



Receiving 'Better Place to Work Award' for Enable Ireland North East Front Row: Heather Ritchie (Cavan Early Services), Mary Fox, (Director of Services, North East), Michele White, (Administration Manager North East) Back Row: Professor Brendan Drumm, HSE, Yvonne Ridley, Meath Early Services Manager, Larry Walsh, HSE

ENABLE IRELAND NORTH EAST SERVICES - A BETTER PLACE TO WORK

Enable Ireland North East were the proud winners in the Health Service Executive Achievement Awards 2007 category for 'Better Place to Work'. The award was presented by Professor Brendan Drumm at a ceremony held in Blanchardstown on 26th November 2007.

The award recognises the initiatives that are in place to support and develop staff, including training, communication systems and opportunities for staff to give feedback.

It follows closely the achievement of a 4 Star Recognition from the Excellence Ireland Quality Awards (EIQA) by the services, as well as two nominations for national awards at the annual EIQA event.

Enable Ireland North East provides services across eight locations in Meath, Cavan and Monaghan and employs 97 staff.

OPENING OF ENHANCED ADMINISTRATION SPACE IN GALWAY

Pictured at the opening of the new administration space at Enable Ireland Galway are L-R Mary Courtney Director of Services, Enable Ireland West, Alan Smart, Transport Manager, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO Enable Ireland, Mary Doherty, CE Supervisor Enable Ireland Galway and Denis Healy, Psychologist and Team Leader, Enable Ireland Galway. This enhanced space will be used by four new clinicians from the HSE, joining Enable Ireland Galway staff in the coming weeks



NEW SENSORY GARDEN FOR SILVERPINES

The concept of a sensory garden for Silverpines was first proposed by a parent of a service user as part of a college study project.

Structural work began by November 2006 and was completed by March 2007. In consultation with the manager of Enable Ireland Garden Centre in Sandymount, layout and vegetation were chosen to compliment the five senses. The plants were then planted between May and August.

The garden is divided into different areas to stimulate each of the senses while providing a tranquil and inviting atmosphere.

The garden contains the following areas for development:

- Bamboo/water/chimes/bells - **sound**
- Colours of plants/ornaments/climbers/ribbons - **vision**
- Herb planters/flowers - **smell**
- Vegetable/ herb planters - **taste**
- Plants/water/chimes - **touch**

The service users have enjoyed spending quality time in the garden due to its accessibility and raised bed planters. Some have been involved in the planting and enjoyed tasting our organic produce of fruits and vegetables.

Wicklow Services are now looking forward to the summer months and have lots of plans for the new garden



Enable Ireland Wicklow Services, Silverpines Sensory Garden, Bray

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009 – 2011

Work is well underway on the Strategic Plan 2009 – 2011. This will serve, as did the Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008, to set the organisational direction of Enable Ireland. The implementation of the plan has been supported through Enable Ireland’s performance management process and has proven to be a valuable tool in measuring achievement within the organisation.

The new 2009 – 2011 plan will be developed through consultation with staff, service users and corporate stakeholders. This consultation will take place this year and each staff member and service user and their families will receive communication about this. The information gathered from this exercise will provide the blueprint for the future of Enable Ireland services.

In advance of this consultation, we suggest that review the content of the Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008. This is available on www.enableireland.ie or at your local service.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Enable Ireland are delighted to be in a position to distribute to all staff members a copy of the new Employee Handbook. The handbook contains information on key aspects of working within Enable Ireland such as policies and procedures, pay and benefits, etc. We hope that you find the information contained in the handbook of benefit to you.



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.

We would like to thank all our loyal collectors and donors who make a very valuable contribution to our work. If you would like to become involved please contact Danelle on 01-8857158.

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



DATE SET FOR ACTION WEEK ON DISABILITY

Action Week on Disability 2008, our annual awareness building and fundraising event will take place from Monday 15th – Saturday 20th September. Look out for more details about Action Week in you local service centres .

For further information or to get involved in Action Week on Disability contact the Communications Office on 01-8857160 or email communications@enableireland.ie.



CHARITY BEGINS IN THE WARDROBE!

- FIRST EVER IRISH GIVEGET A HUGE SUCCESS

The first campaign of its kind in Ireland – GiveGet 2008 – took place from 23rd Feb to 9th Mar. The campaign was a huge success, raising a large amount of stock for Enable Ireland shops, therefore raising funds for our capital projects.

During the campaign special collection bags were given out in TK Maxx stores and posted through letterboxes by Enable Ireland. Filled bags were then returned to TK Maxx stores and donors were entitled to enter a draw for a chance to win a €2000 TK Maxx voucher or one of five €200 vouchers.

TK Maxx launched the GiveGet campaign in the UK in 2004 in partnership with the country's biggest charity, Cancer Research UK. This was a huge opportunity to get involved in an already successful campaign to raise stock and funds whilst raising the profile of Enable Ireland. Each bag of quality goods was valued at €75 and 100,000 bags were given out during the campaign. In addition, all TK Maxx associates asked shoppers if they would like to add €1 to their bill for Enable Ireland.

GiveGet 2008 was a huge success with over 10,000 bags of clothes and other unwanted items, and over €10,000 collected to date. We would like to express our warmest gratitude to volunteers who spent the weekends in TK Maxx stores throughout the country. Thanks are also due to Sandymount service users Paula Conradie (16), Nicole Joyce Stephenson (11) and brothers Alan (5) and Aaron (20) months McGovern who assisted Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, model Glenda Gilson and ex model and beauty columnist Laura Birmingham in launching the campaign. Everybody involved is now looking forward to GiveGet 2009!

Sandymount service users Paula Conradie and Nicole Joyce Stephenson (seated), with model Glenda Gilson at the launch of GiveGet 2008



Minister for Education and Science Mary Hanafin with brothers Alan (5) and Aaron (20 months) McGovern



give • get **SPRING CLEAN YOUR WARDROBE AND HELP TAKE ACTION ON DISABILITY**

Enable Ireland **TKmaxx & YOU**
Action on Disability



WEDDING DRESS EVENT



Louise O'Connor, Bernadette Conway and Olive O'Connor at the 2008 wedding dress sale at the Enable Ireland shop at Princes street

The second Cork Princes St Shop Wedding Fayre proved yet again that getting married needn't break the bank! On 20 February brides-to-be flocked to the shop to browse the many bargains on offer and to hopefully snap up a few in the process. One lucky shopper bagged a gown valued at €2000 for just €350!

Hundreds of dresses were on offer on the night including designs from

Cymeblaine, Maggie Sottero, Hollywood Dreams, Augusta Jones and Pronovias – the chosen label of Penny Lancaster when she tied the knot with Rod Stewart last year.

Wedding dresses in all styles and sizes and by a wide variety of designers and retailers were on offer for between €100 and €400. Some bridesmaids and communion dresses were also available.

RETAIL VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF HONORED AT CELEBRATION LUNCHES

Enable Ireland retail staff and volunteers were honored at celebratory Christmas lunches in December. This formed part of the '20 years of Retail' celebrations which took place throughout 2007.

Events took place in Sligo, Limerick and Dublin across three weekends, with over 350 staff and volunteers in total attending the events.

Their hard work and dedicated support over the years, has contributed hugely to the development of Enable Ireland Services, with the 19 shops nationwide now generating over €1 million profit every year.



Carol Ann McVea, Manager, Enable Ireland Waterford Shop and long serving volunteer Mavis Wallace with Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO Enable Ireland

THE EQUIVALENT WEIGHT OF 4 MALE ELEPHANTS NOW RECEIVED EACH WEEK!

An average of 20 tonnes of stock per week was donated to Enable Ireland in 2007 – a 10% increase on 2006. Clothes production can be a strain on the environment. Chemicals are involved in the bleaching, dying and other finishing stages and production is energy and water intensive. This means we should all be conscious of reusing and recycling our textiles. Enable Ireland take care



of both. We reuse what people don't want by selling it in our some of our 19 retail outlets, and recycle the rest!

'Enable Ireland has been converting textiles to services for 20 years now and it's interesting to watch the volume of donations increasing as people become more environmentally aware. It's great that a charity like Enable Ireland can benefit from the environmental conscience that exists at the moment. And of course Enable Ireland is a charity that people

know and trust which makes us a very popular choice' says Stephen Cahill, Warehouse Manager with Enable Ireland.

Clothes are sorted into 'saleable' and 'unsaleable' categories. Saleable items are sent to Enable Ireland shops where the items are put on sale to raise money for capital projects. The unsaleable clothes are then sent to a recycling centre. All proceeds from recycling and selling your unwanted goods go towards capital developments nationwide.

The Facts and Figures in brief!

Weekly average tonnage in textiles: 20

% increase in collections: 10%

Number of clothing banks 111

Weekly average bags collected: 24,000

Amount contributed by Retail to Enable Ireland services:
Excess €1 yearly