children in the early years in November 2005. Orla, along with other members of the Best Practice Group, will feed back from a parental perspective on the conference at our next Regional Early Services Meeting.

Karen Halpin attended the Enable Ireland National External Conference in September 2005. She fed back from a parent's perspective to other parents and staff. She said "the conference allowed me to see the bigger perspective of Enable Ireland and the vast range of facilities provided to people who attend services nationwide".

# NEW LOOK FOR SHOPS



A glimpse of a new-style shop interior.

Enable Ireland has 19 retail outlets throughout the country. They stretch from Cork to Sligo, with 6 situated in Dublin. Selling donated items from high quality, branded clothing to books, jewellery and bric-a-brac, the shops deliver a great contribution to the Enable Ireland fundraising mix. The shops network has been the backbone of Enable Ireland fundraising for nearly 20 years. Almost 400 staff, volunteers and drivers play their part in Enable Ireland's retail success.

In order to maintain our position as a leader in the charity shop sector, the shops have undergone a major face-lift with advice from Brown Thomas (Cork) design team adding new interiors throughout the network over the past twelve months. New floors, bright colour schemes and distinctive branding

all add to an exciting new look for the retail arm of Enable Ireland.

The shops rely on the generosity of the public who donate through house collections, textile banks and, of course, directly to the shops themselves. Each shop is run by a team of staff and volunteers whose tireless work is always appreciated. Many of our volunteers have been with Enable Ireland for 10 years and more. Without them, the shops would not be so successful and we thank them all on behalf of Enable Ireland.

The future is brighter for Enable Ireland Retail as we continue to offer excellent value for money. So remember to pop into a store near you and see us in our new style!

## HOW TO DONATE

19 Enable Ireland shops nationwide.

90 textile banks.

Workplace 'Bring Back' days – why not organise one of these in your place of work?

Allocate a day for staff to bring in saleable goods and Enable Ireland will arrange to collect them.

Contact: [communications@enableireland.ie](mailto:communications@enableireland.ie)

### WHAT TO DONATE

- Clean ladies, gents and children's clothing
- Shoes
- Jewellery
- Handbags
- Hats & belts
- Ornaments
- Mirrors & clocks
- Toys & games
- Curtains
- Towels & linens
- Crockery, cutlery & glassware
- Books & magazines
- Unwanted gifts
- Bric-a-brac
- Collectibles & antiques



### WE DON'T ACCEPT

- Electrical goods
- Furniture
- Broken items
- Soiled items
- Carpets
- Household rubbish



Gina Hyde, Caroline Harrington, Mary Radley, Mary Margaret O'Sullivan, Eileen O'Reilly and Mary O'Sullivan at Enable Ireland North Main Street, Cork pictured at the 'Window Sale Competition' day.

## SANTA SPOTTED IN NORTH MAIN STREET, CORK

On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005, Santa made a guest appearance in the Enable Ireland North Main Street shop. Children arrived at the shop in droves to visit Santa's Grotto. The fundraising initiative was arranged as part of a "Window Sale Competition Day", a friendly competition held between the 19 Enable Ireland Shops nationwide. North Main Street went on to take 1<sup>st</sup> place in the competition.

# RETAIL VOLUNTEERS CHECK OUT ENABLE IRELAND WAREHOUSE

Some long serving Enable Ireland volunteers, Ann Carroll, Mary Finn, Francis Farrell, Betty Grant, Noreen Fennell, Aileen Stone, Rita Boyce, Marie Dalton, Kathleen Cloak, Bridget Whitty, Mary Nolan, Margaret McCarthy, Kitty Woods and Jean Ryan.



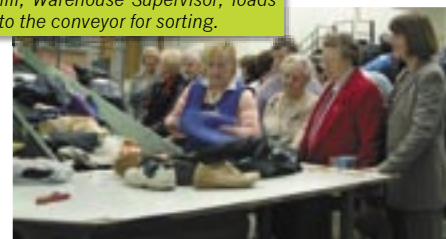
On 10<sup>th</sup> February, Enable Ireland's long-serving Retail Volunteers finally got a chance to see first-hand how the Enable Ireland warehouse operates. Many of the people pictured have been volunteering for Enable Ireland for more than ten years and are the backbone of the retail shop network. Ann Kelly, Regional Manager East/Warehouse, and Ken Girvan, Area Manager East, greeted the volunteers on arrival and provided a sandwich lunch with the opportunity for exchange of information and networking.

Warehouse Manager Stephen Cahill gives volunteers a tour of the warehouse.



Stephen Cahill, Warehouse Manager and supervisor Monica Cahill gave a demonstration of how clothes are received, sorted and distributed to the shops, or sent for recycling. Many volunteers remarked how interesting it was to see this part of the process and to visit the Retail & Fundraising warehouse.

Monica Cahill, Warehouse Supervisor, loads footwear onto the conveyor for sorting.



The warehouse conveyor system.



Stephen explains the finer points of the system.



Stephen and Monica demonstrate the sorting process to volunteers.



Volunteers show off the Enable Ireland badges

## SPECIAL VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT DRIVE LAUNCHED IN MARCH 2006

In March 2006 Enable Ireland launched a special Volunteer recruitment drive nationwide.

### Did you know?

As little as three hours a week can make a real difference! Choose from a selection of 19 locations. Full training provided.

To become a volunteer call:

**1850 204 304.**

Enable Ireland relies on the goodwill of volunteers to facilitate the development of services for people with disabilities. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and donors around the country. We really appreciate your support.



Naoimh Herlihy, Marie Ryan, Sinead Power, Rebecca Kenny and Rachel O'Neill at the Enable Ireland Clonmel shop.

## GAISCE VOLUNTEERS IN CLONMEL

The Enable Ireland shop in Clonmel has benefited from a unique volunteering scheme for young people. The Gaisce Award programme is open to all young people between the ages of 15 and 25. Participants, in consultation with their President's Award leader, set themselves challenges in the areas of Skill, Community, Physical and Adventure. As part of their 'Community' module, Transition Year pupils from the local Loreto and Presentation Convents decided to volunteer for Enable Ireland. Over a period of months, three pupils from the Loreto Convent, Clonmel and four from the Presentation

Convent have been volunteering for one hour per week in the Clonmel shop.

On successful completion of all elements of the Gaisce Programme, participants earn a special 'President's Award'. However Sheila Slattery, Manager of the Enable Ireland Clonmel shop, was delighted to note that many of the young people continued to volunteer after the award finished.

Many thanks to everybody who has volunteered for Enable Ireland via the Gaisce programme.

MID WEST

MY DAY AS MASCOT FOR THE MUNSTER RUGBY TEAM.

My name is Brendan Laffan, I'm 13 years old and I am blind. I was chosen as mascot for the Munster and Sale match on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2006. I was very excited to be leading out the Munster team in Thomond Park and it was my first time going to a rugby match.

We got our tickets, programme, Munster cap and flag from Trish Brewitt, Enable Ireland before the game began. I then met lots of famous people. I met Alan Quinlan's mother, the Limerick's Live 95 FM Commentator Len Dineen, Rob Henderson and I also met Tracey Piggott. After a while we were allowed into the dressing room. While I was in there I met Pat Geraghty, Jerry Holland, Declan Kidney, Kirsty Peacock, Frankie Sheahan, Christian Cullen and, of course, my hero Alan Quinlan.

Meanwhile the fans were gathering on the stands and terraces and shouting for their teams. Then after a while it was so noisy that I put cotton wool in my ears and put my Munster hat over my ears. I was waiting near the dressing rooms for my walk with Munster team onto Thomond Park. The Sale team went out first on to the pitch. Then it was my turn to walk out with the captain, Anthony Foley. I met Anthony and told him that I was feeling nervous about

walking out to the pitch. He told me that we would walk out slowly on to the pitch. When we were walking out I could hear the crowd roaring. The noise was fantastic. I was waving to the crowd and speeded up my walk, Anthony pulled me by the jersey, and he said "will you slow down". Some people took me to the side when we reached the pitch and the crowd took pictures of me and Anthony. I was taken back to the dressing rooms to my Mum and Dad.

We got to our seats and my dad set up the radio so I could listen to Len Dineen and Rob Henderson commentating on the match. Then the first half began. In the first half Munster scored three tries, the try scorers were Ian Dowling, Anthony Foley and Barry Murphy and Ronan O'Gara kicked three conversions and a penalty. There was an injury to one of the Sale players at one stage in the first half. While they were treating him Len Dineen said hello to me on the radio and told me the score. Sale kicked three penalties from their kicker Charlie Hodgson. The half time score read Munster 24 Sale 9.

In the second half Munster attacked looking for the fourth try but could not seem to score. Meanwhile Sale were giving Munster a "dose of their own medicine" (quote from

Len Dineen). In injury time David Wallace scored the fourth and final try, the crowd went wild and I was very happy. Ronan O'Gara kicked the conversion. Then the referee blew the final whistle. The final score read Munster 31 Sale 9.

After the match I got to meet the players and got one of the Munster player's socks. The players all signed my Munster jersey. I congratulated all the try scorers. When I left the Munster dressing room I passed by the very quiet Sale dressing room, but I got a pair of socks from them as well.

It was a day for me to remember and one I shall never forget. I would like to thank the Munster team for having me as mascot, Trish Brewitt for looking after me before the match, David Wallace for his socks, shorts and hoody and Alan Quinlan for all he has done for me.

*Brendan Laffan, an avid Munster Rugby fan!*



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

MICROSOFT AT GRADUATION 2005

On December 14th 2005, Microsoft hosted the graduation of the fifth High Tech Assistive Technology training course, certified by Dublin Institute of Technology. There were 20 graduates from a total enrolment of 25 students. Locating the AT course in Microsoft for the first time in 2005 led to an increase of 100% in enrolments, with a further waiting list of seven. Roberta Connolly, Catherine Merrigan, Denise Cooney and Leah

*The High Tech Assistive Technology Training Course Class of 2005 at their Graduation ceremony in Microsoft, where they were presented with their certificates by Tim O'Malley, T.D., Minister of State, Department of Health and Children.*

O'Toole all made presentations reflecting the content of their course project work.

This year's attendees were drawn from a range of local Enable Ireland services, as well as from the public sector (Department of Social and Family Affairs), from the third level sector and from the voluntary sector. The 2006 AT Course commenced on March 27th 2006, and was again hosted by Microsoft.



*The 2006 AT Course commenced on March 27th.*

FOCUS ON PERSON CENTRED PLANNING – AN ENABLE IRELAND CORE VALUE

Person-centred Planning, or PCP, is quite simply a form of planning that puts the person at its centre. In the past a 'top-down' approach was taken in the disability sector, whereby professionals decided what was best for service users and tried to provide it to them. PCP aims to turn that on its head, and form a 'bottom up' approach, whereby service users indicate what their needs are. The organisation then assists in identifying the necessary supports through the development of a 'circle of support' including community resources, family and friends, and staff, including PAs, centre coordinators, PCP

coordinator, supported employment coordinator or anyone else the service user chooses to involve.

PCP as a process empowers service users to take control of their own lives. It takes a holistic approach to the person, looking at wide-ranging areas including employment, education, relationships, social and political inclusion, environments and achievements, leaving us with a portrayal of who the person is and how they feel their life can be improved. The PCP system emphasises team-work, with the service-user at the

DUBLIN ADULT SERVICES

centre of that team. It also emphasises 'natural support networks' and aims to reduce dependence on the organisation. It requires ongoing communication between stakeholders, creative utilisation of all resources, good time management and mutual support between service users, staff and management.

The complete article about Person-centred Planning and how it operates in Dublin Adult Services is available to download from the website [www.enableireland.ie](http://www.enableireland.ie) or contact [communications@enableireland.ie](mailto:communications@enableireland.ie) for a copy.

“Enable Ireland’s mission is to enable those who use our services to achieve maximum independence, choice and inclusion in their communities. We will do this by offering a range of services and supports of the highest quality, in line with the needs and wishes of the service users and in active partnership with them.”

Enable Ireland is a leading national provider of services for people with disabilities and their families. We currently deliver services to 3,500 children and adults through a combination of centre-based and outreach services. Our services for children and their families cover all aspects of a child’s physical, educational, and social development from early infancy through adolescence. For adults we offer a range of services covering personal development, independent living, employment, and social and leisure activities.

The *Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006–2008* is a blueprint for the future, designed to direct our actions for the next three years. Enable Ireland’s vision and core values underpin all aspects of our work and highlight our commitment to excellence.

The Board of Enable Ireland is committed to directing the organisation in a manner that ensures person-centred, effective, efficient and safe services. New quality initiatives reflect our commitment to delivering services according to evidence-based best practice.

With its roots in voluntary action, Enable Ireland places central importance on partnerships with service users, their families, volunteers and supporters as well as a growing range of external bodies including Government Departments and the Health Service Executive. It sees this plan as a flexible tool to achieve challenging goals, promote excellence and meet statutory regulations and standards.

Enable Ireland’s success relies on the staff who provide the expertise and talent to deliver services and support activities. Staff recruitment, development and retention will be a strategic priority for the organisation. We are committed to providing a work environment that is dynamic and enriching. Enable Ireland will use its resources to provide the facilities, equipment and skills to ensure staff best meet the challenges of dynamic growth.



# CORE VALUES

The core values of Enable Ireland underpin the way in which we deliver services, interact with people and are held accountable. These values inform all our actions and ensure we achieve the highest standards in everything we do.

Our core values commit us to:

## **The Social Model of Disability**

Society must recognise and accommodate individual needs.

## **A Rights-Based Approach**

Enable Ireland recognises that all citizens have equal rights.

## **Person-Centredness**

All individuals have unique and diverse needs. Activities must accommodate this diversity; privacy and confidentiality will always be respected.

## **Independence**

Individuals have a right to self-determination regarding life choices.

## **Equality**

Enable Ireland promotes fairness, in line with equality of opportunity, equal access and legal rights.

## **Integrity**

Enable Ireland is honest, trustworthy and impartial and will stand by its values.

## **Quality**

Enable Ireland is committed to excellence in everything it does.

## **Transparency**

Everything Enable Ireland does is visible, clear and easy to understand.

## **Accountability**

Enable Ireland is responsible to the State and its stakeholders for its actions and decisions.

*Action on Disability*

# STRATEGIC GOALS 2006–2008

The way forward for the next three years will be guided by nine strategic goals. In setting our strategic goals, Enable Ireland is aware of the profound changes occurring in the external environment. The passage of significant new legislation has contributed to a policy framework that emphasises rights rather than traditional charitable models. We increasingly operate in an atmosphere of externally directed standards, quality systems, value for money initiatives and competition from external providers. We must reflect these realities in our thinking, in our practice and in our approach to implementing our strategic goals.

## Children's Services

Enable Ireland will deliver high quality services to children and families using person-centred approaches and in line with evidence-based best practice.

## Adult Services

Through a person-centred approach, Enable Ireland will provide access to a wide range of support services in line with evidence-based best practice.

## National High Tech Assistive Technology Training Service

Through our High Tech AT Training Service, Enable Ireland will continue to develop and deliver high quality training programmes to all stakeholders in order to facilitate opportunities for services users to access and participate in their local communities.

## Postural Management Services

Enable Ireland will continue to develop and deliver high quality technical support, training and information on Postural Management to all stakeholders to assist services users to access and participate in their local communities.

## Research

Enable Ireland will undertake a systematic review of research within Enable Ireland and make recommendations on the future structure, function and role of research within the organisation.

## Human Resources

Enable Ireland will recruit and retain a motivated and proficient staff within a supportive working environment.

## Information Technology

Enable Ireland will develop and implement a national IT strategy that will enhance the quality of service delivery and provide a support model to internal and external stakeholders.

## Communications

Enable Ireland will adopt a comprehensive communications strategy which will enhance the organisation's reputation, raise its profile, fulfil its corporate advocacy role and disseminate up-to-date information among all stakeholders.

## Retail & Fundraising

Enable Ireland will continue to generate income through our retail and fundraising activities in order to provide capital resources and to enhance the services we deliver.

**These strategic goals are linked to specific objectives and measurable results for each area. There will be regular monitoring of progress against these targets throughout the life of the plan.**

# THE WAY FORWARD

The *Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006–2008* sets the organisational direction for the next three years and will be reviewed annually. Strong stakeholder partnerships with service users, families, volunteers and supporters are a priority for Enable Ireland. New stakeholder structures have already been implemented at local level. These will continue to grow during the life of the plan.

Service delivery and support activities will be driven by a quality agenda. The implementation of the *Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006–2008* will be supported through the EFQM and Performance Management processes. A working group will be established to oversee the implementation of the plan. The group will report annually to the Board of Directors. All Enable Ireland employees will participate in this implementation through continued commitment to quality work.

While there are challenges in the areas of funding, resources, social awareness, levels of disability and professional capacity, there are also significant opportunities. Enable Ireland builds on solid and tested values. We represent a vision of social inclusion and fulfilment of needs for people with disabilities. Enable Ireland is prepared and able to network and co-operate to advance an agenda around excellence and innovation. We have as much to offer mainstream society as to gain from it – person-centredness, transfer of best international practice, adaptive technologies and service excellence.

Enable Ireland is committed to delivering the nine strategic goals, working in partnership with people with disabilities and statutory funders to ensure that each individual who uses our services is enabled to achieve optimum independence, choice and inclusion at home, at work and in society.

## *Action on Disability*

## NORTH EAST

# ADVOCACY IN ACTION IN MEATH

L-R: Mossy Forde, Service User, Maurice Mallon, Personal Assistant, Joan McGuinness, Service User, Mary Kelly, Advocacy Facilitator, Michael Cunningham, Service User and Marie Vaughan, Manager, Meath Adult Services.

The Meath Adult Service Users Advocacy Group set themselves a target in 2005 of producing a video – “Advocacy in Action” which was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

The video focuses on the challenges some service users face with lack of accessibility in their local communities. Mossy Forde took up the challenge of trying to get from Drogheda to Dublin by train. The video was a great achievement for the group and they put a lot of time and effort into it.

Copies of the video and CDs are available to purchase from Meath Adult Services office, tel: 046 9075094.



## DUBLIN ADULT SERVICES

# DUBLIN ADULT SERVICES HITS THE ROAD WITH DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING!

The whole concept of Disability Awareness Training is to make people aware and comfortable with issues arising around people with disabilities. The Training programme started in Crumlin where the group looked at their own concepts of disability. Through this training the group shared and learned from each others experience and started to look at society as a whole and its barriers. From this, the group came up with areas that they felt needed to be covered in a Disability Awareness Session.

1. **SOCIAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY**
2. **ISSUES ARISING AROUND ACCESS**
3. **EDUCATION IN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE**
4. **MEDICAL MODEL VERSUS SOCIAL MODEL FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY**
5. **THE CONCEPT OF WHAT IS NORMAL**



The topics give a broad sense of what it is like to live with a disability on a positive note, and touch on the negative side of society not on disability.

The group is now established and they have put together a forty minute presentation, reaching out to as many people as possible in Enable Ireland and the community. To date we have presented to schools in Navan and Dublin with audiences ranging from 18 – 400!

We hope to develop a package where there will be a wide range of presentations to suit different groups. At the moment the presentation is aimed at transition students. I would like to broaden it by reaching out to employers, youth clubs, college graduates, primary schools, and different departments within Enable Ireland.

Now that the Crumlin group is established, the work begins with our Dun Laoghaire Adult services group. The group is at the early stages but there is no doubt in my mind that this group can be successful. All going to plan, in September or October 2006, this group will be ready to go out and do similar presentations. If you should have any thoughts or queries regarding this training, I can be contacted at: [khayes@enableireland.ie](mailto:khayes@enableireland.ie)

*Keith Hayes, Bridging Programme Coordinator, Dublin Adult Services.*

**NATIONAL**

**MINISTER FOR CHILDREN BRIAN LENIHAN TD CUTS RIBBON ON NEW ENABLE IRELAND HEAD OFFICE**

*Minister Brian Lenihan and Aisling Mason of the Enable Ireland Sandymount School (front), with Enable Ireland CEO Fionnuala O'Donovan (back) cut the ribbon on the new Enable Ireland head office in Blanchardstown.*



with a piece of art created by fellow student Dean Corcoran. Guests also had the opportunity to admire 'Rooftops', painted by Christy Brown in 1969. Christy was associated with Enable Ireland in the early 1950's, shortly after the formation of the school. The painting was donated to Enable Ireland in 1977.

Fionnuala O'Donovan said, "The opening of this head office reflects our national support structure to local services. It is a new beginning and part of stable progress as we move forward. Recent national activity and strategic initiatives, quality improvements, reviews and standardisation of policy and procedures are focal points."

On November 15<sup>th</sup> 2005, Minister for Health and Children Brian Lenihan officially opened the new Enable Ireland Head Office premises in Rosemount Business Park. Enable Ireland Chairman Donal Cashman and CEO Fionnuala O'Donovan welcomed the Minister. Children from the Enable Ireland Sandymount School and Service made a presentation. The opening was attended by Directors of Enable Ireland, Senior Management, staff, parents and service users. Representatives and stakeholders from the disability sector also attended.

Enable Ireland Sandymount School pupil Paula Conradie presented the Minister



*Enable Ireland CEO Fionnuala O'Donovan, Minister Brian Lenihan and Aisling Mason of the Enable Ireland Sandymount School look at 'Rooftops', painted by Christy Brown in 1969.*

**MID WEST**



*Getting the children in the mood for Halloween were Neddy Carter, Nenagh and Alison Hayes, both Support Workers with Enable Ireland, and Art teacher Eileen Forde.*

**HALLOWEEN ARTS CAMP LINKS WITH SPLEADOR FESTIVAL IN NENAGH**

Young artists in Nenagh added some street colour to the town for the Spleador festival with their artistic contributions. The children worked on the project every morning for the week of the festival and were very proud to mount the paintings on the Courthouse railings on Friday. This group hopes to improve its artistic skills over the coming months and create more masterpieces under the expert guidance of Eileen Forde. They all attend the Enable Ireland Art Camp on a monthly basis.

**MID WEST**

**DJ DARREN IN THE HOUSE**

On November 10<sup>th</sup> 2005, Darren Noonan, Limerick Services, travelled to Dublin to take over Today FM's airwaves. Darren's interest in music is legendary. Meeting his idol Ray D'Arcy was a big bonus but he was also delighted to be invited to speak on air.



*L-R: Minister for Labour and Employment Affairs, Tony Killeen, Alice O'Carroll, Clare Supported Employment Service, Michael O'Doherty, Manager, Enable Ireland, Clare and Paul Woulfe, Manager, Citizen's Information Bureau.*

**INFORMATION DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, CARERS AND THE ELDERLY**

Minister for Labour Affairs, Mr Tony Killeen, launched an Open Information Day at the Templegate Hotel in Ennis on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The event, which was the first of its kind organised in Co. Clare, aimed to provide a one stop shop where people with a disability or mental health difficulty, carers and the elderly could find out more about the services available to them in Co. Clare. The Information day was the result of collaboration between three Clare organisations, Enable Ireland, Clare Supported Employment Service and The Citizen's Information Centre.

"The aim of the Information Day was to improve the flow of information to the public about the range of services available to them in the county" commented Michael O'Doherty, Manager, Enable Ireland, Clare. "We believe it is essential to increase awareness among the general public of the services on offer in the county; individuals are then empowered to make an informed choice about which organisation(s) best meet their needs at a given time" explained Alice O'Carroll, Team Leader, Clare Supported Employment Service. Minister Killeen, in his opening address commented that it was wonderful to see so many organisations present on the day and thanked each organisation for their contribution to making the event a success.

The exhibition proved to be a huge success on the day. Many members of the public, of all ages and from all walks of life took advantage of the opportunity to inform themselves about the services available to them in Co. Clare.

**REDEVELOPMENT OF QUINN'S CROSS CENTRE**

Enable Ireland Limerick is on the move! To make way for the redevelopment of the Adult Services Centre at Quinn's Cross, the centre has relocated to Eastway Business Park on the Ballysimon Road. The relocation will last approximately twelve months and service users will return to a state of the art building complete with a hydrotherapy facility and an adapted gymnasium. Enable Ireland is grateful to JP McManus for his contribution to the redevelopment.

New Contact Details:  
 Enable Ireland Limerick Adult Services  
 Unit D1  
 Eastway Business Park  
 Ballysimon Road  
 Limerick  
 Tel: 061 423 497  
 Fax: 061 423 498  
 Email: [midwestfr@enableireland.ie](mailto:midwestfr@enableireland.ie)

**LEAP ACCREDITATION**

The Enable Ireland Rehabilitative Training Programme (LEAP) was presented with the Approved Centre with Commendation Award by the National Accreditation Committee (NAC) on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2005.

## DUBLIN

### ENABLE IRELAND KEY NOTE SPEAKER ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Christopher Columbus landed on the Island he later named Hispaniola during his first voyage to the new world in 1492. He wrote of the beauty of the rivers, shady palm trees, birds and flowers, going so far as to say that it surpassed all the rest of the world in beauty. Lying amid the Greater Antilles in the Caribbean, the island of Hispaniola still impresses visitors today with its lush tropical mountains and valleys, rushing rivers and miles of sandy beaches. The western third is occupied by French speaking Haiti, while the eastern two thirds is the Spanish speaking Dominican Republic.

It was to the latter that Kathleen Maczka, Director of Services for Dublin travelled in

December last as a guest of Her Excellency, The First Lady of the Dominican Republic, Dr Margarita Cedeño de Fernández in order to speak at an international seminar "Towards an inclusive society – Childhood and Disability" which was held in the capital Santo Domingo.

Kathleen presented two papers including the keynote address entitled "Childhood, Disability and Human Rights" and a further paper, "Inclusive Education for Children and Adolescent with Disabilities". The conference was attended by almost three hundred delegates from the statutory and voluntary sector, not only from the

Dominican Republic but also from Panama, Mexico, Spain and Cuba as well as representatives from the Pan American Health Organisation. Topics covered in the conference included Pan-American approaches to the rights of health of children and adolescence with disabilities, prevention of disability in children and teenagers, education models, legislation and technology.

The conference was timed to coincide with the International Day of Disabled Persons on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005.

*Kathleen Maczka, Director of Services, Enable Ireland Dublin.*

## DUBLIN

### SANDYMOUNT MAKE-OVER COMPLETE



As the photographs show, the final phase of the Sandymount building project has now been completed.

Over the past two years landscaping work has included car parks, front boundary walls and railings, entrance gates and the re-location and redesign of the garden centre.

At the same time, the dormer Adult Services building was converted to accommodate the Eastern Region Postural Management



Team complete with workshops, assessment rooms and administration. It has taken the best part of two years to complete this work and Enable Ireland Sandymount would like to thank all who were involved directly on the project as well as all those who were inconvenienced while work was in progress.

*Con Butler, Buildings & Safety Officer.*



## WICKLOW

### AONTAS WORKSHOP POPULAR CHOICE AT NEPS CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) is an event that is usually held in early December. All the psychologists within the service come together and attend workshops and lectures on topics relevant to their professional work. The organisation of this annual event rotates between the ten regions within NEPS. In 2005 it was organised by the Eastern Region and hosted in the Druid's Glen Marriot hotel.

The theme of the conference was "Focus on Children: Issues and Directions". We have had regular contact with the Enable Ireland Aontas team and were delighted when they agreed to present a workshop entitled "An Experiential Guide to Developmental Coordination Disorder". The workshops are pre-selected by the conference delegates and two workshops were held due to the level of interested expressed.

Participants were guided through a series of activities which allowed them to temporarily experience a learning disability through use of mirrors, gloves, binoculars and unsteady chairs. These activities were chosen by the team in order to emulate, insofar as is possible, the sensory and co-ordination difficulties which may be experienced by children with DCD. It was a very effective way of bringing home to us the levels of difficulty experienced by these children on a daily basis. There were discussions also on the work of the Aontas team, and the definition of DCD and how it might impact on the child's school and learning experiences.

The workshops were very well received and the evaluation sheets indicated that it was a worthwhile experience for the delegates. Many thanks to all the Aontas team for presenting at the conference and making our learning fun.

*Mairead Clifford, NEPS Psychologist.*

### SANDYMOUNT AVENUE GARDEN CENTRE RE-OPENS



*Sandymount Garden Blooms Again.*

The Avenue Garden Centre is located in the grounds of Enable Ireland, Sandymount and has recently been refurbished. The new improved site is located within the complex and is now fully operational again. It stocks a wide variety of shrubs, trees, herbs, climbers and herbaceous plants as well as glazed terracotta pots, compost, tools, and a selection of equipment to cater for all your gardening needs.

In spring and early summer, the centre will help to bring beauty to the surrounding neighbourhood by planting up hanging baskets, window boxes and containers for customers. The work continues all year round, selling and stocking plants in season. In winter, part of the shop turns into a Christmas wonderland, selling gifts and decorations.

The Avenue Garden Centre would like to welcome back old customers and encourage new ones to come and visit. Gardening can be very therapeutic and satisfying, with great exercise benefits – a good antidote to the hectic pace of modern life.

WICKLOW



SHORT STORY: ON THE ROAD

I went to London on my holidays. All the buses there are wheelchair friendly and the taxis too. I went to see “Chicago” at the West End. My Mum and I got in half-price! We sat up in the gods.

The footpaths in London didn’t have any pot-holes. There is a big pot-hole near McDonalds in Bray. It makes my power wheelchair tip over. I find it scary when my heavy wheelchair tips over. I could hurt my face and legs. I’m afraid my wheelchair will fall on top of me and squash me.

I attend St. Killian’s Secondary School and Marino School. I am studying for my Junior Cert. I can’t write things down with a pen because my hands won’t do what I want

them to do. However, I’ve got two assistants that can write what I tell them.

I am studying Maths, English, C.S.P.E. and Religion. English and C.S.P.E. are my favourites. I like to read Jaqueline Wilson in my spare time. She writes about “real life drama”. The Resource Teacher at St. Killian’s sometimes takes turns reading Jaqueline Wilson with me during free periods.

One of my favourite things to do is to travel. I’ve been to London, New York, Donegal, Paris and Florida, mostly with my mum and dad. I am looking forward to going back to London at Easter.

*By Aine Hayes, Age 15.*

WICKLOW

SILVERPINES HOUSE GETS NEW LOOK

Many children who attend Enable Ireland Wicklow Services avail of short respite and holiday breaks at Silverpines House in Bray. In January 2006 the house underwent major renovation and repair to its premises. This work included external and internal painting, new floors throughout the house, upgrade of the bathroom and repair to the roof.

Enable Ireland Wicklow Services hopes that these renovations will improve access throughout the house for all service users thus ensuring that they enjoy their respite visit even more. These upgrades will also help to maintain the homely and child friendly atmosphere of the respite house while providing care in a comfortable and safe manner. For more information contact: 01 286 7691.



WHAT DO PARENTS THINK OF OUR SERVICE?

At Enable Ireland Wicklow Early Services, we consider parents to be an integral part of each child’s team. However, while we meet parents for Individual Family Service Plan meetings every six months, and have a lot of informal contact in between, we do not always know for sure what their views are about the service they receive.

When we were approached in 2005 by a postgraduate student from the UCD Psychology Department, offering to do an evaluation of parents’ views of our service, we were very pleased to take up the offer. Aongus McGrane undertook the research as part of his Higher Diploma in Psychology programme, under the direction of Dr. Suzanne Guerin.

Aongus initially sent out a survey adapted from Guerin (2004) to all parents of

children attending our Early Services (aged 0-6), with the exception of our most recent referrals.

The results of the survey were on the whole very positive. To quote from the final summary of the research, “based on the survey, parent and staff interviews, the parents are very happy with the service provided. They describe the benefits for the children in terms of physical and social development and the overall well being of the child. The survey and interviews point especially to the very close working relationship between staff, parents and children. The staff are cognisant of how they deal with both parents and children and the parents report that both they and the children are well treated by the staff. The service makes a positive impact in the lives of the families using the service.

For parents, this means support in coping with physical disability and provision of therapeutic services in their locality. The staff reported the necessity of not allowing disability to envelop the life of the child and deny what it is meant to do and does it well.

The physical surroundings remain a problem, but they are temporary. Despite the fact that the accommodation is temporary in nature, a lot of emphasis was placed on the physical surroundings in the survey and interviews. This would indicate that the future accommodation and its layout and amenities would play an important role in the delivery and development of the service.”

*Joan Curran, Senior Psychologist, Early Services Team, Wicklow.*

TALLAGHT

# STEPPING STONES TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Moving from primary to secondary school is a very big step for all children but even more so sometimes for children with disabilities. Coping with being one of hundreds of students, being the youngest again instead of the oldest, having several new teachers, moving between classes instead of staying in the one room and carrying a heavy schoolbag can all be daunting. There are often access difficulties to be ironed out, with many secondary schools on several floors or with long distances between classrooms. New subjects may include practical ones such as home economics or woodwork which pose particular challenges for a child with a physical disability. Their fellow pupils in primary school are used to helping them out with anything they find hard because of their disability so meeting a whole new set of classmates can be worrying.

In Enable Ireland Tallaght, we see making a smooth transition to secondary school as very important. We start planning with the child and their parents well in advance and members of the team visit the new school

with the family to see what can be suggested to help. We offer advice to the school around areas such as access, and help with applications for extra resources and a special needs assistant if needed. Assistive technology and customised equipment are specified. Details such as making sure the student has an easily accessible locker, applying for a second set of school books so that they do not need to carry them to and from home, looking at how to facilitate the practical subjects and physical education can all contribute to making the move a positive experience.

As a new project we have arranged social gatherings for all the children attending the service who are moving to secondary school in September. Twelve children who are all in sixth class in eleven different mainstream schools met last term for bowling. Next they had an arts and crafts session with an Egyptian theme at the National Museum at mid-term and will go horse-riding in the Easter holidays. In the summer other activities will be planned with opportunities

for the children to talk about what moving to secondary school will be like and any worries they have. When they have started in secondary school they will meet again to talk about their experiences. They will be able to help us then in finding out what can make the move easier.

An outing to the National Museum Kildare Street. L-R: Alan Cannon, Alan O'Brien, Emily Barr. The children make cartouches.



CORK

## ROISIN INGLE JOINS LAVANAGH LADIES LUNCH

The annual Enable Ireland Cork Ladies Lunch on 16<sup>th</sup> November welcomed celebrity guest and popular Irish Times columnist Roisin Ingle as the guest speaker at the fundraising event, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year. Over 400 ladies attended the exclusive lunch at the Maryborough House Hotel which was generously supported by Brown Thomas.

The Sunday Tribune and The Title, and moved to the Irish Times in 1997. She won the 'Young Journalist of the Year' award in 1996. Roisin's new book, 'Pieces of Me' is a collection of her columns, gathered together for the first time with new writing, and is delighting readers around the country.

Tickets were like gold-dust for the event, which raised €22,000 for Enable Ireland Cork. Thanks to Roisin Ingle and all the people who made the Ladies Lunch a huge success. Special thanks to Anne Hegarty for leading the way in her inimitable style.

Roisin grew up in Sandymount, Dublin. Like many writers, she worked in a variety of jobs before getting her break in journalism with NewsFour, a local Dublin newspaper. She subsequently worked for



At the Lavanagh Ladies Lunch, L-R: Anne Hegarty, Theresa Compagno, Regional Director of Services, Roisin Ingle, Lord Mayor Cllr Deirdre Clune, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Pat Beirne, Director of Services and Dorothy Barry, Retail & Fundraising Director.

MID WEST

## CAROL SINGING AT BROWN THOMAS

Children from Toomevara N.S. sing their hearts out for Enable Ireland



Enable Ireland joined forces with Toomevara National School in Brown Thomas on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2005. Nearly €700 was raised during the two hour singing session. Shoppers were delighted to get into the Christmas spirit while also raising much needed funds for people with disabilities.

EAST REGION

## SCARY FUNDRAISER FOR EAST REGION

On 25<sup>th</sup> January at the Temple Bar Music Centre, "Spooky Action" put on an intriguing show in aid of Enable Ireland. The night, entitled 'Four and Twenty', is run each month, and brings four acts together, each performing a laid-back and intimate 20 minute set, in a transformed Temple Bar Music Centre. This show featured acts Matt Lunson and the Last Hurrah, Gavin Glass and the Holy Shakers, Jenny Lindfors and Derrick Devine.

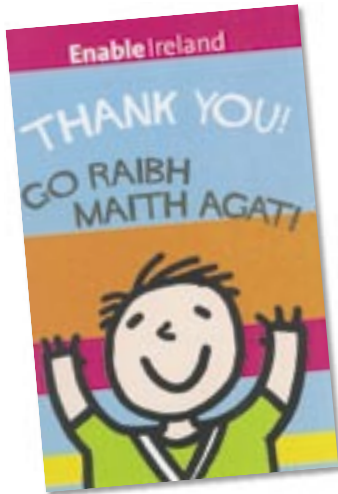
'Four and Twenty' has a different theme each night, which bands and singers incorporate into their act. The venue is transformed to match, by an up-and-coming visual artist. On 25<sup>th</sup>, the theme was 'beards' with a free gift at the door for everyone who made the effort!

## HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS FOR 2006

Annual Enable Ireland House to House collections commenced in March in Dublin North, Monaghan and Mayo. Collections will continue throughout the year in the areas detailed to the right.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal collectors and donors who make a very valuable contribution to our work. For further information, contact Sinead McGovern on 01 8857165 or [smcgovern@enableireland.ie](mailto:smcgovern@enableireland.ie).

Wexford	15 <sup>th</sup> April – 15 <sup>th</sup> May
Dublin East	15 <sup>th</sup> April – 1 <sup>st</sup> June
Wicklow	22 <sup>nd</sup> April – 31 <sup>st</sup> May
Nth Co Dublin	22 <sup>nd</sup> April – 31 <sup>st</sup> May
Kilkenny	1 <sup>st</sup> May – 15 <sup>th</sup> June
Clare	1 <sup>st</sup> May – 15 <sup>th</sup> June
Kerry	20 <sup>th</sup> May – 20 <sup>th</sup> June
Dublin N+S Central	17 <sup>th</sup> June – 31 <sup>st</sup> July
Galway (1)	24 <sup>th</sup> June – 8 <sup>th</sup> July
Galway (2)	28 <sup>th</sup> July – 18 <sup>th</sup> August
Sligo/Leitrim	10 <sup>th</sup> July – 14 <sup>th</sup> August
Limerick	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct – 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Dublin South	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct – 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Meath	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov – 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Kildare	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov – 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Cavan	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov – 30 <sup>th</sup> November



## DATE SET FOR ACTION WEEK ON DISABILITY

Action Week on Disability 2006, our annual awareness-building and fundraising event will be held countrywide from 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September. Look out for more details about Action Week 2006 in your local services centres.

For further information or to get involved with Action Week on Disability, contact Sinead McGovern (01) 8857165 or [smcgovern@enableireland.ie](mailto:smcgovern@enableireland.ie).



## FACE TO FACE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

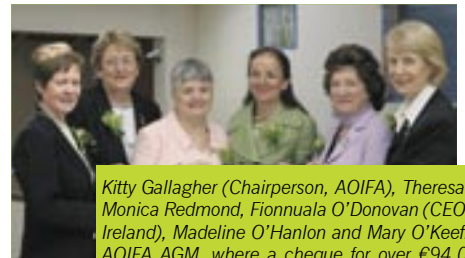
The annual face to face campaign, which provides a steady long-term source of income for Enable Ireland, runs in Dublin from 14<sup>th</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006. Further information from Sinead McGovern on 01 8857165.



## FLORAL ARTISTS RAISE €94,000 FOR ENABLE IRELAND

The Association of Irish Floral Artists (AOIFA), the official organisation of the floral art movement in Ireland, presented Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Enable Ireland with a cheque for €94,000 towards our work on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Enable Ireland has been delighted to work with AOIFA. Flower clubs all over Ireland organised Gala Shows and presentations over a two year period, with proceeds to Enable Ireland. Enable Ireland staff attended some of these stunning shows and participated in the national annual show in Dublin.



Kitty Gallagher (Chairperson, AOIFA), Theresa Collins, Monica Redmond, Fionnuala O'Donovan (CEO, Enable Ireland), Madeline O'Hanlon and Mary O'Keeffe at the AOIFA AGM, where a cheque for over €94,000 was presented to Enable Ireland by AOIFA.

This has been a wonderful opportunity for Enable Ireland to reach new audiences. For this, we would like to thank the AOIFA National Executive and all the clubs and members around the country most sincerely. The money that is raised from partnerships such as these allows Enable Ireland to develop and enhance services around the country.

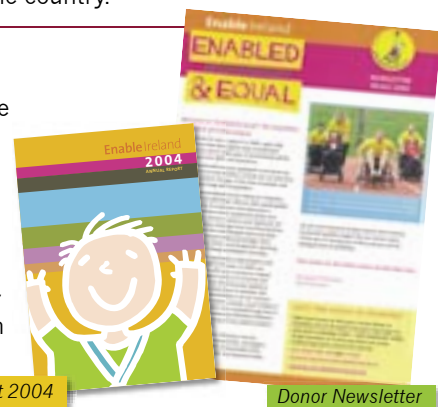
## SPREADING THE WORD

In addition to the National Newsletter, the Enable Ireland Communications team produced two corporate documents for large-scale distribution in 2005.

Donors and volunteers received our second donor newsletter in November 2005 with news from around the country and updates on developments in service provision. The donor newsletter is sent once a year to thank our very valued donors and volunteers who support Pg 18

Enable Ireland throughout the year. The Enable Ireland 2004 Annual Report was launched during Action Week on Disability 2005 and made available to stakeholders.

The 2005 Annual Report will be available to download from our website [www.enableireland.ie](http://www.enableireland.ie) in late June 2006. To order a copy please contact Sinead McGovern on 01 8857165 or [communications@enableireland.ie](mailto:communications@enableireland.ie).



Annual Report 2004

Donor Newsletter

Sinead McGovern, Campaigns Co-ordinator, Enable Ireland, Aoife Ní Thuairisg, host of TG4's 'Paisean Faisean' dating fashion show, and Bernadette Donoghue, Brand Manager, Kellogg's Ireland launch the Kellogg's Special K 'Drop a Jeans Size' Campaign.



Enable Ireland was delighted to be chosen as Kellogg's Ireland's first charity partner in the 2006 Kellogg's "Special K" Drop a Jeans Size Campaign. The campaign was officially launched in the Enable Ireland George's Street Shop on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2006 by Aoifa Ni Thuairisg, the presenter of TG4's "Paisean Faisean". Consumers were encouraged to

## PASSIONATE LAUNCH FOR 'SPECIAL K' CAMPAIGN

take part in a healthy weight loss challenge using "Special K" to drop a jeans size in two weeks. Old jeans could then be donated to the nearest Enable Ireland shop or recycling bank. The public relations campaign kicked off in January. A Kellogg's mailing which included the Enable Ireland logo and details was sent to 65,000 TESCO customers and via flyers drops in the Dublin area. As part of the promotion, the Enable Ireland shops dressed up for the occasion with 'Jeans'

themed store window displays throughout the country. Enable Ireland would like to take this opportunity to thank Kellogg's Ireland for choosing Enable Ireland as their charity partner this year.



### WEBSITE UPDATE: [WWW.ENABLEIRELAND.IE](http://WWW.ENABLEIRELAND.IE)

We have been working on some restructuring of the Enable Ireland website over the last 18 months. Further work will be carried out this year. It is important that we receive up-to-date details from contributors so that we can provide the most timely and accurate information internally and externally. If you have any updates or suggestions for enhancing the website, please contact [communications@enableireland.ie](mailto:communications@enableireland.ie).

### ERICSSON STAFF BRAVE THE COLD TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ENABLE IRELAND

On December 15<sup>th</sup> 2005, 50 Ericsson employees braved the harsh Christmas weather to play soccer in aid of charity. Although charity was the main objective, a source in Ericsson said that it was a great opportunity to play out interdepartmental rivalry, with two lively matches between the Design and Test departments. Every echelon of the staff participated, from Manager to trainee. The matches were pre-empted by a humorous calendar where brave employees became pin-ups for charity. The calendars were priced at €5 each and more than 200 were sold.

The matches attracted about 200 employees and a good time was had by all, with ultimate victory for the Test team. After the game, the Prince Bar in Athlone kindly donated food for the players and fans. A total of €1,536 was raised and many thanks are extended by Enable Ireland and Ericsson staff to all the calendar models, players and fans, Athlone Regional Sports Centre, the Athlone Voice and the Ericsson Soccer club.

### GIVE AS YOU EARN WITH CHILDREN DIRECT

Children Direct is a collaboration of five Irish Charities who have united under one banner to facilitate an efficient and easy-to-administer payroll giving scheme. The five charities are Enable Ireland, Temple Street Children's University Hospital, ISPCC, Focus Ireland and ACTIONAID Ireland.

By signing up to Children Direct employees can make small regular deductions from their weekly or monthly salary. In one simple action Children Direct enables employees to help the homeless child, the child facing a diagnosis of renal failure, the child with a physical disability, the child suffering violence and abuse, or the child overseas struggling to survive.

The charities have set up and operate Children Direct themselves so all donations are divided equally and go directly to the charities. It is such a simple and effective way to give, offering employees a way to support a range of causes, with the maximum of ease.



For further information contact Sean Scally at 066 712 8220 or e-mail: [sscally@enableireland.ie](mailto:sscally@enableireland.ie).

### WATERFORD PUPILS RAISE €700 AND PROMOTE DISABILITY AWARENESS

awareness in their school and in the local community.

Pupils first ran a non-uniform day for Enable Ireland, and Oisín and David went to class in a borrowed wheelchair. They identified difficulties in accessing buildings and classrooms. This raised the issue for the whole school and especially their own class. According to Social Awareness teacher Andrew Cox, "they raised €500, as well as plenty of eyebrows!"

Six pupils then took part in a National Safety Council Roadshow on car seat safety, and earnings of €200 were donated to Enable Ireland. After taking part in Disability training workshops run by Waterford City Council,

the core group designed a module for local Primary schools. This was run successfully with Selborne Junior school.

The next step is to design a module of access to sport for people with disabilities and to pilot it in St Martin's school and with the local Wheelchair Association. Pupils will then bring all their work together in an entry for the Young Social Innovators project.

"We are delighted with the contribution that these young people have made to disability awareness, and would like to thank them most sincerely for choosing to donate funds raised to Enable Ireland" said Sinead McGovern, Campaigns Co-Ordinator for Enable Ireland.



Pupils from Newtown School, Waterford present €700.00 to Elaine Goldsberry of Enable Ireland.

On 1st December, pupils from Newtown School presented a cheque for €700.00 to Elaine Goldsberry, manager of the Enable Ireland Waterford shop. As well as raising funds, Shannon Sutherland, Jenny Cookman, Oisín Brogan, David Murray and classmates are spearheading a programme of disability



## JUNE 2005 – OCTOBER 2006

### Why Not Run a Marathon for Enable Ireland?

Stockholm Marathon (3<sup>rd</sup> June), Women's Mini Marathon, Dublin (5<sup>th</sup> June), Cork Mini Marathon (18<sup>th</sup> September), BUPA Great North Run, Newcastle (1<sup>st</sup> October), Limerick Mini Marathon (9<sup>th</sup> October), Amsterdam Half-marathon (15<sup>th</sup> October), Dublin City Marathon (30<sup>th</sup> October), and the New York Marathon (5<sup>th</sup> November).

Contact the East Region Fundraising Office on 01 2615917 or [eastfr@enableireland.ie](mailto:eastfr@enableireland.ie).

## 23RD APRIL 2006

### Galway - Cycle Challenge

A sponsored cycle in aid of Enable Ireland will take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The cycle starts at 10am from Salthill Car Park and covers 26 miles to Spiddal and back to Salthill. To register, please contact Joanne at Galway fundraising on 091 526321 or email [galwayfr@enableireland.ie](mailto:galwayfr@enableireland.ie).

## 6TH & 7TH MAY 2006

### East Region - 3rd Annual Art Exhibition

Enable Ireland East Region welcomes you to its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Art Exhibition. The exhibition will be held in Enable Ireland on Sandymount Avenue on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. For more information, contact us on 01 2615917 or email: [eastfr@enableireland.ie](mailto:eastfr@enableireland.ie).

## 12TH MAY 2006

### Kildare - Annual Golf Classic

The Enable Ireland Kildare Services Annual Golf Classic will take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May in Craddockstown Golf Club Naas. A team of 4 costs €600. Contact Willie on 045 846108 or e-mail [kildarefr@enableireland.ie](mailto:kildarefr@enableireland.ie) for more details.

## 19TH MAY 2006

### Kerry - Ladies Lunch & Fashion Show

The Enable Ireland Kerry 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ladies Lunch takes place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at Ballyroe Heights Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry. The event includes a drinks reception, lifestyle exhibition, four-course lunch with complimentary wines and fashion show. Please contact Sean Scally on [kerryfr@enableireland.ie](mailto:kerryfr@enableireland.ie) or 066 7128220.



## 26TH MAY 2006

### Mid West Region

#### Summer Ball Extravaganza

Enable Ireland Mid West Services is hosting a Black Tie Summer Ball at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Limerick on Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> 2006. Please contact Kate on 061 301830 or e-mail [midwestfr@enableireland.ie](mailto:midwestfr@enableireland.ie).

## 24TH JUNE 2006

### East Region - Mid-Summer Gala Ball

The Mid-Summer Gala Ball will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June in the Royal Hospital, Kilmmainham, Dublin 8. Tickets can be purchased for €150, or €1,500 for a table of ten people. If you would like to reserve your tickets or table or donate a prize for the auction or raffle, please contact the East Region Fundraising Office on 01 2615921 or email [chazell@enableireland.ie](mailto:chazell@enableireland.ie).

## 8TH JULY 2006

### Mid West Region - Annual Clare Golf Classic

Enable Ireland will be hosting its annual Golf Classic at Ennis Golf Club on 8<sup>th</sup> July. For more information please contact John on 061 301830 or e-mail [midwestfr@enableireland.ie](mailto:midwestfr@enableireland.ie).

## 11TH AUGUST 2006

### Mid West Region

#### Annual North Tipperary Golf Classic

Enable Ireland will be hosting its annual Golf Classic at Nenagh Golf Club on 11<sup>th</sup> August. For more information please contact John on 061 301830 or e-mail [midwestfr@enableireland.ie](mailto:midwestfr@enableireland.ie).

## 31ST AUGUST 2006

### East Region - Corporate 5km Team Run

The annual run in St. Anne's Park, Raheny will take place on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August. Teams of 3 - 4 participants can compete in this challenging and fun race. The post-race reception will also give participants a chance to socialise with both their colleagues and with employees from other companies and organisations. Please contact the Fundraising Office for your entry form, sponsorship card and free t-shirt on 01 2615917 or email [eastfr@enableireland.ie](mailto:eastfr@enableireland.ie).



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Charity No 4908

All contributions welcome for the next issue. Please send your news, views, reviews, comments and photos to the Editor at the above address by the end of September 2006.

## EDITORIAL MATTERS

We are delighted to bring you the first issue of our National newsletter for 2006. 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 the newsletter a useful source of information on what is happening in Enable Ireland.

Thanks to all of you who so enthusiastically contributed to this issue and we look forward to another bumper issue in autumn 2006.

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