

National Newsletter

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DESK

It is my pleasure to introduce the spring 2007 National Newsletter.

As our new national staff induction training courses continue, I give a particularly warm welcome to new staff in all departments. As new staff will discover, they've joined a busy organisation where everyone must work in tandem in the interest of all service users.

With the first year of the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006-2008 completed, the New Year got off to a busy start with nominated staff throughout the organisation compiling the results to date of the implementation of the nine strategic goals. This information is being analysed at present and will be summarised in the 2006 Annual Report. Thank you to all staff for their work on this project.

Many of you will already know of the "Living Options" research initiative commissioned by the Board of Enable Ireland and undertaken in 2006 to ascertain the residential needs of adult service users. Following consideration of the survey results and its own recent deliberations, the Board has established a steering group to explore the feasibility of Enable Ireland's role, with other strategic partners, as a lobby group and as a direct service provider. Prior to the group's commencement, a meeting will be organised with the Health Service Executive (HSE) to ascertain its vision and plans for this national service requirement.

Another major initiative from 2006 was the review of the patronage of Enable Ireland special schools in Bray and Sandymount by Dr Seamus McGuinness on behalf of the organisation. The Board of Enable Ireland has now considered the review and decided to continue as the patron of both schools into the future. The patronage will take a new form, to be drawn up in agreed policies and protocols which will best serve the children attending both school and clinical services. I will keep you informed of work in this regard.

Stakeholder nominations from across the regions are currently being received and will soon be considered by the Board of Directors. I thank those of you who have submitted nominations to join the Board for your interest and enthusiasm. I will be in touch with nominees directly in due course.

I was delighted to meet the hundreds of volunteers from our 19 retail shops at the three "Thank You For Your Time" Christmas lunches. It was a most enjoyable experience and I was inspired by the commitment of the people who have worked tirelessly to raise funds for us over the past 20 years.

Our Services, Retail, Fundraising and Head Office staff continue to roll out the quality EFQM Quality Management process and there are now 55 teams operating throughout the country.

School Captain Grainne Lawlor presents President Mary McAleese with a bouquet of flowers at the Marino School Golden Jubilee celebrations, held on 2nd March 2006.



I look forward to meeting staff and service users during National Inductions and local EFQM reviews and also at our forthcoming "Share the Learning 2007" conference in Kilkenny in June.

Fionnuala O'Donovan

GOLDEN JUBILEE FOR MARINO SCHOOL Full story on page 3.

President Mary McAleese speaks at the Marino School 50th Anniversary celebrations.



Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Enable Ireland, President Mary McAleese and Oonagh Kenny, Principal, Marino School admire a project created by the school children especially for the Jubilee celebrations.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

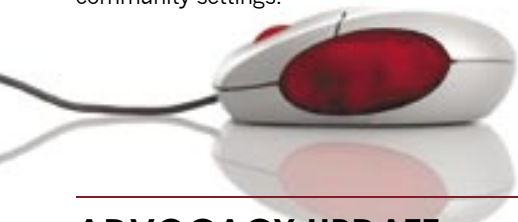
National Service Users Conference	2
Marino School 50th Birthday	3
Enable Ireland Wins Three NDA Grants	4
Internal Conference	5
Getting Ahead with FÁS	9
Cork Advocacy Service	10
AT Loan Bank	10
Fundraising News	11
Events Calendar	16



GALWAY

**AT SERVICE
GRANT SUCCESS**

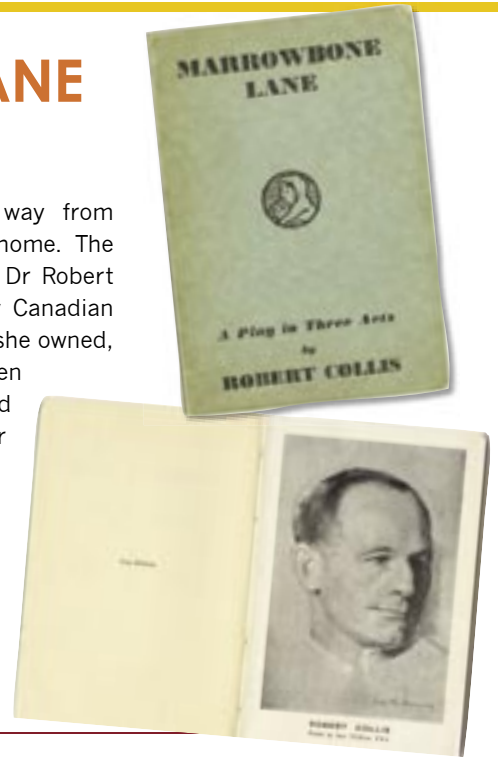
The Assistive Technology service in the Western area has received a capital grant of €92,000 from The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. This Independent Living grant will be used to enhance the lives of people with disabilities in the West by providing Assistive Technologies in their homes and other community settings.



**MARROWBONE LANE
FIRST EDITION**

A rare manuscript has travelled all the way from Canada to Dublin to return to its rightful home. The first edition copy of 'Marrowbone Lane', by Dr Robert Collis, was kindly sent to Enable Ireland by Canadian Moira Masterson, who realised that the copy she owned, originally bought for a few pence, was written by the founder of Enable Ireland and published shortly before the organisation opened, under the original name 'Cerebral Palsy Ireland'.

Dr Robert Collis, a paediatrician, set up the clinic for children with Cerebral Palsy in Dublin in 1948, but was also a playwright and wrote texts which dealt with topics such as disability and poverty in Dublin. Many thanks to Moira Masterson for her kind gesture.



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COMHAIRLE BECOMES CITIZENS INFORMATION BOARD



Comhairle, the state-run citizens information service, has a new name and an expanded remit. The name of the organisation has changed to the Citizens Information Board, and in addition to information on rights and entitlements for citizens, will now be providing advocacy services in joint projects with other Irish support organisations. This year, fourteen projects have been funded – all involving partnerships between different agencies within the sector.

Together with the projects funded in 2004, 2005 and 2006 there are currently over 30 projects in operation in Ireland.

For more information please contact Comhairle Head Office on: 01 605 9000 or refer to the new website, www.ciboard.ie (previously www.comhairle.ie).



ADULT SERVICES

**DATE SET FOR
NATIONAL SERVICE USER CONFERENCE**

A National Service User Conference takes place on June 20th, 2007 at the Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise, from 11am to 4.00pm. The conference will be a celebration of achievements to date with local service displays, workshops and the sharing of stories and experiences around the themes of communication, disability and equality. The conference will focus on supported living and PA requirements.

The conference will be of particular interest to:

- People who use our services
- Parents and carers
- External individuals and organisations
- Staff and management

For further information please contact:

Fidelma Murphy: 087 4171445 fmurphy@enableireland.ie
 Keith Hayes: 087 9863982 khayes@enableireland.ie



WICKLOW

MARINO SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

On 2nd March, Marino School in Bray was filled with the sound of children's voices as they welcomed President McAleese to the school's 50th anniversary celebrations. A thronged venue, decorated with colourful projects created by pupils, was filled to capacity with children, staff, parents and representatives from the local press. Marino School was delighted to welcome the President to join in the Jubilee celebrations in acknowledgment of developing special education practice over the past fifty years. President McAleese is the Patron of Enable Ireland. It was a privilege to welcome her to Marino School on this special occasion.

The event was also attended by numerous representatives from the local community, including local public representatives, Bray Chamber of Commerce, and former Marino School Principals Maria Garvey, Mary Harrison and Liam Walsh.

Enable Ireland CEO Fionnuala O'Donovan and Chairman Donal Cashman joined Marino School Principal Oonagh Kenny, and a group of five pupils, to greet the President on arrival. Jessica Preda welcomed the President to Marino School and wished her an enjoyable time in her school. Jonathan Smoothey read out a poem which he had written especially for the occasion. Mairead McCormack spoke to the President using her AAC device. Christopher Cassoni recited a Junior Certificate poem for President McAleese and she remembered learning it in school herself. Art Oakes had a chat with the President.



Donal Cashman, Chairman, Enable Ireland, Cllr. Anne Egan, Cathaoirleach of Bray Town Council, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Enable Ireland and Chairperson of the Marino School Board of Managers, President Mary McAleese, Oonagh Kenny, Principal, Marino School and Kevin Meehan, Treasurer of the Marino School Board of Managers, pictured during the President's visit to Marino School.

Christopher Cassoni chats with President McAleese at the Marino School 50th Jubilee Celebrations.



Fionnuala O'Donovan, who is also Chairperson of the Board of Management of Marino School, addressed a packed audience. In a moving performance, children who attend the school, along with members of the Bray School Project, sang 'What a Beautiful World', followed by a percussion version of 'The Blue Danube', for President McAleese.

In her speech, the President congratulated Marino School on its excellent service, and commented that she could feel "the real passion, the happiness and the love for the work that goes on here." She reflected on her personal experience of disability in her own family, and expressed a wish for a future where there is full social inclusion for people with disabilities, a future where people have access to the facilities they need to lead a full and empowered life.

Oonagh Kenny, Marino School Principal thanked the President and responded to her address. The outstanding contribution of supportive parents and dedicated staff in the development of the school community was acknowledged and celebrated.

The President then unveiled a plaque commemorating the Golden Jubilee, with the assistance of Daniel Fitzpatrick, a student at Marino School. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers by school captain, Grainne Lawlor.

After her speech, President McAleese took time to greet members of the audience, while refreshments were served in the dining room courtesy of 'The Druid Chef'. It was certainly a special day for the whole school community and a fitting tribute to the many years of developing education and therapy provision for students in the Bray and Wicklow Community.

NEW FORUM FOR NATIONAL SERVICES

A new National Services Forum (NSF) was set up at the end of 2006. The membership of the Forum is made up of key managers from all disciplines throughout the organisation. The aim of the Forum is to ensure that the core values of the organisation are consistently reflected in any and all of the work that Enable Ireland carries out. The Forum will provide an opportunity for national discussion on the direction and development of the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008, and provide an opportunity for national discussion on emerging trends and external influencers including legislation, statutory re-organisation, strategic trends and evidence-based practice developments.

ADULT SERVICES

KILLARNEY OUTREACH TRAINING KICKS OFF

"Great! there is no need for me to travel to Tralee on Mondays"

"An excellent venue, right in the centre of town"

"It's good to be home 10 minutes after the classes finish"

"I live in Killarney; I would like to find work where I live"

Kerry Adult Services has successfully started an outreach training programme one day per week in Killarney, for five local residents who normally attend services in Tralee. The training takes place in the new extension of the Methodist Church which is based in the centre of town. The main focus of the training is work related skills. This area has been identified as a high priority for people as the majority wish to work either in community employment, supported employment or in a voluntary capacity. Participants are studying for the FETAC Level 3 "Work Orientation Module". This includes input from the Killarney FAS Jobs Club Facilitator on CV preparation, letters of application, application forms and work experience.



GALWAY

**HYDROTHERAPY POOL
PLANS FINALISED**

Plans for a Hydrotherapy pool at the Galway children's centre have been finalised and the project will commence this year. The addition of the hydrotherapy treatment pool will be a great asset to Enable Ireland Children's Services in Galway.

CORK

**COMMUNITY SPIRIT
CONCERT**

Enable Ireland Adult Service users joined forces with other community groups to bring the first ever Community Spirit Day to Cork at the Cork Institute of Technology. The event took place on 31st October 2006.

Community Spirit Day was a celebration of the wonderful variety of talent and ability in our community. The Community Spirit day also featured contributions from Active Pulse Senior Drama Group, Technique Youth Dance Group from Macroom, The School of Music, The Ardfoyle Singers, Cork Music Works (established to enable people with disability to explore their creative potential) and most importantly a performance piece and music video from Enable Ireland Adult Service Users.

Community Spirit Day also showcased service user paintings which are still on view at the Cork Institute of Technology. A documentary of the day's performances and background to the concert is currently in production and will be ready later this year.

NORTH EAST

Parents Noeleen Hill, Kellie-Ann Coulter, Martina Tormey and Simon Bullock.



**EARLY BIRD PROGRAMME
FOR PARENTS**

Cavan and Monaghan services recently offered an 'Early Bird Parent' programme to six parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The three strands of the Early Bird Programme focus on understanding a child's autism, developing communication and analysing behaviour.

The programme ran over three months, with the last meeting held at the end of January 2007. It included eight group sessions and two home visits to each family and proved to be extremely successful with positive feedback from everyone. This group is run regularly and we hope to run another programme during 2007.

RESEARCH

**ENABLE IRELAND WINS
THREE RESEARCH GRANTS**



Enable Ireland has secured three out of six National NDA Research Grants.

The NDA research promotion scheme provides funding to promote quality research on specific disability issues. Congratulations to all of the teams involved.

NDA FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Enable Ireland Cork & Kerry

Measuring the impact of a support system and identifying the shortfall where a support system is in place for physically disabled children aged 0-6 years in pre-schools and mainstream schools in Cork and Kerry.

Enable Ireland Kilkenny

Physiotherapy service delivery to children aged 0-5 in Ireland with a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy.

Enable Ireland North East

Review of Person Centred Planning approaches currently in use in Early Intervention services.

CORK

MAYOR LAUNCHES GREATEST HITS CD

The School Leaver's class of the School of the Divine Child, Cork have produced a "Greatest Hits" CD. On 5th February, Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Michael Aherne, officially launched "School of the Divine Child, Greatest Hits, Volume 1". The CD is available at FM Music Store on Patrick Street, Cork or from the School of the Divine Child, Cork, Tel 021 4294803, email divinechild@eircom.net.



TRAINING

SHARE THE LEARNING 2007 NATIONAL INTERNAL CONFERENCE

The National Internal Conference will take place on 7th June in Hotel Kilkenny. Contact Renee O'Donovan at regionaloffice@enableireland.ie for further information.

TEAM QUALITY WITH EFQM



There are now 55 EFQM teams operating throughout the organisation, with new teams forming all the time. The review process has been greatly supported by the CEO and Senior Management Team. Every team at a local level has had the opportunity to meet our CEO, Fionnuala O'Donovan.

North East Services are working towards submitting an application for the next level of the EFQM award process - Index of Excellence - in 2007, and this will be supported by the Training & Quality department.

From a training perspective, our first National induction training programmes took place in November and December 2006 followed by two more sessions in February. For a list of forthcoming sessions see the schedule below. Modules included: National Overview, Person Centredness, Equality,

Inclusion & Advocacy, Who's Who, Key Policies & procedures, EFQM and Quality.

Another significant development for Enable Ireland has been the introduction of the SKILL Project Training initiative. SKILL Project Training is a programme of blended learning, where experience gained in the work environment is combined with attendance in a learning environment, and it also incorporates home study. The SKILL Project has emerged from, and builds upon, work carried out over a number of years in the support services area. The parallel benchmarking publication, 'Recognising and Respecting the Role', identified a gap in the provision of education, training and development opportunities to staff working in support grades within the Irish health and personal social services. There are currently 16 members of Enable Ireland staff participating in this initiative.

NATIONAL INDUCTION DATES 2007

Thursday 10th May	Dublin	Thursday 6th September	Dublin	Wednesday 5th December	Dublin
Thursday 24th May	Limerick	Thursday 20th September	Limerick	Thursday 13th December	Limerick

Contact regionaloffice@enableireland.ie for more details.

Festive Cheer



GALWAY

SANTA CLAUS IN SURPRISE VISIT TO GALWAY

On Sunday 3rd December the Enable Ireland Galway Children's Christmas Party was held at the Ardilaun Hotel. Children, their families and staff of Enable Ireland Galway were treated to a very special surprise visit by the man in red himself. Santa Claus arrived on a special sleigh packed with presents and gifts for all the children.



NORTH EAST

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CHEER IN TRIM



Enable Ireland Early Services, Trim held their annual Family Christmas party this year in The New Knightsbrook Hotel, Dublin Road, Trim. A great time was had by all and Santa said he would be visiting all the children on the 25th, so everyone had to go to bed early that night! A big thank you to Knightsbrook hotel and staff, who generously donated the use of the Hugh d'Lacy room and refreshments for all on the day.

KILKENNY

AN AOIBHINN MOMENT

It doesn't happen often, but when it does you'll know.

It hits you like a ton of bricks, an angel told me so. It happens in an instant, and it takes your breath away.

It's called 'An Aoibhinn Moment' that I cherish every day.

A giggle, unprompted, unbelievable, it comes right from her heart, as if to say right back at me'

Yes, I am here, yes I am smart.

I tell her I am so proud of her, of how she's been so brave.

A smile lights up her face, this moment I do save.

When she looks right at you, eyes gleaming, face aglow.

When you have 'An Aoibhinn Moment' it illuminates your soul.

People look and smile, it's as if to say,

'Our heart it goes out to you, for this little girl we pray'.

And so I smile right back at them, and hold my head up high.

I take Aoibhinn by the hand, she looks me in the eye.

My heart, it goes right back to you, for you may never know,

this precious gift that I've been given and how I love her so.

I lay her in her bed at night; her eyes show me her love.

I come to take a second look, and somehow it's enough.

'Although my body's broken, I'm here to do my deed,'

When you have 'An Aoibhinn Moment', you will understand the need.

Anne Cassin, Parent

DUBLIN ADULT SERVICES



SPOTLIGHT ON ...

QUALITY MAILING SERVICE – THE STORY SO FAR!

The team at QMS in Sandford.



input from the Enable Ireland Avenue Garden Centre), computers and attendance at community based courses. In 2006, training sessions were held in manual handling, health and safety and healthy lifestyles. Adults have access to both day and evening social outings and enjoy regular short holiday breaks in the Dublin Adult Services holiday centre, Rathmore House.

QMS was based on the Enable Ireland Sandymount campus until 2004 when it was relocated to its present site in Sandford Industrial Estate.

In 1980, Enable Ireland set up a small sheltered workshop service in Sandymount to provide work for a group of young adults, several of whom are still attending Quality Mailing Service (QMS) today. These adults earned a small allowance, which was increased considerably in 1998 as a result of lobbying from their Service User representative group, PIA (People in Action).

During the 1990s, Dublin Adult Services expanded, firstly into the area of training and later into the creation of small community based services. The future direction of QMS was unclear. However in a service review undertaken in 2002 the QMS Service Users elected to keep the basic format of their service.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health and Children was reviewing the whole area of

sheltered work. Based on feedback from Enable Ireland adult service users and other organisations, guidelines were developed for Sheltered Occupational Services. This model of service offers a balanced day service, one that combines both a working environment and a person centered service. In accordance with the guidelines, which are still awaiting official implementation, we moved away from working all day, 5 days a week, into a model of service that encourages people to become more independent and to broaden their horizons.

Independence is fostered through a number of approaches: PCP (Person Centred Planning), the advocacy group, PIA, and mobility training. Other activities include exercise (i.e. attending a gym, swimming), physiotherapy, literacy classes, relationship and sexuality education, gardening (with

The hard working participants in QMS currently provide a mailing service to 67 companies, ranging from voluntary organisations to private companies. Last year, income generated from the mailing was €65,000. All of this income was paid in allowances to QMS Service Users.

QMS has 22 service users - 16 of whom are full time and six who combine QMS with supported employment outside Enable Ireland. We have five full time staff members and one part time staff member. The last few years have seen a new dimension in this service – service users still have a pride in working hard and doing a useful job but they also have a real opportunity to set and achieve their own personal goals.

Jason O'Reilly Co-ordinator QMS.

NORTH EAST

MEATH ADULT SERVICE RESPITE CARE GRANT

In September 2006, Meath Adult Services were successful in securing a grant for €7,000 from the HSE North East. The grant will be used for the provision of respite breaks for adults.

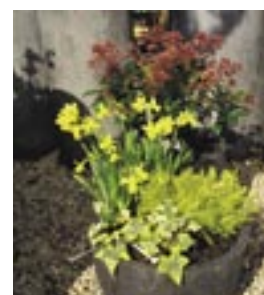
It will offer a great opportunity for adults of the service to enjoy a break in a relaxing and appropriate setting whilst also providing a respite break to carers and families. Adults in the service will be involved in choosing the most appropriate and valuable venues.

SANDYMOUNT

SPRING DEALS AT SANDYMOUNT GARDEN CENTRE

The Enable Ireland Avenue Garden Centre in Sandymount has doubled its turnover since it re-opened after extensive refurbishment last year. The centre offers a large selection of quality plants and containers and now that spring is here, it is an ideal spot to visit in preparation for the gardening year ahead.

For more information, contact:
 THE AVENUE GARDEN CENTRE
 Enable Ireland, Sandymount Avenue, Dublin 4.
 Tel: 01 261 5928



ENABLING GLAMOUROUS WEDDING NIGHTS



Cork Brides fell in love with the cream of bridal gowns and accessories at fabulous prices on the 23rd January, at the Enable Ireland Princes Street shop in Cork. The Wedding Fayre raised an amazing €1,800 in less than 1½ hours.

Brides-to-be were thrilled by the choice of quality dresses, as well as a stunning selection of shoes, bridesmaid dresses and headpieces, donated by De Stafford Bridal (Nenagh) and Rice n' Roses (Douglas). Buyers qualified for discounts on alterations, wedding suit hire, flowers, dry-cleaning and beautician services.

With raffle prizes of vouchers for O'Brien Photography, Curves Fitness Club, Diffusion hair stylists and Sakura Florists, this event was a must for any bride.

Thanks to the success of the Cork event, the Enable Ireland Limerick shop was the next to follow suit, hosting an extravagant Spring Wedding Fayre on 20th February which raised the sum of €2,082. Two more events brought some wedding glamour to local brides, at the Enable Ireland Waterford and Clonmel shops.



Claire Jackson, Manager of the Enable Ireland Prince's Street Shop, displays some of the high-quality wedding gowns on offer at the Cork Wedding Fayre, held on 23rd January.



(L-R) Volunteers Kate Butler and Carol Corbay, pictured with Enable Ireland CEO Fionnuala O'Donovan at the Enable Ireland "Thank You for Your Time" Christmas Lunch held on 3rd December in Clonmel.

CHRISTMAS CHEERS TO SHOP VOLUNTEERS

In December, 2006 Enable Ireland retail volunteers across the country were honoured at "Thank You for Your Time" themed events in Dublin, Clonmel and Galway. Volunteers were treated to a mulled wine reception and a traditional Christmas meal, followed by a presentation of gifts and awards. Volunteers who had served for more than 3 years received a Newbridge Silver clock, and there was a Newbridge Silver watch for people with over 7 years service. Those who began supporting Enable Ireland more recently received a certificate honouring their contribution.

Enable Ireland CEO Fionnuala O'Donovan, who attended all three events, thanked volunteers, and spoke of the difference their work makes to Enable Ireland – with money raised used to fund capital development projects in local communities.

According to Ann Kelly, Regional Manager, East Region, "Volunteers loved the event. They enjoyed gathering together with their peers, with the opportunity to socialise and share information. They also enjoyed meeting staff from Head Office including our CEO. The focus was clearly on the volunteers – it was great to see their contribution recognised."

GETTING AHEAD WITH FÁS AND ENABLE IRELAND

Back (l-r): Susan Calahan, Ken Girvan, Antionette Waters, Deirdre Ingram, Mary Murphy, Anne Hunt. Front (l-r): Adrienne Kelly, Marian Davis and Caroline O'Rourke.



Community Employment (CE) is a government financed FÁS programme that benefits both the community and participants. Enable Ireland has been jointly managing some of these programmes with FÁS for many years and the partnership has proved to be mutually beneficial. The results are evident in the calibre of staff that the Enable Ireland retail network has recruited from the programme. In Dublin, Enable Ireland is the sponsor of the CE scheme.

On 9th February, 30 people from the six Enable Ireland retail outlets in Dublin were invited to Enable Ireland Blanchardstown in recognition of their achievements. They were also invited to see first hand how the warehouse operates.

Marian Davis, FÁS Supervisor, attended on the day. She celebrated her 8th anniversary of partnership with Enable Ireland on 1st of February this year. She is an avid fan of the programme. "Its aim is to progress participants into permanent suitable employment. Enable Ireland's project has been very successful to date, and has a very high success rate."

According to Ken Girvan, Area Manager, CE participants are invaluable to the Enable Ireland retail network. "We wouldn't be half as successful without their input. It's really nice to see how some of these individuals have progressed and gained confidence in themselves and, in some cases, advanced into management level".

Anne Hunt has been with Enable Ireland for 10 years. She progressed from the CE programme to become the retail manager in Finglas. She praised the CE programme, describing it as "giving her the experience and confidence necessary to return to full time employment".

Mary Murphy, of the Enable Ireland Georges Street shop, has been working with Enable Ireland for the past 4 years. Speaking about her experience with Enable Ireland she said "Before I started the CE programme I hadn't worked in 14 years so I was delighted to get a job in the community employment scheme".



NEW ACCESSIBLE CLOTHING BANKS

Enable Ireland is incorporating wheelchair accessible clothes banks in amenity centres around Ireland to enable wheelchair users to avail of the service. The new banks are 50% larger than the old banks, and have an extra chute located at wheelchair level to accommodate people with disabilities. Two new banks are currently located in amenity centres in Glashule (Wicklow) and Mullingar (Westmeath). Cookstown Textile Recycling has kindly sponsored the new clothes banks which will be brought in on a phased basis throughout the country.



MASTERCLASS IN WINDOW DISPLAY

Enable Ireland shop managers have received a series of lessons in window dressing from Ann Marie Keeley, the Enable Ireland window display designer for the East Region stores. Ann Marie also creates the design concepts for Enable Ireland shops during the annual Action Week on Disability Campaign. At least one member of staff from each Enable Ireland store is trained by Ann Marie, saving the costs of using a professional window dresser each time the display needs to be changed.

Pictured: Angela Gleeson of the Enable Ireland Limerick shop arranges a special window display with a 'Spring Bride' theme for the Limerick Wedding Fayre, held on 20th February.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

DOUBLE SUCCESS FOR AT LOAN BANK



Enable Ireland's National High Tech Assistive Technology Training Service has had two successes recently in securing funding for the establishment of a National AT Loan Bank. In keeping with our stated aim of making assistive technology accessible and available to service users at a local level, we secured funding through the Department of the Taoiseach's ASC Fund to establish a limited AT loan bank which staff can access, to facilitate service users' trial of AT devices prior to purchase. We anticipate that this loan bank will become operational in late summer 2007.

funding through the Department of Justice's Enhancing Disability Services fund, for the establishment of a web-based AT loan bank. This loan bank will operate in Leinster only, during its first year, but will be expanded nationally in its second year of operation.

In partnership with the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association, the National Council for the Blind in Ireland, and ACTON (national network of AT advisors in third level education), we were also successful in securing

Both these funding successes reflect the Government's National Disability Strategy - to share ownership of disability-related services and supports across government departments and represents a significant shift from previous policy whereby most Assistive Technology was funded by the HSE or by FÁS (in the workplace).



CORK, DUBLIN, NORTH EAST



LOCAL NEWS BY E-ZINE

The staff of Regional Enable Ireland Services Centres are continuing to bring local news to parents and staff at their services. Taking advantage of developments in computer technology, many services are now delivering their newsletters not in the traditional paper format but via e-mail. Computer packages increasingly offer the capacity to produce sophisticated designs in-house. Enable Ireland Cork, Dublin and North East are just some of the Services Centres that produced informative newsletters in bright and colourful designs in the run up to Christmas (pictured above).

CORK

NEW ADVOCACY SERVICE IN CORK

Enable Ireland Cork Adult Services has been successful in securing funding for the development of an advocacy service for adults who use the centre. The development of this exciting, independent service will be developed in partnership with Cheshire Homes, the Citizens Information Service, the Disability Federation of Ireland and Comhairle (now the Citizen's Information Board). To ensure the independence of the service, the advocate will be employed by the Citizens Information Service in Cork City.

ADULT SERVICES

FETAC APPLICATION UNDER REVIEW

In 2006, an application was made for FETAC quality assurance by services across the country running the FETAC training modules. The application is currently under review and a team has been formed to help to progress this assurance system and to support and share information between training services. All training policies and procedures are currently under review and a Trainers Information Seminar will be held in September.

For further information please contact: Fidelma Murphy on 087 4171445 or e-mail fmurphy@enableireland.ie.



HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS

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 below.

valuable contribution to our work. If you would like to become involved please contact Sinead on 01 8857165.



We would like to thank all our loyal collectors and donors who make a very

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



2007 FACE TO FACE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The annual Face to Face Fundraising Campaign, which provides a steady long-term source of income for Enable Ireland, runs in Dublin from 26th March – 31st May 2007. Further information from Sinead on 01 885 7165.



COMMUNICATING WITH OUR DONORS

Donors and volunteers received our third donor newsletter in November 2006 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 Enable Ireland throughout the year.

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

The 2006 Annual Report will be available to download from our website www.enableireland.ie in July 2007.

To order a copy please contact Sinead on 01 8857165.

DATE SET FOR ACTION WEEK ON DISABILITY 2007

Action Week on Disability 2007, our annual awareness-building and fundraising event will be held countrywide from 17th – 23rd September. Look out for more details about Action Week 2007 in your local services centre.

For further information or to get involved with Action Week on Disability, contact Sinead on 01 8857165.



LORCAN TAKES FIRST STEPS TO DREAM JOB

Six-year old Lorcan Reddin took his first steps to his dream job when he recently travelled in the cab of the new Cork to Dublin Intercity train fleet. Lorcan, who is visually impaired, featured on the Today programme with Pat Kenny during our annual Action Week on Disability. The programme featured the work of Enable Ireland with interviews with Lorcan, his mother Vicky, Lisa Verdon (mother of a child who attends services in Enable Ireland) and longstanding volunteer Margaret McCarthy.

On the programme, Lorcan expressed his confidence that scientific advances would allow him to fulfill his ambition of being a train driver when he gets older. Iarnród Éireann then kindly contacted Enable Ireland to arrange for Lorcan to get a little advance training for his future career straight away! Lorcan and his mum Vicki travelled from Dublin to Cork by Citygold where Lorcan then took to the footplate for the 13.30hrs service from Cork back to Heuston.

We would like to thank the staff at Iarnród Éireann for making Lorcan's dream come true.

Lorcan Reddin, accompanied by the Iarnród Éireann train driver and mum Vicky, sits in the driver's seat of the Cork to Dublin Citygold service.



Kilkenny Gold Badge Award Nominees Eamon Cleere and Shane Doyle pictured with Lucy Dooley, Director of Service, Enable Ireland Kilkenny.

GOLD BADGE FOR VALUED VOLUNTEERS



The number of volunteers in Ireland fell by one third between 1992 and 2002. Despite active government support of volunteer initiatives, attracting and retaining volunteers becomes more challenging each year. Enable Ireland has many dedicated volunteers countrywide. They assist in our shops, organise events and raise funds and their input is very much valued.

The goodwill of our volunteers helps us to enhance the services we provide for children and adults with disabilities. Money raised locally is spent locally, on essential projects such as building new Services Centres, carrying out renovations and building Hydrotherapy treatment pools.

In conjunction with Action Week on Disability 2006 and the Enable Ireland Gold Badge Appeal we thanked our most long serving volunteers, and those who had made an outstanding contribution, by presenting them with a "Gold Badge Volunteer Award". The nominees received a letter of thanks from Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO and a memento of their award – a specially made lapel pin.



The original design for the Gold Badge Award lapel pin.

'DAN AND BECS' ACTRESS SUPPORTS ENABLE IRELAND

Holly White, the 23 year old star of the hit television series 'Dan and Becs', recently donated 10% of her earnings from the first series of the programme to Enable Ireland. Holly divides her time between London and Dublin, and she is currently preparing for the second series of Dan and Becs which is promised for September 2007. Many thanks to Holly for her support.



EAST REGION

CULWICK CHORAL SINGERS PERFORM MESSIAH

Attending Handel’s choral masterpiece, the Messiah, has been a Christmas tradition for more than 250 years. On 5th and 6th December 2006, the Culwick Choral Society carried on this tradition, holding two performances in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin, with all proceeds in aid of Enable Ireland in the East Region (Dublin and Wicklow).

Supporters of Enable Ireland gathered to hear majestic choruses and inspirational

solos reverberating round the walls of the great medieval cathedral, by the light of flickering candles.

The performances were a huge success, with both events selling out well in advance. The Culwick choir was joined by Anna Devin (soprano), Maire Flavin (contralto), Eamon Mulhall (tenor), Andrew Slater (bass) and conductor Colin Block, who together set the tone for Christmas with a magnificent



Members of the Culwick Choral Society meet children from the Enable Ireland Sandymount Service.



performance, which raised over €20,000 for Enable Ireland.

DIT STUDENT RAG WEEK RAISES FUNDS Enable Ireland and RNLI Lifeboats Benefit



Enable Ireland and the RNLI Lifeboats were chosen by the DIT Student Council as the beneficiaries of all DIT Rag Week fundraising events in February.

RAG Week is the biggest non-academic event in the student calendar and involves fundraising, gigs and other entertainment, both daytime and night time, organised by DIT Students’ Union and the students themselves.

The highlights of this year’s fundraising activities included a sponsored swim in the

40 Foot, a Rag Run through the city which saw DIT students collecting on behalf of the 2 charities and a Bungee Jump in DIT Aungier St. on Valentine’s Day as part of the ‘Carnival of Love’ daytime entertainments on campus.

RAG stands for Raising and Giving and DIT has a great tradition of focusing efforts on the fundraising element of the week. Many thanks to the DIT Student Council and all the students for their support for Enable Ireland.



Mrs Anne Hegarty, a long-serving fundraiser with Enable Ireland Cork, presents Catherine Hughes with the €1,000 prize from Brown Thomas at the Ladies Lunch 2006.

LADIES LUNCH TEN YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The 10th Anniversary of the Enable Ireland Cork Ladies Lunch took place at the Maryborough House Hotel on November 15th. The event raised in excess of €45,000 and as always the 430 tickets were sold out well in advance. The event has been firmly established over the years due to great food, surprise guest speakers and wonderful raffle prizes. Brown Thomas Cork generously donated a special prize of a €1,000 voucher to celebrate the special 10th Anniversary celebrations. Those in attendance included the Lady Mayoress Eileen Ahern, Pat Beirne, Director of Services, Enable Ireland Cork and Kerry, Dorothy Barry, Head of Retail & Fundraising, Enable Ireland, and Theresa Compagno, Regional Director, Enable Ireland.

CORK ROTARY REMEMBRANCE TREE



Each year, the Rotary Clubs of Cork and Bishopstown run a Christmas ‘Tree of Remembrance’ project to raise funds for a different charity. Situated outside Brown Thomas on Patrick Street, the Rotary Club’s Tree of Remembrance gave the people of Cork an opportunity to remember their loved ones in a simple yet poignant way amid the hustle and bustle of the Christmas rush and at the same time to raise funds for Enable Ireland Cork.

Rotary is a worldwide organisation of business and professional leaders which provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Their event raised a grand total of €10,000 for Enable Ireland Cork.

Pictured at the Cork and Bishopstown Rotary Club’s cheque presentation to Enable Ireland: Seated; Pat Beirne, Director of Services, Enable Ireland Cork and Kerry, Donal Cashman, Chairman Enable Ireland and Theresa Compagno, Regional Director Enable Ireland. Standing; Caroline Aubry, Fundraising Assistant, Enable Ireland, Tom Woodward, Cork Rotary Club, Gerard Kilcommons, Bishopstown Rotary Club, Richard Irwin, President, Cork Rotary Club, Des Fitzgerald, Adult Services Manager, Enable Ireland and Lorraine O’Leary, Fundraising Assistant, Enable Ireland.

GALWAY

**GALWAY SCHOOLS
SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

Pupils from Colaiste na Coiribe helping to raise funds for Enable Ireland Galway.



The Renmore Brownies present a cheque for €755.67 to Joanne Murphy, Regional Fundraiser, Enable Ireland.

Children took to the streets in Galway over the festive period, singing Christmas carols in support of Enable Ireland. The Renmore Brownies, Scoil íde and Colaiste na Coiribe raised a total of €3,400 for Enable Ireland Galway.

**TENNIS PLAYERS
“ROW THE SHANNON”**

Damien Burke of Galway Lawn Tennis Club presenting Joanne Murphy of Enable Ireland with a cheque for €1,290.



Damien Burke, Manager of the Galway Lawn Tennis Club, raised over €1,290 for Enable Ireland Galway from the proceeds of a ‘Row the length of the Shannon’ Challenge held as part of Action Week on Disability in September 2006. Sincere thanks to Damien from Enable Ireland Galway.



Joanne Murphy, Fundraising Coordinator, Enable Ireland Galway, with Jack Colbert and his uncle, Tom Griffin, a Dublin City Marathon participant.

40K CYCLE

On December 9th the employees of Caragh Tool and Die participated in a 40k Cycle from Loughrea to Galway. The event, organised by employees of the local Precision Engineering Company, continued the company’s tradition of Christmas charity fundraising.

**DUBLIN CITY MARATHON
BENEFITS GALWAY**

Christmas came early for Enable Ireland as Tom Griffin presented Enable Ireland Galway with a cheque for €5,562 - the proceeds from his fundraising efforts and participation in the Dublin City Marathon in 2006. Enable Ireland Galway is very grateful to Tom and all those who so generously supported him.

**FOOD AND FASHION AT
MILANOS GALWAY**

Model Linda Duffy at last year’s Milano fashion event.



The Fifth annual Milano fashion Show took place in Galway on Wednesday 28th March 2007. Milano’s provided wine, food and excellent service while models showcased the latest fashions from the likes of Brown Thomas, Treasure Chest, Sugar Pink, Rococo and the Galway Hat Shop on a catwalk which dominated the length of the restaurant. Make up was courtesy of MAC at Brown Thomas while the experts at Bellissimo styled the models’ hair for the show. MC for the evening was Máire-Éilís Ní Fhlatharta, better known as Cairtriona from TG4’s ‘Ros na Rún’.

There were goody bags with fabulous giveaways and gifts for the audience, along with a range of delightful raffle prizes.

FESTIVE SWIM

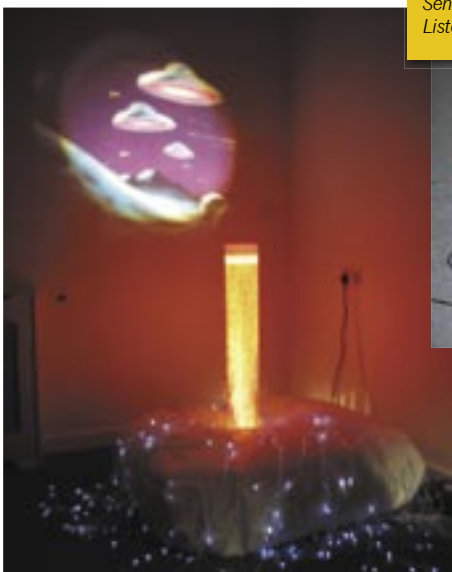
Christmas Day saw 14 brave souls congregate on the beach in Blackrock, Salthill for the annual Enable Ireland Galway swim. The deep blue Galway Bay water wasn’t as cold as expected and was braved for a second time as participants got into the Christmas Spirit. The Santa hats worn by the swimmers helped keep the cold at bay!

KERRY

BINGO NIGHT

On 30th November, €4,000 was raised in Ballyheigue at a Bingo night in aid of Enable Ireland Kerry.





Sensory Corner and Therapeutic Listening Equipment.



Money raised through fundraising has already had a great impact on the Enable Ireland Monaghan service. A sensory corner is now almost complete and is proving a great success with children and parents. The service has also been able

SENSORY CORNER ALMOST COMPLETE

to purchase all the equipment needed to start using therapeutic listening. This therapy uses digitally enhanced CDs over headphones and aims to enhance a child's development across a range of different areas.

The team at Monaghan would like to extend a huge thank you to all of their fundraisers and supporters. Their ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

NORTH EAST

ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR MONAGHAN SERVICES!

Through 2006, Enable Ireland Monaghan Services received great support from parents and fundraisers. A number of parents took part in the Flora Ladies mini-marathon to raise funds. Other events during Action Week on Disability included walks in Emyvale and Monaghan town, an activity day at Monaghan Library and the Monaghan leg of the North East Motorbike run.

In other fundraising and awareness activities, Scoile Enna in Ballybay had a school non-uniform day in December, and one brave parent took to the skies in a parachute jump in support of Enable Ireland Monaghan.

Kim McAllister and Brenda Barry presenting €2,880 to Enable Ireland Monaghan from fundraising activities during Action Week on Disability and the Flora Ladies Mini Marathon. Diane Coulter and Elaine Brady (not pictured) also contributed to the events.



KILKENNY

WALK IN SPAIN

Pictured: the 'Friends of Kilkenny' present a cheque for €31,220 to Lucy Dooley, Director of Services, Enable Ireland Kilkenny - the proceeds from a recent 'Walk in Spain' fundraiser.



Kim McAllister supports Enable Ireland at 10,000 feet.



APRIL – OCTOBER 2007

Marathon Travel!

Why not take up the challenge?

Run marathons in Paris (15th April), Boston (16th April), London (22nd April), Cork (4th June), Women's Mini Marathon (4th June), Cork Mini Marathon (23rd September), BUPA Great North Run (30th September), Limerick Mini Marathon (October Bank Holiday Weekend), Dublin City Marathon (29th October) and the New York Marathon (4th November). For more details, contact the East Region Fundraising Office on 01 2615900 or e-mail eastfr@enableireland.ie.

14TH APRIL 2007

Marilyn's Magnificent Seven

Seasoned fundraiser Marilyn O'Riordan plans to take on the mammoth challenge of walking 7 marathons in 7 days, travelling from Bray in Co. Wicklow to Cork. Enable Ireland Cork will receive half of the proceeds from this event.



For more information please contact the Cork fundraising office on 021 4294803 or email corkfr@enableireland.ie.

18TH MAY 2007

Galway – Night at the Dogs.

The Enable Ireland Galway Night at the Dogs will take place in Galway Greyhound Track on College Road. Tickets cost €20 and kids go free. For more information on tickets, to sponsor a race or to advertise, please contact Joanne on 091 526321 or email galwayfr@enableireland.ie.

11TH MAY 2007

Kildare - Annual Golf Classic

The Enable Ireland Kildare Services Golf Classic will take place in the Woodlands Golf Club Naas. A team of 4 costs €650. To enter a team or advertise at the event, contact Willie on 045 875676 or email kildarefr@enableireland.ie.

25TH MAY 2007

Kerry – 6th Annual Ladies Lunch and Fashion Show

The annual Kerry Services Ladies Lunch and Fashion Show takes place at Ballyroe Heights Hotel, Tralee. Tickets include a champagne reception, lunch and fashion show. Tickets are €75 and can be purchased by contacting 066 712 8220 or kerryfr@enableireland.ie.

13TH JULY 2007

Kerry – Inaugural Golf Classic

The inaugural Kerry Services Golf Classic takes place at Beauford Golf Club. A team of four costs €400. To book in a team, or for further information, please contact 066 712 8220 or email kerryfr@enableireland.ie.



28TH JULY 2007

Mayo – Balla Annual Race

The annual Balla race welcomes runners, joggers and walkers to participate for fun, or in one of the competition categories. All proceeds will be donated to Enable Ireland Mayo. For further information please contact Mary Mulryan on 094 9362444 or email mmulryan@enableireland.ie.

6TH – 11TH AUGUST 2007

Lavanagh Open Pitch and Putt

The annual Lavanagh Open Pitch & Putt tees off at the ESB Pitch & Putt Club, Cork. Organised by Mr. Ted O'Riordan, this annual event promises an exciting week! For more information please contact the Cork fundraising office on 021 4294803 or email corkfr@enableireland.ie.

31ST AUGUST 2007

East Region – Corporate 5km Run

Contact the East Region Fundraising Office on 01 2615900 or eastfr@enableireland.ie for your entry form, sponsorship card and free t-shirt.

24TH SEPTEMBER 2007

East Region – Wicklow Way Walk

Contact the East Region Fundraising Office on 01 2615900 or eastfr@enableireland.ie for your entry form, sponsorship card and free t-shirt.

REGIONAL FUNDRAISING OFFICES AND CONTACT DETAILS:

CORK

Tel: 021 4294803
Email: corkfr@enableireland.ie

DUBLIN & WICKLOW

Tel: 01 2615900
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GALWAY

Tel: 091 526321
Email: galwayfr@enableireland.ie

KILDARE

Tel: 045 875676
Email: kildarefr@enableireland.ie

LIMERICK

Tel: 061 301830
Email: midwestfr@enableireland.ie

KERRY

Tel: 066 7128220
Email: kerryfr@enableireland.ie

EDITORIAL MATTERS

We are delighted to bring you the first issue of our National newsletter for 2007. 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 about what is happening in Enable Ireland.

A huge "thank you" is extended to all those who so enthusiastically contributed to this issue and we look forward to another bumper issue later in the year.

All contributions are welcome for the next issue, which will be published in November. Please send your news, views, reviews, comments and photos to the Editor at the above address by the end of September 2007.

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