

National Newsletter

CROKE PARK CONFERENCE PROMOTES EXCELLENCE FOR ENABLE IRELAND



Terry Landers (Microsoft Ireland), Tony Redmond (Hibernian Life & Pensions), Fionnuala O'Donovan (CEO, Enable Ireland), Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, John Bowman, James O'Grady (HSE).

highlighted the views of Enable Ireland staff on the EFQM experience.

Mícheál's entertaining presentation showed how the teamwork which has been the hallmark of the GAA's success can easily be adopted by team-based organisations like Enable Ireland. Other key presenters included Dr. Tom Collins (formerly of Dundalk Institute of Technology, now NUI Maynooth) who looked at the significant role training plays when facilitating a culture of continuous improvement. James O'Grady (National Director, Disability Services HSE) discussed the process of managing change in the Health Service Executive, and Tony Redmond (Hibernian Life & Pensions) shared insights and practical experiences of implementing the EFQM Excellence Model.

There was also a team presentation by Jane Lorigan (irishjobs.ie), Terry Landers (Microsoft Ireland), Siobhan Long (Manager, National High Tech Assistive Technology Training Service, Enable Ireland) and Bobbie Connolly (Enable Ireland Service User and Paralympic athlete). This explored the success of partnership with other organisations.

Stands and poster displays from across Enable Ireland gave valuable insights and information about our activities throughout the country.

On Wednesday 21st September, Enable Ireland held its first National Conference, which was attended by over 200 Enable Ireland stakeholders and delegates from the wider business community and Services. The one-day conference, "Enabling Excellence: Ní neart go cur le chéile", was held in the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin. It was opened by Minister Tim O'Malley TD, and chaired by broadcaster and historian John Bowman. CEO Fionnuala O'Donovan extended a warm welcome to all present.

The theme of the conference was partnership as a key to success. Excellent speakers included representatives from Hibernian Insurance, irishjobs.ie, Dundalk Institute of Technology and the Health Service Executive, with special guest speaker Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh. It explored how a culture of excellence can be facilitated using the European Foundation of Quality Management (EFQM) process. This quality initiative was implemented in Enable Ireland in 2004. A video presentation

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DESK

I am pleased to bring you the final National Newsletter for 2005. The Head Office move to Blanchardstown is now fully complete. The transition went very smoothly thanks to the hard work and adaptability of Head Office staff and the co-operation of all Enable Ireland staff. A special thank you is due to Enable Ireland Retail & Fundraising, who were most accommodating during the move.

I would like to welcome some new staff members in Head Office: Ed Meagher, our new IT Manager, Anita Hanlon in Accounts and Sandra Hickey, PA to Finbar McCann and Regional Director of Services, John O'Sullivan.

Since the summer the management team has completed the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006-2008. This is on its way to print and will be launched in January 2006. We look forward to its implementation over the next three years.

At the time of writing, EFQM CEO Reviews are keeping

everyone busy and activity reports are currently being collated. We are also preparing the roll-out of our new Performance Management Policy which will be introduced in 2006. This will run in conjunction with our team based quality measurement system and staff will be hearing more about this soon.

You may have participated in or heard about the Enabling Excellence conference held on 21st September 2005 in Croke Park. It was an excellent venue and a very professional conference – congratulations to all who made it happen. This event was the highlight of Action Week on Disability 2005 – a wide array of activities were organised and enjoyed throughout the country by many of our stakeholders. Well done to all concerned.

Autumn is turning out to be particularly busy. The Strategic Plan completion, EFQM reviews, 2006 service planning and many fundraising events will ensure an active season.

Fionnuala O'Donovan

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

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CORK

ENABLE IRELAND CELEBRATES CORK GOLDEN JUBILEE IN VIENNESE STYLE

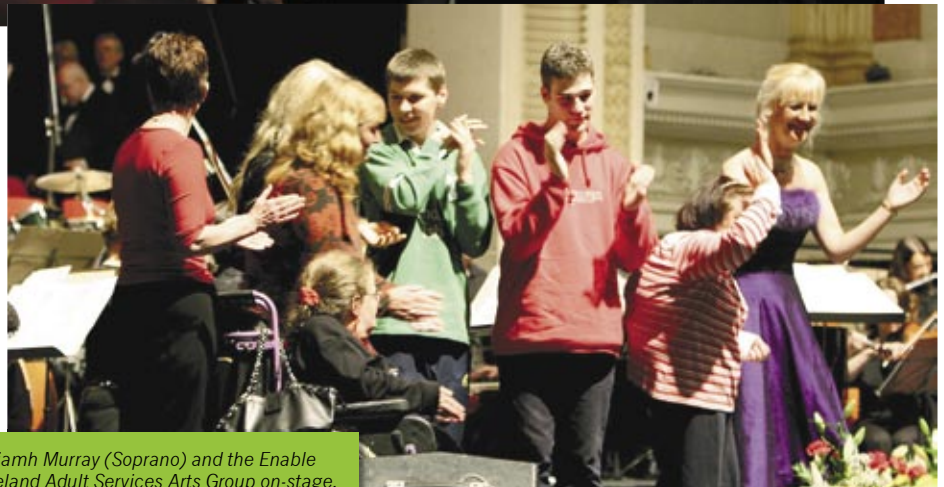
A capacity audience at Cork City Hall thrilled to the strains of Strauss and Lehar in the magnificent concert "A night in Vienna" on Saturday 24th September 2005. Musical Director Evelyn Grant led the Cork Pops Orchestra and soloists Karen Murray (violin) and Niamh Murray (soprano) in a musical programme which featured the work of composers like Johann Strauss, Franz Lehar and Siczynsky. Conducted by Gerrie O'Grady, the Enable Ireland Adult Services Arts Group performed two original compositions – 'Our City' and 'Music' - the latter inspired by 'Blue Danube'.

Cork's Lord Mayor Councillor Deirdre Clune was guest of honour and joined Enable Ireland Chairman Donal Cashman, his wife Peggy and Enable Ireland CEO Fionnuala O'Donovan at the post-concert reception. Donal Cashman gave a speech recalling the history of the past 50 years in Cork, and the journey from Brown Street (1955) to the Lavanagh Centre (1969). He spoke of the tremendous developments in services and social inclusion for people with disabilities.

Attending the concert were many Enable Ireland corporate supporters including AIB, Project Management Group, Janssen Pharmaceutical and PJ Hegarty Ltd. Roger Flack, HOK and Cork Chamber of Commerce chatted to Enable Ireland's Regional Director of Services Theresa Compagno and Director of Services, Pat Beirne, about the new Adult Services facility in Little Island.

Proceeds from the evening went to the Enable Ireland Capital Development Fund and supporters from all over Cork City, Fermoy, Youghal, Mallow and West Cork headed home happily with the Radetsky March ringing in their ears.

Karen Murray (Violinist), Fionnuala O'Donovan (CEO), Evelyn Grant (Musical Director) and Donal Cashman (Chairman) at the post-concert reception.



Niamh Murray (Soprano) and the Enable Ireland Adult Services Arts Group on-stage.

NATIONAL

ENABLE IRELAND GOES HIGH TECH FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2004



At the Enable Ireland conference, visitors to the Retail & Fundraising Stand browsed through copies of the Annual Report for 2004. The report, produced by the Campaigns team with input from all Enable Ireland departments, is also available in an innovative wallet-sized CD format (pictured).

Enable Ireland nationwide, complete with financial accounts. It is designed to help keep our stakeholders informed – including service users and parents, staff, funders, donors, volunteers, the media and the voluntary sector in general. The annual report is available to download from our website www.enableireland.ie.

The Annual Report gives a concise picture of the work carried out by

To order a copy, please contact Sinead McGovern on 01 885 7165.

BOARD APPROVES STRATEGIC PLAN 2006 - 2008

In September 2005, the Board of Enable Ireland approved the Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008. The plan was drafted over an eight-month period by the National Strategic Team, representing services, Retail & Fundraising and support functions. The team consulted and represented the needs and aspirations of service users, staff and stakeholders from around the country.

The Strategic Plan is a blueprint for Enable Ireland for the next three years. It builds on the foundations of the Enable Ireland Development Plan 2002 – 2005 and the Health Strategy 2001 (Quality & Fairness). The Plan takes into consideration the enormous challenges that we face as well as recent fundamental changes and advances in the health and disability sectors. It is an acknowledgement of the enormous strides which Enable Ireland has made over the past 58 years.

Two groups have been set up as a Launch Group and an Implementation and Monitoring Group. The Launch Group will prepare for the launch and dissemination of the plan in January 2006.

In the meantime, a period of familiarisation with the Strategic Plan content is taking place. The Implementation and Monitoring Group will co-ordinate a national data collation and review system of achievement against target. This group will collate progress reports annually and report formally in January following the preceding reporting year.

Copies of the Strategic Plan will be available in January at every centre and on our website.



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|---|---|
| Launch of Strategic Plan | 16th – 31st January 2006 |
| 1st Collation and Review of Monitoring and Progress Reports | November 2006 |
| 1st Formal National Review Report | January 2007 |
| 2nd Collation and Review of Monitoring and Progress Reports | November 2007 |
| 2nd Formal National Review Report | January 2008 |
| 3rd Collation and Review of Monitoring and Progress Reports | November 2008 |
| 3rd Formal Review Report | January 2009 |

WICKLOW LINKS SUCCESS IN MARINO SCHOOL

Students in Marino School were delighted to celebrate their well-deserved success in Junior Certificate examinations this September. Congratulations to Sean Finnerty, Luke Sterling, Vanessa Watters, Stephen Monahan and Tara Cawley on their marvellous achievements and excellent results. The hard work and co-operation of staff both in Marino School and St. Killian's Community School must be acknowledged on this occasion.

Over the years, Marino School has established links and shared placement programme with mainstream schools in the local community, both at primary and post-primary level. Students have benefited from individual education packages designed to cater for their needs. Marino School fully supports the inclusion of students with special needs in mainstream schools and actively supports students in achieving their educational potential. Working collaboratively with mainstream colleagues has much to commend it, as teachers share knowledge, skills and resources, in meeting the needs of students with special educational needs.

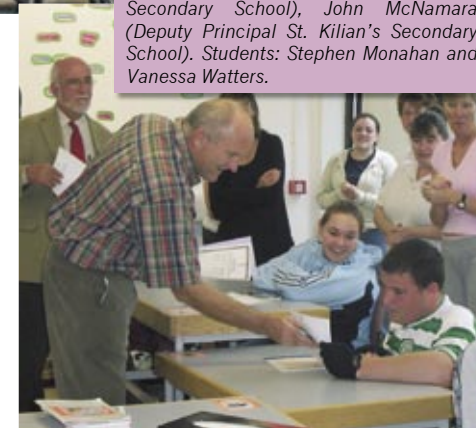
At a recent conference for the Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education, staff in Marino School and St. Killian's Community School jointly presented a paper on achieving successful inclusion at post-primary level. This



Back: Tommy Kearney (teacher), Sean Finnerty, Vanessa Watters, John McNamara (Deputy Principal St. Killian's School), Mick Sheridan (Principal St. Killian's School), Siobhan dePaor (Deputy Principal Marino School). Front: Luke Sterling and Stephen Monahan.

Mick Sheridan (Principal St. Killian's Secondary School), John McNamara (Deputy Principal St. Killian's Secondary School). Students: Stephen Monahan and Vanessa Watters.

initiative was well-received and an outreach support programme in Marino School has since been sanctioned by the Department of Education and Science. Many local schools request additional specialist support from Marino School, as staff members have expertise in catering for the education needs of students with complex needs. There is considerable support for this outreach programme and obvious benefits for the students concerned. Marino School finds itself in a position to provide this teaching support and strives to further develop collaborative working practices with mainstream colleagues, in the best interests of students.



CORK

'SPARCLE' PROJECT UPDATE

The Quality of Life study 'Sparcle' based in Cork has now completed its data collection phase. A total of 822 children and their parents across Europe successfully completed the study questionnaires, an achievement for all the researchers involved throughout Europe. 103 parents and children with cerebral palsy were interviewed out of a possible 120 – a take-up rate of over 85%. Data is now being collated and results will be available in the coming months.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Focus group work with parents of disabled children in Europe designed to assist development of a relevant measure of environment. Submitted for publication by V. McManus.
2. "Cerebral palsy in single births; the relationship of interuterine growth to the gender and severity of cases". Jarvis S, Gliniana, Arnauld C, Fauconnier F, Johnson A, Mc Manus V, Topp M, Uvebrant P, Cans C and Kraegeloh-Mann I. Arch Dis Child 2005, 90: 474-479. Copies available from 021 294803.

NOTE:

The National Research & Ethics Committee set up in Cork eighteen months ago requires that researchers seek ethics approval before approaching service users and staff. Please contact vmcmanus@enableireland.ie for more details.

The National Conference featured 21 Poster Displays from around the country. Pictured: Mary Mulryan, Sinéad McGovern and Jimmy Mulryan at the Retail & Fundraising stand.



TRAINING & QUALITY

ENABLE IRELAND IN LINE FOR FIRST EFQM AWARD

Enable Ireland nationally has been awarded the EFQM Committed to Excellence Award. This is the starting point for any organisation wishing to commence a Quality & Excellence implementation of a continuous improvement programme and is a significant landmark on our journey towards excellence. Representatives from Limerick, Cork and Kerry were interviewed by the assessor who was extremely impressed at the level of commitment the organisation has made to adopting the EFQM Excellence Model. We expect to officially receive the award in November 2005. More news to follow in the next National Newsletter.

WICKLOW

AONTAS TEAM TRAINS TEACHERS IN THE COMMUNITY

A fine summer day in early July and a physiotherapist, psychologist, occupational therapist, speech and language therapist and social worker travelled to south Wicklow. They were armed with PowerPoint projectors, flip charts, theories and strategies, gardening gloves, trampettes and sweets, and were on an important mission – to facilitate local teachers to look at how a child with Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) experiences the classroom and playground. Education and training for teachers is an important part of the service offered by the Aontas Team. The Aontas team was established in Enable Ireland Wicklow to develop and deliver a service to children with Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD).

DEVELOPMENTAL CO-ORDINATION DISORDER (DCD).

Is a generalised term for difficulties with physical skills, which are not due to a general medical condition.

- * Children usually have average to above average intelligence.
- * The term has evolved from earlier categories such as 'clumsy child syndrome' and 'developmental dyspraxia'.

There is much debate about how common DCD is but conservative estimates would indicate that about one in twenty children of primary school age fall into this category. Although the incidence decreases as children get older, many children have difficulties which persist into adulthood and which also affect their psychological well-being. Research shows that there is no definitive "cure" for DCD but best practice suggests that it is most effectively managed where children, their families, communities and schools are empowered to identify and use coping strategies. It is therefore extremely important to ensure the child's sense of self esteem, individuality and talents are nurtured to the full.

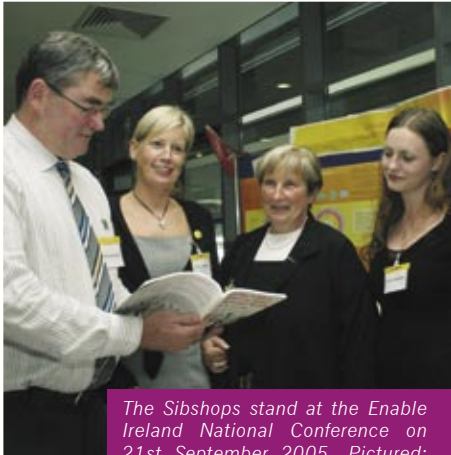
Gardening gloves allowed participants to try writing when their hands and fingers are sending 'fuzzy' signals to their brain, or their sense of balance is all a wobble sitting on a trampette! The Aontas team encouraged participants to make the link between the achievement of integrating the senses and how this impacts on learning. Finally tutors and participants discussed strategies – the Aontas Team learned as much as they shared.

Feedback was extremely positive. All participants enjoyed seeing the team working together, found the ideas for coping in the class very useful, liked the presentation on development and a lot more besides. The group expressed interest in further training and developing ongoing links with the Aontas Team, both in working with individual children and in furthering their knowledge of DCD.

Mission impossible? Mission accomplished.

SIBSHOPS:

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF SIBLINGS



The Sibshops stand at the Enable Ireland National Conference on 21st September 2005. Pictured: Donncha Geary, Leanne Fogarty, Ann Moloney and Laura Gallagher.

It is widely recognised that families play the largest role in the long-term care of people with disabilities. To support this care, many parent groups have been formed to provide parents with the space to address their unique needs and concerns. However, research indicates that it is often siblings who have the longest running and most influential relationship with their brother or sister with special needs. These siblings often have unique needs and concerns that need to be addressed. Some siblings may experience great care responsibilities or may face possible adverse reaction to disability within the community. The Cork "Sibshops" was established, in order to address some of these unique needs.

CORK SIBSHOPS: THE FACTS

Established 1998.

Based on a model designed by Don Meyer, Director of the Sibling Support project, Seattle Washington.

An interagency committee consisting of Enable Ireland Cork Services, Cope Foundation and Brothers of Charity Services Cork, with participation of a parent.

Run twice yearly on Saturday mornings once a month, for four months.

Group-work model.

Siblings come together to share and discuss information about their brothers and sisters with disabilities, and of utmost importance - to have fun.

Caters for children aged 8 – 13.

Pilot Sibshop has been run to cater for the needs of older siblings.

The four goals aim to provide siblings with the opportunities to:

- Meet other siblings in a relaxed, recreational setting
- Discuss common joys and concerns with other siblings of children with disabilities
- Learn how others handle situations commonly experienced by siblings of children with disabilities
- Learn more about the implications of their brothers' and sisters' special needs

Sibshops also aim to provide parents and other professionals with opportunities to learn more about the concerns and opportunities frequently experienced by brothers and sisters of people with special needs.

Research was carried out in 2001 to evaluate if the Sibshops met all of these goals. Interviews were conducted with eighteen children prior to attending Sibshops, with follow up interviews five months later. The results indicated that all four goals were met. The researchers made recommendations for further research in this area, due to the lack of current available literature. This research was recently published in the Journal of Intellectual Disabilities. Reference: D'Arcy, F., Flynn, J., McCarthy, Y., O'Connor, C., Tierney, E. 2005, "Sibshops: An Evaluation of an Interagency Model", Journal of Intellectual Disabilities, Vol 9 (1) pgs 43 – 57, Sage Publications.

TWO DAY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN CORK

Due to continued interest in Sibshops a two-day conference has been organised by the Cork Sibshops Committee. The conference will be held in Wilton, Cork on December 1st and 2nd. Don Meyer, the designer of the Sibshops model, will facilitate this conference.

Day 1: Aims to give information to all interested parties about issues associated with being the sister or brother of a child with special needs.

Day 2: Will involve a demonstration of the Sibshop model and this will be provided for training purposes and is suitable for someone who wishes to facilitate a Sibshop programme (numbers for this day of the conference are restricted).

Further information on the upcoming conference can be obtained from Sinéad Doolin, COPE Foundation on 021 4270027. Other information regarding Cork Sibshops or the article discussed is available from Catherine O'Connor, Enable Ireland Cork Services on 021 4294803.





SUMMER FUN IN ENABLE IRELAND SERVICES!

GALWAY

SUMMER BBQ

The annual Enable Ireland summer BBQ was held at the Centre on 25th August. Despite the temperamental weather, great fun was had by all on the day. The sporting theme of the BBQ provided lots of opportunities for parents, children and siblings to take part in one or more of the games being played. Face painters Martha Hardwick and Jamie Bodden provided plenty of colour with every comic book hero from Superman to Spiderman making an appearance. It was a very memorable event for everybody involved.

David McNabb, Tom and Jack McGuinness enjoy the 'ball pool'.



"Butterfly" and "Tigger" enjoy the Enable Ireland Summer Barbeque!



Dylan Cassidy at the Barbeque.

NORTH EAST Over the summer months North East Services organised a number of fun filled activities. Here's a taster of what they got up to.

MONAGHAN

Krazy Kidz Event on 12th July: a lot of fun was had in the ball pools, on slides and climbing up and down when Enable Ireland had the whole place to themselves.

Baking Day at the Enable Ireland Centre on 8th August was an opportunity for budding cooks to try their hand at icing buns, and making rice crispy cakes, juices and smoothies.

Arts & Crafts Day at the Enable Ireland Centre on 11th August was a real favourite last year. All the children and parents proved to be very artistic. There were lots of creative activities on offer - the highlight being an opportunity to use the potter's wheel!

Horse-riding at Mullaghmore Equestrian Centre on 16th August gave the children the opportunity to ride ponies, watch them being groomed, feed and pet them.

Fancy Dress Party Day at the Enable Ireland Centre on 25th August: our friend Pauline from 'Gymboree' returned for more fun, dancing, music and games for all.

MEATH

Summer Party on August 12th: the Sensory Garden at St. Joseph's Hospital, Trim was kindly lent to us for the occasion. There was plenty of activity with clowns, face-painting, novelty balloons, bouncy castle, colouring and party games. There were refreshments for adults and plenty of treats for the children. A big hit was the "Sweet Shop". Each child got "money" on entry to the garden to spend there.

A **Summer Camp** was run over a two-week period offering participants a choice of dates to attend. A total of 20 children took part.

CAVAN

Summer Camp included a Tweenies day, horse riding, beach day, swimming, Moos & Baas day, sports day, playaways and gym sessions.

TECHNO SUMMER CAMP

This year, 29 children completed a computer based summer activities course, which was held in the Galway Centre for Independent Living. Over a three-week period an individual project was completed by all who attended. Projects topics ranged from cats and kittens to car modifications and dinosaurs.

The participants completed a range of computer based activities including development of keyboard touch-typing skills, internet access, planning and mind mapping software, access to word processing and presentation software, programmes, software games to improve mouse and keyboard control. All the children who participated received a certificate on completion of their week.

ACTION WEEK ON DISABILITY

19TH – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2005

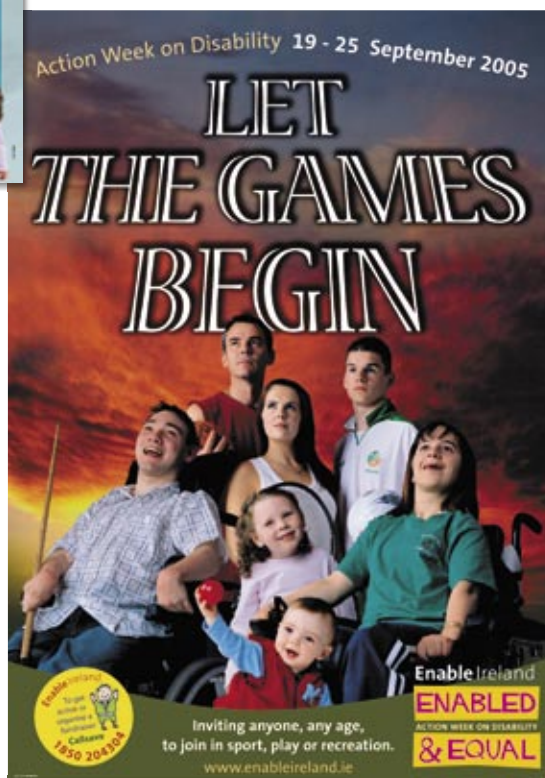
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Action Week on Disability kicked off on 19th September and ran to Sunday 25th. This year's theme was 'Sport and Recreation', and lively volunteers took the message to heart, organising a host of fun events nationwide. Parachute Jumps, Swimathons and Motorbike Rallies were all par for the course! Top events included the Wicklow Way Walk, show jumping at Rockmount Equestrian Centre, and a Sports for All Day in the University of Limerick Arena on Monday 19th, where the Munster Rugby Squad encouraged over 300 people with and without disabilities to participate in sports together.

But it wasn't just about getting physical! A coffee morning in Kilkenny Services and a series of transition year school visits raised awareness of disability issues in Kildare.

Also held during Action Week was the first Enable Ireland national conference, "Enabling Excellence", on Wednesday 21st September. And a treat was had by music lovers with "A Night in Vienna", the Gala Celebration Concert in City Hall, Cork. These are just a sample of the excellent events organised by volunteers, Enable Ireland Services Centres and staff nationwide. Funds raised will help to create nationwide opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to participate in sport and recreation.

Action Week was launched by Brian Kerr, Manager of the Irish football team and sports commentator Mícheál O'Muircheartaigh, with Grace Stynes and Brendan O'Grady, who star in the Action Week poster campaign.



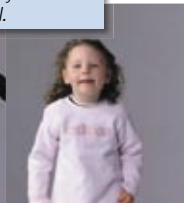
Enable Ireland service users and friends get ready for Action Week on Disability.

REAL-LIFE CHAMPIONS

Bobbie Connolly,
Paralympic Boccia player.



Grace Stynes, 4,
helped launch Action Week on Disability at the Enable Ireland Sandymount Pool.



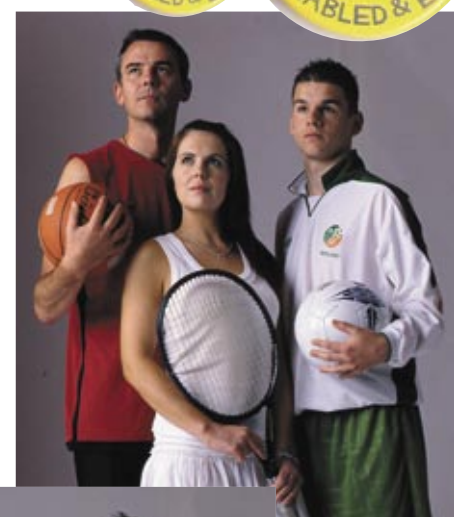
Boccia team. She lives in Dun Laoghaire and attends Enable Ireland services there. She trains each week, takes regular exercise and enjoys healthy eating. Bobbie spoke at our National Conference on 21st September on the topic of Assistive Technology.

Grace Stynes, aged 4, lives in Kildare with her parents. She attends Enable Ireland Kildare Services. She came to Dublin to take part in the poster photoshoot, and again in August to dip her toes in the Sandymount Pool for the Action Week Launch.

Many of the people featured on the Action Week poster are Enable Ireland service users. They all enjoy taking part in sports or recreation, and two are Paralympic athletes.

Brendan O'Grady is studying for a degree in Industrial Design at Sligo RTC. He is a member of the Paralympic soccer team, and trains in Dublin every weekend. Brendan represented Ireland at the World Cup in Argentina, and played in the Paralympics in Athens last year. Bobbie Connolly is a member of the Paralympic

Stephen O'Donoghue is 21 years old and hails from Killaloe, Co. Clare. He attends the Limerick Quinn's Cross Centre. Snooker fanatic Stephen was thrilled to take part in the Action Week campaign, even bringing his trusty pool cue along. He has a keen interest in all types of sport including bowling and rugby and was delighted to meet some of his local heroes at the Limerick 'Sports for All' day.



Brendan O'Grady
with Elaine Swan and James Olsen.



Stephen O'Donoghue,
pool and sports fanatic.



ACTION WEEK ON DISABILITY

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Oliver Burns, Gerry Burns, Andrew Farley, Shane Brennan and Sean Brennan at the Connaught V Cardiff Blues rugby match in Galway on 3rd September.



Action Week kicked off with a flagship event – a ‘Sports for All’ day at the University of Limerick Arena on Monday 19th September. People with and without disabilities participated in accessible games together, including wheelchair playable versions of Basketball, Rugby and Power Soccer. The event was covered extensively in local and national media.

Our Kerry fundraiser took to the skies in person on 17th September with a sponsored parachute jump. The plane departed Kerry Airport and

landed in Ardfert later that day. Six people in total took the plunge to raise funds. The Kerry fundraising team also held a Sports Day in Tralee Sports Complex on 17th.

On Tuesday 20th September in Galway, Nortel hosted Enable Ireland Seminar ‘The Benefits of Assistive Technology in the Workplace’. Geared towards employers, it provided an overview of how Assistive Technology can be utilised at work.

On Wednesday 14th September children from Enable Ireland Monaghan and their siblings took part in a horse-riding session at the Mullaghmore Equestrian Centre, Tydavnet, Co. Monaghan.

There was a flurry of activity in Galway with swimathons, showjumping, barbecues and a literary competition. Action Week was launched by the Connaught Rugby Team on 3rd September. A Swimathon was held on 17th September at the Connemara Coast Hotel. The Rockmount Charity Showjumping event on 17th and 18th raised over €9,000. Things took a more creative slant with a secondary schools writing competition, run in conjunction with Galway Bay FM and the Galway Advertiser.

On Wednesday 21st, the National Conference got under way at Croke Park. Enable Ireland Kilkenny hosted a coffee morning to raise funds and build awareness of Action Week. This event was organised by a group of parents and friends of the O’Neill Centre, and members of the public were welcome to attend. Employees of VHI Kilkenny took part in two initiatives to raise funds for Enable Ireland. On Wednesday 21st, staff organised a coffee morning, and on Friday 23rd they held a ‘dress-down’ fundraiser.

The Enable Ireland Cork Golden Jubilee Concert in the City Hall drew a standing ovation from the audience of 900 on Saturday 24th. Retail & Fundraising Director Dorothy Barry returned to her native Cork, linking with Musical Director Evelyn Grant to organise the event. ‘A Night in Vienna’ featured Soprano Niamh Murray, Violinist Karen Murray, the Cork Pops Orchestra, the Enable Ireland Adult Services Arts Group, the Chorus of Opera Cork, and the Cork Male Voice Choir.



Sabrina Stynes, Brian Kerr, Grace Stynes (4), Brendan O’Grady and Micheál O’Muircheartaigh launch Action Week on Disability at the swimming pool in Sandymount.



A group of Walkers take up the Wicklow Way Challenge on 24th September.



ENABLE IRELAND SHOP SUCCESS!

The Enable Ireland Shops were a visual focus for Action Week countrywide, with stunning window displays conceptualised by window dresser Ann Marie Keeley. Bright T-shirts, stickers, giant posters and huge stacks of collection boxes all helped to get our "Enabled & Equal" message across and promote our branding in a visually distinctive style. Thanks to all of our shop staff who went out of their way to make Action Week on Disability a success!



The Wicklow Way Challenge Walk, a fun sports day, rugby training and parent and toddler swimming were just some of the activities held in the East Region. Darren Kavanagh (Irish Paralympic soccer team) and Bobbie Connolly, Paralympic Boccia athlete, joined forces in Sandymount on 8th September for the local launch. On Tuesday 20th September, the Leinster Rugby Team invited children from Sandymount School and their siblings to a training session. Tallaght Services held a Fun Sports Day and Barbeque on Saturday 17th. This was followed by a weekend of Sports and Activities at the Silverpines Respite Centre, Wicklow.

Swinford. Local sports stars and service users attended. A Fun Evening was also held by Mayo Kayak Club in Swinford.

In Kildare, the local fundraiser arranged visits to schools to talk to Transition Year students about the message of the Action Week campaign, with visits to St. Conleths Secondary School Newbridge, St. Patrick's College Naas and St. Wolstan's Community School, Celbridge. A Sports Day was also held in Kill GAA Centre on 17th September.

Enable Ireland Mayo got into the swing of Action Week with a Fun and Recreational Event on 14th September at Aras Attracta,

On Sunday 25th September, Action Week in the North East culminated with a motorbike charity run, which departed the Bailie Hotel, Bailieboro. Approximately 40 vehicles from Motorbike clubs in the North East took part.



Wayne Daly (St. Gabriel's School Limerick) and Paul O'Connell (Munster Rugby Team), at the University of Limerick Arena.



ACTION WEEK ON DISABILITY

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS!

Action Week on Disability enjoyed excellent support this year, with members of the public, staff and friends of Enable Ireland countrywide pitching in to make the campaign a success. Local Services Centres went out of their way to arrange interesting fundraising and awareness-building events. A big thanks to all of our supporters around the country who volunteered their time, took part in events, and

gave donations. Action Week on Disability would not be possible without your support.

Likewise, we would like to thank all of the champions who took part in the Action Week media campaign – those who starred in publicity photos and the Action Week poster, and families and parents who made their stories available to local and national media. Your input has been invaluable.

Anthony Foley (Munster Rugby), Siobhan O'Malley (Sports Therapist, Enable Ireland), John Sanders (Enable Ireland Mid West Region), Wayne Daly (St Gabriel's School), Paul O'Connell (Munster Rugby) and Gerard O'Grady (Enable Ireland).



Kathleen Fitzgerald getting to grips with the Multi-Sensory Integration Room at Limerick Early Intervention Services.

MID WEST

GECAS PITCH IN FOR MID WEST CHILDREN



Enable Ireland Mid west Services recently benefited from a fundraising initiative run by the Shannon based GE Commercial Aviation Services (GECAS). Seventy-two employees, family and friends of GECAS participated in the Plassey 10k walk held in Limerick on April 7th, to raise funds for a Multi-Sensory Integration Room at Limerick Early Intervention Services. In total, €16,500 and essential decorating materials for the room were collected through sponsorship from employees, donations from external sponsors, a donation from GECAS and a GE Foundation Grant. GECAS is the commercial aircraft financing and leasing business of General Electric Co., with offices in 22 cities worldwide including Shannon.

The Multi-Sensory Room will have real benefit for the children who attend the centre. Stimulating activities are used to increase awareness and positive behaviours for individuals with severe sensory impairment or neurological challenges, enhancing sensory development (hearing, sight, taste, smell and touch), relaxation and hand/eye co-ordination. There are up to 350 children attending Mid West services, many of whom could benefit from this facility.

In the words of Ann Long, Early Intervention Service, Enable Ireland: "The Multi-Sensory Integration Room will provide children with a different, stimulating experience that it is not possible to achieve through therapeutic services alone. We are very grateful for the generosity, help and support provided by the GECAS staff. It was a community-based project that will reap rewards for years to come," she said.

Not only did the GECAS Corporation donate funds, they also invested their time. Staff members wanted to have a real input into this project. They worked from the early hours of the morning painting the sensory room and getting it ready for the arrival of the new equipment, which they also helped source. Much thought and effort went into planning every detail, from transforming the ceiling to resemble the sky to placing brown carpet on the floor to resemble sand.

Catherine Hayden, Marketing Associate at GECAS, outlined what the project meant to her and the GECAS staff. "Not only did we want to raise the money for these charities

but we also wanted to get involved in the projects. Enable Ireland do fantastic work and all of us here at GECAS are delighted to be able to give our time and support to these worthy causes," she said.

Brian Hayden, Executive Vice President and head of GECAS operations in Shannon commended the employee group for their extraordinary fundraising efforts. "This is a typical example of the energy, commitment and enthusiasm with which they tackle every challenge and underscores why it is such a great place to work." GECAS was recently voted one of the 10 Best Companies to work for in Ireland.

Enable Ireland would like to extend very special thanks to all at GECAS. Their invaluable contribution and interest in this project will benefit the lives of many children in the years to come.

GECAS also secured sponsorship from Crown Paints and First Floor (Adare), EU Jet, Pink Boutique, Shannon and Cellular World, Shannon.

CORK

ANNE HEGARTY WINS VODAFONE 'PASSION FOR THE WORLD AROUND US' AWARD

Anne Hegarty receiving her 'Passion for the World Around Us' Award.



The Vodafone 'Passion for the World Around Us' Awards programme is a joint venture between Vodafone Ireland and Cork Chamber of Commerce. The Awards honour people who display a passion for

their local community through volunteering, fundraising or taking part in environmental and educational initiatives. The first quarter 2005 award went to Anne Hegarty for her outstanding work with Enable Ireland.

QMS GOES ON THE WEB

QMS (Quality Mailing Service) has been providing a quality mailing and packaging service to clients in Ireland since 1980 and another educational and challenging year has nearly passed.

The QMS website is now operational and you can find out more information on services by logging onto www.qualitymailingservice.com. QMS placed an advert in the Golden Pages which is helping to attract new customers and business is steady allowing service users/workers to achieve other objectives and goals.

NATIONAL ADULT SERVICES

NATIONAL RESEARCH ON SUPPORTED LIVING/RESIDENTIAL NEEDS AMONG **ENABLE IRELAND NATIONAL ADULT SERVICE USERS**

The Board of Enable Ireland has commissioned a research project which aims to ascertain the level of unmet needs among adult service users for supported living/residential services. Dr. Bob McCormack has been appointed to conduct this research.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

It is that time of year when students are returning to college or people are starting night courses. A number of Enable Ireland service users in Dun Laoghaire and Crumlin are also starting evening/day courses, including Beauty Therapy, ECDL, Writing for Radio, Skills Encore, Community Care, Fastrack to IT, Reception and Office Skills and Creative Flower Arranging. Good luck to all participants.

STAGES:

- 1 **Review of literature and good practice models for supported living/residential services, mainly for people with a physical disability.**
- 2 **Two focus groups in the East and Mid-west regions with service users and parents/carers to explore views, suggestions and concerns.**
- 3 **Based on results of these focus groups, a questionnaire will be developed to identify people's current situation, and explore current and anticipated support needs over the next five years. It will also examine respondents' views on various models of supported living/residential services.**
- 4 **Data will be analysed and mapped, matching demand and current provision and highlighting where new provision is most urgently needed.**

A final report will be submitted to the Board early in 2006.

NATIONAL ACCESS AUDIT REPORT

The Board of Enable Ireland requested that a national audit be carried out on all premises in respect of accessibility during 2005. The audit involved the re-drafting of an existing audit tool to allow staff to self-assess premises for accessibility. Two national training days for staff in services and retail took place in August. The training days assisted staff in the implementation of the audit tool and the purchase of equipment to facilitate access. Audits from all over the country are presently being completed and findings will be reported with recommendations in early 2006.

Further information on both of the above is available from:

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National Director Adult Services
Enable Ireland
O'Neill Centre
St. Josephs Road
Kilkenny
056-7795747
087-4171445
Email-fmurphy@enableireland.ie**

WICKLOW

WORLD RESEARCH DOWN UNDER!

Enable Ireland Wicklow Services in Bray had cause for celebration when Occupational Therapist Emma Butler was accepted to present her research at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists in Australia in July 2006. Emma's paper

was one of a small number selected from over 2000 submissions from students and professionals within the field, which is a significant achievement. Her research is entitled "A Study to Investigate the Parents Reported Functional Skills that Pose as

Problems for their Child in Everyday Life with Developmental Coordination Disorder." Even more exciting for Enable Ireland, the research was conducted in the Wicklow AONTAS Service. Congratulations and best wishes to Emma for her trip down under.

"IT TAKES TWO TO TALK" A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE HANEN PROGRAMME

Having committed to attend a Hanen Course for six Thursday evenings, I arrived at the Marino Centre in Bray for the first session wondering what I had let myself in for. Quickly Nancy and Claudine, our instructors, organised us into groups and very soon the friendly chat and exchange of stories helped me to relax and realise that this could be fun!

When I was first told that my little lady would be assessed by a speech therapist, I had an image of lengthy sessions of vowel and consonant pronunciation – I don't know where that came from! But this now seemed a world away, as Nancy and Claudine used each session in many different ways to empower us to communicate with our children and to help them want to

communicate with us. We made toys; we composed songs and even sung them. We learnt how to truly observe our children and how they will speak to us if we listen - with or without the power of words.

I finished the course with an overwhelming feeling of having been given a valuable tool for the development of my child at every age. As a family we had fun putting the practical suggestions from the course into our every day life.

The Hanen Course is a very practical and easy to follow method and in my opinion, it works!

Louise Lynch, Parent.

GALWAY

Clare Lenehan, Michael Coyle, Arun Asan, Valerie Soroohan and Siobhan Long.



EMPLOYER BREAKFAST SEMINAR GOES WEST

"The Benefits of Assistive Technology in the Workplace" was held in Nortel Networks on 20th September. Speakers included Michael Coyle, Galway Chamber of Commerce, Valerie Soroohan, irishjobs.ie, Michael Corbett, Disability Federation of Ireland, Arun Asan, an Assistive Technology user and Siobhan Long, National Director of High Tech Assistive Technology, Enable Ireland. The seminar provided an insight into the ease with which assistive technology can be used to enhance productivity and efficiency at a minimal cost to the employer.

The Enable Ireland Guide to AT for Employers is accessible on line at: <http://www.enableireland.ie/at/atguide.html>.

NDT/ BOBATH PAEDIATRIC COURSE: PART TWO: OCTOBER 17TH - NOVEMBER 11TH 2005

This eight week course is designed for physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists who work with children with cerebral palsy and other neuromotor difficulties. It is an intensive training course combining theoretical and practical work. The initial four week module was held from July 25th to 19th August 2005.

Held in Enable Ireland Galway, the course is a joint initiative between Enable Ireland and

the Brothers of Charity. A number of Enable Ireland and Brothers of Charity service users are also participating in the course as treatment practicum and demonstration volunteers.

The material presented in the course is based upon the theoretical and practical concepts developed by Dr. Karel and Mrs. Berta Bobath and current neuroscientific research. It conforms to the standards established by the North American NDT Association, Inc.

Nineteen therapists are participating in the course, instructed by five USA based course instructors.

Eileen Dwyer, Occupational Therapist, Enable Ireland Galway is enthusiastic about taking part: "The NDT/Bobath course is a wonderful opportunity to learn from the Masters. Having the eight weeks tutoring and then integrating the teachings with their supervision and guidance is an optimal experience."

CORK

50 MILLION REASONS TO LOG ON WWW.COGUIDE.DE

There are 50 million people with disabilities in Europe and they represent a huge pool of talent and motivation. Many of these people are unemployed or underemployed.

Co-Guide is a new tool designed to meet their needs and those of their employers by developing tangible methodologies and tools to facilitate equality of access in the area of employment for persons with any kind of physical or non-physical disability.

Part-funded under the EU Leonardo da Vinci scheme, the project has been developed by five partner organisations, lead partner Enable Ireland (Ireland), CEPS (Spain), FHTW (Germany), Anthropos (Italy) and DSIS (Slovenia).

The web site has been designed in two sections:

- Job seekers guide – reflections on the labour context and personal assessment as a basis for making informed and efficient decisions concerning working life.
- EU Employers guide - to provide assistance to Employers in developing best practice guidelines for the recruitment and selection of staff with disabilities.

As a result of an employer survey, a report has been written that highlights the need for stronger partnerships with employers to encourage more participative employment for people with disabilities. This report is available by contacting Renee O'Donovan at: regionaloffice@enableireland.ie

The website, available in five languages, English, Spanish, German, Italian and Slovenian was launched in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 6th September 2005. It is barrier free which makes it more accessible for people to work with it. Among its innovative features are scaleable font size, an integrated printing version and book marking.

This website has been the culmination of two years of excellent transnational co-operation and teamwork. Our final step in the project is to ensure that as many people as possible will visit the website. Log on today to www.coguide.de!



COMHAIRLE

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Are you bombarded with too much information? In today's world it is difficult to navigate your way to the information you need. A new guide, "Access to Information for All", prepared by Dr Jane Pillinger and published by Comhairle, will make this task easier.

The guide provides a checklist on how to make your information accessible, under headings such as Information in Alternative Formats, Telephone Services, Online Information, Face-to-Face Information and Making Offices Physically Accessible.

For a free copy of this publication contact Comhairle, Tel: 01 6059000, Email: info@comhairle.ie or download it from the website at www.comhairle.ie

Dr Jane Pillinger (Researcher), Leonie Lunny (CEO Comhairle) and Helen Lehert (Manager for Development of Social Policy, Comhairle) launch the information guide.



CORK

CASTLETOWN KINNEIGH FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE SADDLE UP FOR ENABLE IRELAND

On 19th June 2005, the citizens of Cork saddled up to raise funds for the Lavanagh Centre. The Coppeen Cycle Rally, organised by the Castletown Kinneigh Fundraising Committee, was a big success. A raffle followed the cycle, which takes place as part of a series of events held by the Castletown Fundraising Committee to benefit Enable Ireland. Proceeds from all of these events will be presented to Enable Ireland in 2006.



Graeme Flannery (6) with Tony Flannery, grandfather, Kieran Murphy and Katrin Fischer (Fundraising Office, Cork).



GRAEME DONATES POCKET MONEY

In June, generous Graeme Flannery (6) saved up his pocket money and donated a total of €101.25 to Enable Ireland.

EAST REGION

A NIGHT AT THE BALL

The Lambay Singers, who entertained at the Midsummer Ball.



A night of glitz and glamour was in store for everybody at the Midsummer Ball, held in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. Balmy weather conditions were ideal for a drinks reception in the courtyard, which was followed by pre-dinner entertainment in the Baroque Chapel, with the Irish Medieval Renaissance Choir.

Dorothy Barry, Donal Cashman, Jenny & Martin King Fionnuala O'Donovan and TJ Ryan in the courtyard.



After a five-course meal in the Great Hall, guests enjoyed entertainment including a comedy performance by Reuben, and dancing till late. Martin King was MC for the event and his wife Jenny selected the 'best-dressed lady' from the stylish gathering. Everyone present was looking their best for this truly luxurious event, which raised over €20,000.

MID WEST



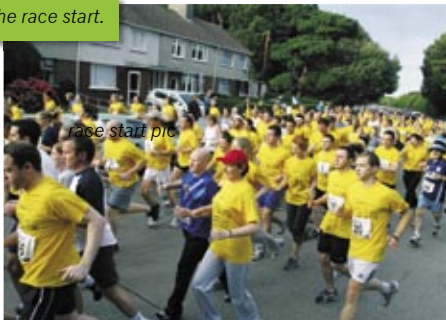
North Tipperary Fundraising Committee: Back Row: Dr. Colm O'Reilly, Kate Finucane, Majella Delahunty, Brian Canning, Bernard Delahunty. Front Row: Tom Kelly, Bernard O'Neill, (Chairman), John Sanders and Dominic Gallagher.

NORTH TIPPERARY GOLFERS SWING INTO ACTION FOR ENABLE IRELAND

On Friday, August 12th nearly 350 golfers took to beautiful surroundings of Nenagh Golf Club to raise funds for Enable Ireland North Tipperary. In the region of €34,000 was raised and all proceeds will go towards provision of a Respite Centre for children with disabilities in North Tipperary.

CORPORATES GET THEIR RUNNERS ON FOR 5K CHALLENGE

The race start.



Top Corporates from across the spectrum of Irish industry pounded the pavements of St. Anne's Park, Raheny for this year's Corporate 5km Run, held on Thursday, 1st September.

James Nolan took first place with a time of 14 minutes 59 seconds. With teams from top companies like Microsoft, TK Maxx and Aer Lingus, this fundraising event is always great fun for participants, and the post-race reception is an excellent networking opportunity for those who still have the energy to talk!

Nearly 400 runners took part this year, including Ivor Callely, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Transport. There were team and individual prizes on the night in all categories, as well as a spot prize draw for participants raising over €100 in sponsorship. The event raised €17,000 for Enable Ireland East Region.



Race winner James Nolan.

Kitty Gallagher (AOIFA) with Fionnuala O'Donovan and Dermot O'Neill at the Flower Festival preview.



ENABLE IRELAND SHORTLISTED FOR TESCO AWARD

Enable Ireland was delighted to be one of four disability organisations on the final shortlist for 'Tesco Charity of the Year 2006'.

Many thanks to all Enable Ireland staff and supporters who assisted the Campaigns team in their proposal for this prestigious award.

FLOWER FUNDRAISER FOR ENABLE IRELAND

An exclusive preview of the annual Flower Festival and National Competitions of AOIFA (the Association of Irish Floral Artists) was opened on Thursday 26th May by celebrity gardener Dermot O'Neill, one of Ireland's best-loved gardening personalities.

The main event took place in All Hallows College, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 from Friday 27th to Sunday 29th May.

Visual delights abounded as the best floral artists from around the country competed to win prizes – and to raise money for Enable Ireland. As well as the stunning floral displays, there were plants, floral supplies, bric-a-brac and books for sale. The Enable Ireland Fundraising team were delighted to support the weekend event.

WATERFORD'S 'DISCO' FUNDRAISER

On Wednesday 3rd August, local man Martin English handed over €350 to Enable Ireland in our Waterford shop. Generous Martin, 20, was keen to raise funds for people with disabilities. He organised a Disco fundraiser at the Rice Guesthouse on 16th July, and provided equipment including decks, and entertainment, as DJ for the night. Spot prizes were provided by local shop O2 and restaurant 'Eat Me'. All proceeds were kindly donated to Enable Ireland. Elaine Goldsberry, manager of the Waterford shop, accepted the donation on behalf of the Campaigns Office.

NCB STOCKBROKERS HAND OVER CHEQUE FOR €65,000



The NCB Stockbrokers Charity Day held on 21st April 2005 raised a total of €195,000 for 3 charities - The Jack and Jill Foundation, Enable Ireland and ICROSS. We were delighted to be chosen as one of the beneficiaries. On 9th May, Sophie Arundel and Bobby Hassett of NCB Stockbrokers handed over the cheque for €65,000 to Enable Ireland.

Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Enable Ireland (right) receives a cheque from Sophie Arundel (centre), and Bobby Hassett (left), of NCB Stockbrokers.



CHRISTMAS TOYS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

To help you put together your seasonal shopping list, here is a selection of recommended toys for Children with disabilities:



TRAVEL SKETCH/ETCH-A-SKETCH (Magna Doodle) - Ages 3 and up
Great for developing prewriting and writing skills, fine motor, visual motor and visual spatial skills.

MARBLE RUN - Ages 5+ (5-10)
Great for developing Bi-lateral skills (the use of both hands), motor planning, fine motor skills, visual skills and hand function.

STRETCH ARMSTRONG - Ages 5 and up
Helps to provide heavy work to hand, arm and shoulder muscles. Also provides proprioceptive and kinesthetic feedback for increased body awareness, organisation and concentration.

JENGA - 8 and up
Helps to develop upper body strength, endurance and control, along with eye-hand coordination, visual skills and fine motor skills.

TWISTER - 6 and up
Excellent for developing left vs. right laterality, body awareness and motor planning. Also helps to support development of strength, flexibility and co-ordination of limbs. A great weight-bearing exercise, which results in an increase in organisation and concentration abilities.

"BOP-IT" - 8 and up
Great for developing bilateral co-ordination, concentration and listening skills.

A selection of games can be found on-line at:

www.amazon.co.uk
www.hasbro.com

and at Smyths, World of Wonder and Toymaster.

More information from:

www.baby2kids.com
www.childparentingabout.com
www.wow-christmas-gifts.com/toys
www.batr.co.uk



CHRISTMAS EVENTS CALENDAR



16TH NOVEMBER 2005: CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AT ENABLE IRELAND SANDYMOUNT

A range of crafts, stalls, pottery, knitwear, Christmas cards, services, paper gifts, jewellery, candles, flower decorations and much more. Admission: €10.00 (includes coffee, tea and biscuits). Contact the fundraising office on 01 2615917 or e-mail eastfr@enableireland.ie.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

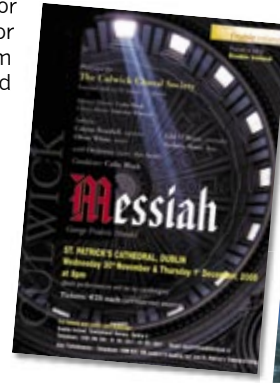
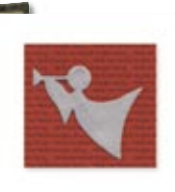
Yes it's that time of year again! You can buy a selection of **Christmas Cards** from your local Enable Ireland Services Centre or at Enable Ireland retail shops around the country.

30TH NOVEMBER & 1ST DECEMBER 2005: HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Handel's Messiah, a candlelit performance by the Culwick Choral Society in association with Enable Ireland, will be held on Wednesday 30th November and Thursday 1st December at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin 8. Time: 8.00 pm. Tickets €25.00. Callsave 1850 204304 or e-mail eastfr@enableireland.ie for bookings. Tickets also available from the St. Patrick's Cathedral Shop and Ticketmaster (1890 925 100).

25TH DECEMBER 2005: CHRISTMAS DAY SWIM

Are you brave enough to take a dip in the sea on Christmas morning? Build up your appetite for Christmas dinner with a refreshing swim in the sea. Sponsorship cards are available from the Fundraising office at Enable Ireland Galway. Please contact 091 526321.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2005/06

12TH & 13TH NOVEMBER 2005: KERRY TANDEM PARACHUTE JUMP

Thrill seekers can tandem jump from 10,000 feet while strapped to a trained experienced instructor in Kerry on 12th & 13th November. Call 066 712 8220 for details.

16TH NOVEMBER 2005: 9TH ANNUAL CORK LADIES LUNCH

Our **9th Annual Ladies Lunch** will be held on the 16th November 2005 at the Maryborough House Hotel, Cork. For ticket information please contact the Fundraising Office on 021 4294803.

11TH MARCH 2006:

A Night at the Dogs Enable Ireland Kildare Services will hold a Night at the Dogs in the Newbridge Greyhound Track, Co. Kildare. Contact Willie on 045 875676.

19TH MAY 2006:

2006 LADIES LUNCH & FASHION SHOW

The **5th Annual Ladies Lunch** takes place on Friday 19th May 2006 at Ballyroe Heights Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Please contact Sean Scally on kerryfr@enableireland.ie or 066 7128220.

2006 CALENDAR:

Enable Ireland Kerry Services has produced a wonderful **2006 Calendar** featuring local Kerry scenes. This year's photos were taken by the Kerry Photographic Society. Priced at €7.00 the calendar can be purchased by from 066 712 8220 or by contacting kerryfr@enableireland.ie.

12TH MAY 2006: KILDARE GOLF CLASSIC

Enable Ireland Kildare will hold a **Golf Classic** at Craddockstown Golf Club Naas. Contact Willie on 045 875676 or e-mail kildarefr@enableireland.ie.

REGIONAL FUNDRAISING OFFICES AND CONTACT DETAILS:

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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 March 2006.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

EDITORIAL MATTERS

We are delighted to bring you the second issue of our 2005 National Newsletter. As you are aware the newsletter aims to provide a forum for exchange of information and acts as a communication tool for staff, service users, their families and other associated bodies. We hope that readers find 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 Spring 2006.

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Enable Ireland. The editorial team welcomes contributions but reserves the right to edit submitted material. No responsibility can be accepted for the loss of material submitted. Material from the Enable Ireland magazine, unless copyright is indicated, may only be reproduced with written permission from the publishers.