

# Enable Ireland

National Newsletter Winter 09/10

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Sweet Safari! - New Mayo centre 'The Safari Club' opens in Castlebar.



Pictured at the official opening of the Enable Ireland Safari Club at Moneen Castlebar, Bafmala Abbaf and Sean Connor with Michael Kilcoyne Mayor of Castlebar  
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### In my own words

**"It is a working partnership. We firmly believe that it is as a result of early intervention that Matthew is where he is today developmentally"**

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Cian O'Sullivan with Music and Technology Students from the School of the Divine Child, Lavanagh Centre and Beaumont Boys National School, Cork took part in a joint music session as part of Action Week on Disability. The students performed two Cork songs - The Banks of My Own Lovely Lee and Beautiful City using innovative Soundbeam technology.

## Action Week 2009

This year's Action Week on Disability took place from 14 - 19 September and raised awareness of the need for people with disabilities to take part in social and leisure activities in their communities, as well as funds for services across the country. Fundraising efforts by long-time supporter TK Maxx raised over €30,000 due to the hard work of staff in their 14 stores. Special screenings of the movie 'Inside I'm Dancing' were once again a feature of the week, thanks to Omniplex and IMC cinemas, while Papa John's Pizza Company encouraged the public to have a 'Pizza Party' for Enable Ireland and donated 35% of the total order price.

The survey carried out by Enable Ireland, with results released in advance of the week, focused on access to social and leisure activities for people with disabilities and their families. Respondents identified both physical and social barriers to participating in social and leisure activities. Physical barriers, such as a lack of accessible toilets, ramps and parking and social barriers; as well as a lack of disability awareness or understanding, were the most common identified barriers to activities such as going to restaurants and pubs, playgrounds, cinemas and playing sports.

### Main findings of the survey were:

Going out to a restaurant was seen as the most difficult social activity by adults with disabilities and their parents or carers, with **65%** and **73%** of respondents respectively saying it was either quite or very difficult. **52%** of parents of children with disabilities identified going to restaurants as quite or very difficult.

**53%** of parents of children with disabilities said that social barriers were the main obstacle to their children getting involved in social and leisure activities, **30%** identified physical barriers and the same percentage identified a lack of family support and personal assistants as a barrier.

The survey ran online on [www.enableireland.ie](http://www.enableireland.ie) from 3 June to 31 August 2009. The survey had a total of 180 respondents.

## From the Chief Executive's Desk

It has been a busy and exciting time for all in Enable Ireland as you will find out in the pages of this Newsletter. However, because of the current economic state of affairs, it is also a worrying time and many of you have legitimate concerns about potential further cuts to funding. However, we will strive to secure appropriate funding for disability services, through negotiating with the HSE and by working with others in the disability sector. We call on the Government to resist any more cuts to disability services and to recognise that any further cuts will have an impact on people with disabilities and their families. Great advances have been made in recent years for people with disabilities towards a more inclusive society and it is my hope that this will continue.

The recent months have seen the opening of new Enable Ireland premises, including Children's Services at the Safari Club in Castlebar and new premises for the North East Office, Adult Services and Early Services at Mullaghboy, Navan, the completion of the new centres for Kildare Services in Jigginstown, Naas and Kerry Children's Services in Tralee, and the continuing work on the new Children's Services Centre at Rathcorrick, Cavan. All of these projects give service users and their families an appropriate and well equipped environment for services and our staff the type of facilities that they deserve. We are very grateful to those who funded these projects and acknowledge that these developments would not have been possible without the generous public support we receive and the hard work of staff in our shops and our fundraising teams across the country.

Action Week 2009 was a great success, as you can see from our cover page and the round up on page six. The Action Week 2009 survey gave much food for thought on the needs of people with disabilities when taking part in social and leisure activities.



L - R : Frances Gargan, HSE, Fionnuala O'Donovan, Enable Ireland, Cllr. Joe Reilly, Mayor of Navan, Mary Fox, Enable Ireland, Donal Cashman, Enable Ireland, Damien English, TD at the opening of the new Navan centre in September 09

Our Action Week partners, TK Maxx, once again showed their commitment to raising funds for Enable Ireland, with TK Maxx staff all over the country raising a very impressive €30,500.

The new Enable Ireland website and the new intranet 'Inform' will change the way that we communicate both externally and internally. The website is an important information resource for parents, adult service users and other Enable Ireland stakeholders. We hope to expand it over time and we welcome your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve it. Inform is a resource for staff that will allow us to share knowledge easily and efficiently among all of our centre-based staff so that we may all learn from the expertise of each other. Using these two resources to their best advantage will improve the way that we communicate and therefore the way that we deliver our services.

With best wishes,

Fionnuala O'Donovan  
Chief Executive

## Another Award for Enable Ireland North East!

In May 2009, Enable Ireland North East Services were awarded the Excellence Through People human resource standard by FÁS.

Enable Ireland North East Services, employ 103 people across eight locations and were assessed on eight criteria including:

- Business Planning and Quality Improvement
- Leadership and People Management
- Effective Communication
- Training and Life-Long Learning
- Employee Well-Being

Assessment included discussion with managers, review of documentation and one to one interviews with randomly selected staff members. The assessment took place over two days in March this year.

Mary Fox, Director of Services for Enable Ireland in the North East said 'We're delighted to achieve this first level of the Excellence Through People award. The services that we provide rely on dedicated and committed staff. This award is recognition of the dedication and effort of staff to review and improve our services on an ongoing basis. We look forward to applying for the next level in the future which is the gold standard award.'

This was the first time that Enable Ireland North East applied for the award and it follows their recent achievement of acquiring recognised for Excellence, Level 4 against the EFQM Quality Framework.



Enable Ireland North East Staff L - R: Heather Ritchie, Alison Milford, Michael McDonough, Mary Fox, Jane Hand, Ann Ardill



## New centres completed in Tralee, Kildare and Mayo

Building projects have been completed at both the new Oakview centre in Tralee and in Jigginstown in Naas. The new Kerry centre now contains a pre-school, therapy room, multi-sensory room, physiotherapy gym and hydrotherapy pool. The new Kildare centre, built on a site kindly donated by Naas Town Council, contains a hydrotherapy pool, gross motor function room, and life skills room. Both projects were supported by the HSE and will officially open late in 2009.

The new 'Safari Club' in Castlebar has been officially opened. For a full report, turn to page four.

## State of the art centre opens in Navan

Enable Ireland's new Meath Centre was officially opened on Tuesday 22 September by Councillor Joe Reilly, Mayor of Navan. The new centre will provide a range of supports and therapy for children in the Meath area. 150 children with disabilities and/or developmental delay will attend the new centre for therapy and support services and will benefit from the newly refurbished clinical and therapy rooms, sensory room with state of the art equipment, and ample meeting rooms for parents and staff.

The new Navan centre will also be home to Meath Adult Services which provide a personal assistant service to 18 adults with physical and sensory disabilities living in County Meath.

Enable Ireland Director of Services Mary Fox said, 'This is an exciting day for all the children and families that attend services here and for the staff working here. We're looking forward to settling into our new home and delivering services in an appropriate and well equipped setting that families and staff deserve.'



L - R: Enda O'Brien, Credon Developments, Sean Scally, Enable Ireland, Maria Leyden, Enable Ireland, Sean Scollard, Enable Ireland Board Member, Pat Crean, Credon Developments, Keith O'Sullivan, Credon Developments

## FETAC Awards 2009

The presentation of FETAC awards took place in Dublin Adult Services in July. The awards were in recognition of the achievements of the many service users who had worked so hard. In advance of the presentations, a panel of guest speakers spoke about the importance of Enable Ireland Training and the established links with FETAC. One panel member, Yvonne Briscoe, spoke about her own experience of completing a FETAC programme in Computers and Internet. A total of 25 people from the Dublin 12, QMS and Dun Laoghaire services received awards on the day.



Tracey Murnane receiving her level 3 FETAC certificate from Kieran Kelly, FAS

## Try-it.ie Gains International Recognition for Advancing Independence for People with Disabilities

In the last edition of this Newsletter, we recommended [www.try-it.ie](http://www.try-it.ie) in our 'Get Connected' feature (page 11). As a mark of international recognition, [www.try-it.ie](http://www.try-it.ie) was awarded a finalist ACCESS-IT@home award at the 2009 international ACCESS-IT Awards in London in September.

The ACCESS-IT@home award recognises ICT based projects, products or services that advance independent living for the

elderly and/or people with disabilities. There were approximately 100 nominations submitted from 24 countries.

[www.try-it.ie](http://www.try-it.ie) is a multi-agency and non-disability specific pilot initiative, led by the National Rehabilitation Hospital in collaboration with Enable Ireland's National Assistive Technology Training Service and the National Council for the Blind of Ireland.



## Enable Ireland Mayo's new centre is distinctive 'Safari Club'



*Pictured at the official opening of the Enable Ireland Safari Club at Moneen Castlebar, Katie Burg, from Enable Ireland in Galway, regional assistive of Technology Service, showing Marie Reddington, speech and language therapist HSE and Sinead Carthy, speech and language therapist Safari Club some of the technology available to enhance the children's lives.*

On 1 October 2009, the new 'Safari Club' for children with disabilities in Castlebar, Co. Mayo was officially opened. The innovative safari themed design is loved by children, families and staff alike.

The 'Safari Club' houses Early Intervention Services for children from Mayo with complex needs and who are under the age of six. Services are provided in partnership with The Western Care Association and HSE Primary, Community and Continuing Care (PCCC).

The new centre gets its name from the animal themed building. Each therapy

room has a safari animal name to it, for example there is an elephant and a zebra room. In addition to the name, the rooms have a distinctive light box with a large picture of the safari animal. The children love looking and touching the animal in the light box and some even insist on kissing their animal friend!

On the day Clare Lenehan, Enable Ireland Director of Services Galway & Mayo said, "We're delighted to have our official opening of the Safari Club today. This is a great occasion for the children who attend the service, their families and for all the staff who work here. We're looking forward to working together with our partners in our new centre and supporting children to achieve greater independence and inclusion in their communities."

The new centre is fully equipped and will have therapy rooms, meeting rooms, waiting area for families, assistive technology and a quiet area.

From the centre, the Mayo Early Intervention Service will provide a high quality, family centred and coordinated service to children. This will include assessment and intervention, in line with the needs of families and the legislative requirements as identified in the Disability Act 2005.

“Once a month I meet with other parents in the centre as part of a parents support group. It is fantastic that we have this facility and that we can support each other.”

## One Parent's Story

Jenny is one year old and has Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. She spent the first three and a half months of her life in Crumlin's Children's Hospital. After a number of operations, Jenny needed physiotherapy and in January 2009 an Enable Ireland physiotherapist started to visit Mum Niamh and Jenny at their home for therapy sessions. In April, Niamh started to take Jenny to the new Safari Club in Castlebar for occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and to see a dietician and a link nurse.

"The Safari Club is fantastic. From the moment you walk in you are greeted by friendly and welcoming staff. It is hard when you first start to bring your child to therapies but the Safari Club made it that bit easier. It's not like going to a clinic. I don't feel like my child is so different. It is a fantastic building and you really feel that it is built around your families needs. For example after a therapy session instead of having to leave immediately, I can make myself a cup of coffee and heat up Jenny's dinner in the kitchen before getting back into the car and heading for home. I have two other girls who are six and nine, and during the summer especially it was a huge help that I could bring them along for Jenny's appointments. There is somewhere where they can wait while Jenny has her therapy session. Once a month I meet with other parents in the centre as part of a parents' support group. It is fantastic that we have this facility and that we can support each other."

Niamh Keane, Jenny's mother



Andrew Dunleavy and Aidan Clery

## Sandymount School Outreach Summer Camp

The School Outreach Team Junior Summer camp for those attending mainstream school was held in the third week of July. Fourteen children attended the camp and had great fun taking part in a wide range of activities including swimming, baking, treasure hunts, gardening and a trip to the private cinema in the D4 Hotel, Ballsbridge.

They also got to show off their creative sides with arts and crafts activities such as kite making and designing their own t-shirts.

## Sport for all in Wicklow

Responding to repeated enquires from parents as to the availability of sports for service users, Enable Ireland Wicklow has undertaken a number of initiatives. Staff have made contact with numerous groups and organisations in County Wicklow who run sports and activity groups and clubs. Information is now received on a regular basis as to activities happening around the county and this is shared with service users and their families through a sports newsletter via email and post.

Staff have also developed a "P.E. Package" for teachers which outlines suggestions on how to adapt the P.E. curriculum to include children with physical disabilities and Enable Ireland occupational therapists and physiotherapists are there to support teachers in their role of inclusion, going out to schools, explaining and demonstrating activities and games in the P.E. class.

In an effort to ensure that summer camps are open to children of all abilities, the inaugural summer camp inclusion workshop was held in the Greystones Shoreline Leisure Centre on 23 June. Enable Ireland Wicklow, in collaboration with the Wicklow Sports Partnership, the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA), Cerebral Palsy Sports Ireland (CPSI) and the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), organised this workshop, inviting summer camp organisers and coaches from the Wicklow area to attend. A second workshop was held on 14 September, this time catering for teachers in the Wicklow area as part of Action Week on Disability. See photo on page six.



## Sony Ireland Supports SeatTech

Enable Ireland SeatTech Service, based in Sandymount, has been advocating the use of digital photography in clinics for some time. Digital images greatly enhance the descriptions given in a service user's file note, and assist all involved in discussing options with, or for, a service user, following an assessment

The SeatTech stock of digital cameras, built up over a period of 8 years, was beginning to show its age, with a number of cameras malfunctioning or ceasing to take reliable images. SeatTech approached a number of manufacturers seeking sponsorship for new stock and Sony kindly obliged, donating five Cyber-shot digital still cameras.

The SeatTech team will now be able to capture many of the other activities that happen on a day to day basis in the unit, so watch out for this in future Newsletters.

## Eating Drinking and Swallowing Training

Sandymount speech & language therapy department organised 'eating, drinking & swallowing' (EDS) training during September 2009 in collaboration with the occupational therapy & nursing departments. This training was well attended by special needs assistants (SNAs), preschool staff and link workers.

Young people with physical disabilities can be prone to swallowing difficulties and can require various degrees of assistance. The main focus of the training was to provide staff with information on swallowing and give them practical ideas about what they can do to maximise a child's safety and independence when eating or drinking.

A range of scenarios were created for participants including feeding each other with a few challenges thrown in, for

example, being fed with a blindfold on to simulate a child with a visual impairment.

Further training will be available in relation to individual children with more complex needs. Due to the success of this training, the EDS team hopes to run similar follow up sessions in the future.



Participants take part in practical training at the Eating, Drinking and Swallowing Training in Sandymount Services

## PE Inclusion!

Enable Ireland Wicklow, in partnership with the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA), Football Association of Ireland (FAI), Cerebral Palsy Sport Ireland (CPSI) and the local Wicklow Sports Partnership held a PE Inclusion Workshop to give teachers and SNAs the knowledge and skills to make their physical education classes and sports days accessible to children of all physical abilities.



## Inside I'm Dancing

Hundreds of Transition Year students around the country saw the powerful film 'Inside I'm Dancing' during Action Week at special screenings of the film in Cork, Galway, Limerick, Dublin and Tralee thanks to the support of Omniplex and IMC Cinemas and Momentum Pictures



Lucy Riordan and her friend Sharon at the Dun Laoghaire screening of *Inside I'm Dancing*. Lucy gave a presentation to local students before the screening and talked about her work as an extra on the set of *Inside I'm Dancing* and the message of the film in promoting independent living for adults with disabilities.

## Culture takes over Crumlin!

Adult service users in Crumlin held a World Culture Day to mark Action Week., with music, dance and food from every continent.



Avril Jordan representing India, Stephen Kavanagh representing Africa, Marian Cullen and AJ Walsh representing Mexico



## Accessibility Award for Rochestown Lodge Hotel

The Rochestown Lodge Hotel, Dun Laoghaire is a modern, spacious hotel with a well equipped and comfortable lounge area and bar. Efficient and friendly staff captained by Christopher Byrne, the bar manager, better know to locals as 'Christy' make this hotel the perfect place to meet friends.

There is a fully wheelchair accessible toilet and the ladies and gents toilets are easy to access for people with disabilities.

The hotel also offers a wide range of amenities such as a fully equipped gym for the exercise enthusiasts or its renowned beauty parlours for anyone who needs a nip or tuck or indeed a refreshing facial.

I was delighted to be able to present Enable Ireland's accessibility three star badge award to Christy and the Rochestown Lodge Hotel.

Roberta Connolly

## Swinging in Galway



Alison McCominskey, Enable Ireland and Paul Neary of Galway Swing at the Action Week Swing Dance Extravaganza

## Family and Friends Pub Quiz!



Gary Morris from Dun Laoghaire Services playing Quiz Master at the Dun Laoghaire Family and Friends Pub Quiz fundraiser.



Kerry Footballing legend Kieran Donaghy took time out in the lead up to the All-Ireland Football Final to help TK Maxx staff raise funds for Enable Ireland.

## Taking it to the MAXX

A big thank you to all the TK Maxx staff around the country who worked so hard to raise €30,500 for Enable Ireland during Action Week on Disability by asking for a €1 donation from each customer at the tills and hosting fun family days. The TK Maxx Enable Ireland Partnership entitled 'Together We Can' continues to go from strength to strength!

## Olive Loughnane

World Silver Medallist Olive Loughnane and her daughter Eimear, who uses services in Enable Ireland Cork, kindly gave their time to launch the Action Week on Disability Survey results.



## A word of thanks!

Thank you sincerely to everyone who made Action Week 2009 possible. Thanks first to all of our media champions who told their story and helped raise awareness of disability and of Enable Ireland. Without you, we would not be able to communicate our message. To Olive Loughnane and to Kieran Donaghy who both took time out of their busy schedules to lend their support, thank you. Thanks to all the service users, their families and staff who embraced Action Week and made it a success in their area. Finally, thanks to all our corporate sponsors – TK Maxx, Papa John's, Omniplex, IMC, Momentum Pictures, Dublin Bus, Visualise Advertising, and Irish Poster Advertising.

# In my own words...

## One parents experience of Meath Early Services.



Our son Matthew was born on 1 September 2004. He was diagnosed with congenital hydrocephalus and had his operation to insert a shunt at two weeks old. The shunt

will remain in place for life to drain the fluid from Matthew's brain. Yes we were upset and angry in the beginning - why us? Why our son? Why our family? What would the future hold? What was "normal"? But we quickly decided to be pro-active and although nervous we began to resume a "normal" life with the aid of our wonderful health nurse, Edel. When Matthew was four months old Edel told us about Enable Ireland and the services we could get

review his progress and agree a new home programme. Mark and I would then carry out the programme as prescribed. Our input was always valued and our opinions listened to. Matthew continues to benefit from all these therapies to date. Once a year we all sit down together and agree an overall plan for the 12 months ahead.

### Working Partnership

Matthew mostly now has his therapy in the form of group sessions. Generally this consists of two therapists and between four and six children. Sometimes the parents sit in and sometimes not. The therapists seems to have a better chance when the parents don't sit in - sometimes the children can play to the gallery!!!! These group sessions are a great way

benefit, no matter what format they may come in.

It is a working partnership. We firmly believe that it is as a result of early intervention that Matthew is where he is today developmentally.

### Advice and Support

To date, apart from the usual therapy, Matthew has benefited from baby massage and baby yoga sessions, swimming sessions, hydrotherapy and participated in buntas groups. We were provided with a walker (which he no longer needs and has been returned) and a buggy. We, as his parents, benefited from advice on entitlements and from parent to parent support facilitated by Enable Ireland in the form of parents' coffee mornings.

“ It is a working partnership. We firmly believe that it is as a result of early intervention that Matthew is where he is today developmentally. ”

from there. With our permission Edel did the referral and our first contact from Enable was about one month later. We would be looked after by the Trim Branch and in time Dunshaughlin.

of working with the children in a fun and "normal" environment, after all at four years of age we are looking at school now and interaction with others is of the utmost importance.

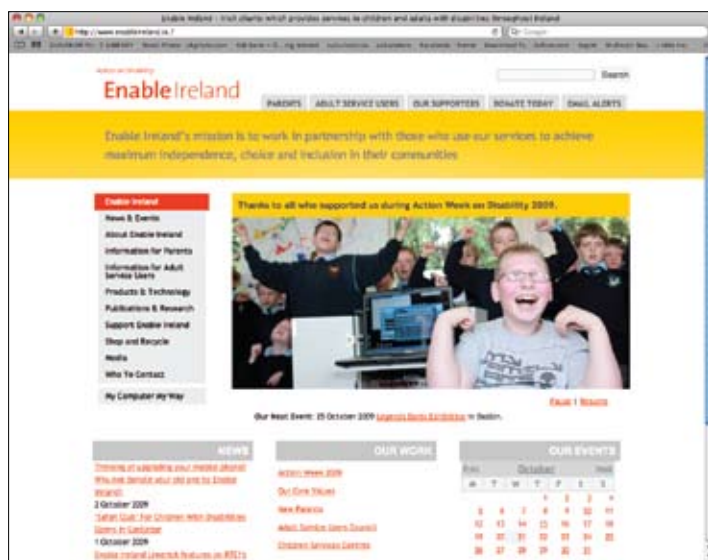
Without the expertise of all these professionals we would not have known how to stimulate Matthew's senses and aid his development both physically and mentally. To have had the support and guidance from such an early age no doubt greatly enhanced Matthew's development and therefore his future.

Our first contact was from the social worker. From there Matthew was referred for physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. As parents we did not want our little boy "to be taken over" by the services, what we got was far from a takeover; it was a working partnership. The therapist would see Matthew regularly and

Enable Ireland therapists have provided the best possible early intervention in our case, giving one to one sessions where needed and group sessions where beneficial, providing equipment to aid physical or mental stimulation, and providing back up and support to us - the parents. I have never said no to any session offered to us as I feel that they can only be of

Many thanks to all the staff at Enable Ireland Trim and Dunshaughlin, past and present.

- Ann O'Conner. This article was kindly submitted for the updated Enable Ireland website, [www.enableireland.ie](http://www.enableireland.ie)



## New Look Enable Ireland Website

The new look Enable Ireland website is now up and running. The site contains more information for parents and adult service users, more about the Enable Ireland services around the country and more details of our fundraising and retail activities. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions on how we can continue to improve [www.enableireland.ie](http://www.enableireland.ie).

Please submit any feedback or suggestions to [communications@enableireland.ie](mailto:communications@enableireland.ie)

## Enable Inform



Enable Ireland launched its new intranet website, Inform, on 5 October. The purpose of Inform is to help staff share knowledge, collaborate and improve communications across the organisation. The homepage of Inform leads to information on local services, corporate departments and retail and fundraising. There are also sections on HR and organisational policies, accessibility, and a section on useful online resources that can assist all staff throughout the organisation. The Knowledge Centre section is more interactive as it allows staff to upload useful documentation, book meeting rooms, work together in secure team rooms, view calendars and find

locations for services, including maps.

As Inform is a type of internal website, it is only accessible in Enable Ireland centres.

A key feature of Inform is that each centre and department has created its own section of the site and will continue to maintain these into the future. We would particularly like to thank all the staff across the organisation who have worked to create their own local sites. This work is still ongoing and all areas will continue to add content as it becomes available.

Please contact the IT Department for further information.

## HR & Corporate Affairs Induction HR & Corporate Affairs Team take to the road!

The newly formed HR & Corporate Affairs Team, directed by Theresa Compagno, undertook an extensive Induction since its formation in late 2008. Each member of the Communications, HR and Training & Quality teams undertook to visit two children's services, one adult service, a shop and the retail warehouse in Dublin, with some staff also visiting their local fundraising office. The groups also received presentations from IT, Finance, the National Adult Services Office, and the CEO.

The team got the opportunity to take part in many activities that they would not get an opportunity to experience as part of their day-to-day jobs. Activities that included playing Boccia with members of the national team, sitting in on therapy sessions of multi-disciplinary team meetings, sorting stock in the shops and the warehouse, attending playschool and much, much more.

We questioned the team on their experiences following the induction experience and the experience seems to have been a valuable one for all involved. Here's what some of them had to say about the experience:

"I've worked in Enable Ireland in varying posts for more than ten years. This has been one of the best initiatives that I have been involved in. It was a very enriching experience and I think it would be beneficial to all staff. I really enjoyed the interaction with young children and seeing them achieve things that seem so mundane to me but are milestones in their lives."

Renée O'Donovan, HR & Corporate Affairs  
Administration Officer

"It's so easy to forget what brought us to work in Enable Ireland in the first place – especially when you don't have the front line interaction with service users. That was hugely enjoyable for me. Also, my hosts made me feel very welcome and it reaffirmed what nice people work for Enable Ireland!"

Terry Datson, Training and Quality Manager

"The shops really need the help of volunteers. I met two volunteers on my visit to the Camden Street shop. Their work really is invaluable to Enable Ireland."

Patricia Roche, HR Administrator

"In Kerry, I joined a group of adult service users who were planning an overnight respite trip. Staff handed the decision making over to the service users and it was interesting to watch the group dynamics as each had different abilities, interests and ideas on how they should spend their time and budget for the trip"

Gillian Murphy, Communications Manager

"This experience has given me an important insight into all areas of work in Enable Ireland. Also, I had never worked directly with adult services before. Playing BOCCIA was great fun and it was great to see how skilful the players are."

Kate Kearney, EFQM Project Support Officer

"The amount of work that is required in the retail outlets surprised me. I really loved spending time in children and adult services, meeting and talking to the service users. It made our work in the organisation feel more real. I would recommend the experience 100%"

Denise Ginn, Administrative Assistant

"At the start when this induction was mentioned, I wasn't sure how I felt about it but now that I've done it I would love to do it again! It makes you realise what Enable Ireland is all about. From the importance of the volunteers to the retail side of things to the really interesting way the different disciplines work together in children's services.

Sandra Hickey, HR Administrator.

Theresa Compagno, Director HR & Corporate Affairs said "This invaluable experience has given us an insight into the reasons we are here and helps us to respond accordingly in our work roles."

### Invitation

"We are now at a point where we would like to reciprocate the experience. On this note we issue an invitation to managers to nominate interested staff who might like to work in our Cork or Dublin offices for a day. We will offer staff an overview of HR systems and practices, Training & Quality initiatives and a chance to work with our Communications team for a day"

Please contact Theresa Compagno, Director HR & Corporate Affairs, at [hrcorporateaffairs@enableireland.ie](mailto:hrcorporateaffairs@enableireland.ie) if you would like to participate.



Danny & Jack Millar presenting Nancy Harrington and Aisling Renshaw of Enable Ireland Wicklow Services with a cheque. The money was raised by 2nd Class pupils of St. Laurence O'Toole National School in Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, as part of their First Holy Communion preparation with their class teacher & vice-principal Eithne Kavanagh.

### Kerry Head Triathlon



Participants in the first annual Kerry Head Triathlon in aid of Enable Ireland Kerry which took place on 5 September.

### Dun Laoghaire Sports Week



Dun Laoghaire Adult Services Sports Week took place in July in Loughlinstown Leisure Centre.

### Ploughing Championships



Barney spent three days with the gang at the Enable Ireland stand at the Ploughing Championships in September! Facepainting was also on offer and each afternoon adult service users from Navan, Crumlin and Sandyford gave a Boccia demonstration.

### Cork Adult Services Awards



Service users Alan O'Brien, John Fahy & Richard Fitzgerald have recently completed the first Module of Personal Effectiveness as part of the Certificate in Contemporary Living at University College Cork and Trinity College Dublin. The core values of this course are inclusion, equality, respect and recognition of individual differences. All three are now studying the next module on Communication. The course organisers are hopeful that the UCC course will become full time if funding is obtained. Pictured: Alan O'Brien is congratulated by Brian Crowley, MEP at the Awards Ceremony, UCC in September.

### North East Gala Ball

Preparing for the Enable Ireland Meath Autumn Gala Ball are Nicola Hudson of AA Roadwatch and young friend. The Ball took place on 10 October in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim.



## New Shops!

In May, Enable Ireland opened its 20th charity shop in Tralee. Kerry football legend Colm Cooper and Enable Ireland Service User Michael Lenihan (12) were on hand to cut the ribbon and the Mayor of Tralee, Ted Fitzgerald gave a speech warmly welcoming the retail arm of Enable Ireland to Kerry's county town. Entertainment was provided by the Fanzini Brothers and a new team of Enable Ireland retail volunteers were on hand to provide treats for the children of Tralee.

CEO of Enable Ireland Fionnuala O'Donovan said "In 20 locations nationwide, Enable Ireland is now turning unwanted clothes, shoes and bric-a-brac into funds to build services for people with disabilities. Enable Ireland has always received such warm support from the people of Kerry that we're sure the



shop will receive the same support. That's already evidenced in the generous donations the shop received before it even opened."

The 21st Enable Ireland shop will open in Kilkenny later this year.



Kerry Footballing Legend Tommy Walsh hung up his boots for an afternoon of fashion in aid of Enable Ireland

### Kerry Fashion Show

The 8th Annual Enable Ireland Kerry Services Ladies Lunch and Fashion show took place on Friday 22 May at The Earl of Desmond Hotel in Tralee. Over 200 ladies enjoyed a wonderful afternoons entertainment, including a fashion show, hosted by the Celia Holman Lee Model Agency, a magnificent five-course meal with complementary wines, a champagne reception and a variety of exhibition stands. Michael Mulcahy, publisher of RSVP magazine was on hand to present a 'best dressed ladies prize'. Following the lunch Jason Fallon entertained the ladies with his unique mix of music and entertainment. The event in Tralee has now become one of the highlights of the social calendar. The organisers would like to thank the lunch committee, Credon Developments, RSVP and the management and staff at the Earl of Desmond.



## West Cork Emergency Services Cycle

The 2009 West Cork Emergency Services Cycle, took place on Saturday 11 July in Skibereen. A total of €38,400 was raised from the event which was then presented to six charities including Enable Ireland Cork Services in September this year. Each charity received a cheque for €6,400.00. Despite the fact that over two inches of rain fell on the day over 200 participants braved the bad weather to cycle 80km of West Cork's most beautiful countryside. Now in its seventh year, the annual challenge has raised over €270,000 for various charities. The Emergency Services involved include the Irish Red Cross, Civil Defence, Coast Guard, HSE Ambulance Service, Gardai, the Irish Army, nurses, doctors and the Fire Service. Ann McCarthy, Fundraising Manager for Enable Ireland Cork Services said 'We were delighted to be involved in such a popular and well run event. We have nothing but admiration for the organisers and the cyclists who refused to be put off by the rain and were determined to complete the cycle and raise so much money.'

## Respite Appeal Gets Results

Kathleen Kenna (right), Chairperson of Roundwood & District Athletic Club together with young athletics presenting cheque to Joan Curran (left) of Enable Ireland Wicklow Services on Friday 25 September 2009.



## Thinking of upgrading your mobile phone?

Enable Ireland shops are now accepting your unwanted mobile phones and recycling them. The money we raise will go towards developing our services for children and adults with disabilities in their local communities.

We have 20 shops around the country in Dublin, Clare, Cork, Drogheda, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Longford, Mayo, Meath, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford and Wicklow. Simply drop your phone into any one of these Enable Ireland shops and help raise vital funds for children and adults with disabilities.



## Get Connected!

www.assistireland.ie has a new look website. The site has information on assistive aids and appliances and has a directory of over 7,000 aids. The site is run by the Citizens Information Service and also has a range of helpful fact sheets covering 30 topics such as Choosing a Bath, Choosing a Personal Alarm and Choosing Equipment to Get Up and Down the Stairs. Suppliers are listed by product type and broken down by county for easy access. They also offer telephone and email support on 1890 277 478 or support@assistireland.ie

[assistireland.ie](http://www.assistireland.ie)

## Enable Ireland Kildare Ball



*Dorothy Barry, Director Retail & Fundraising, and Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO Enable Ireland; Áine Brady TD, Junior Minister, Department of Health; Naas Mayor Pat Clear; Donal Cashman, Chairman of the Board, Enable Ireland; Willie Callaghan, Event and Fundraising Manager, and Niall Maguire, Chairman Parents Committee, Enable Ireland pictured at the Enable Ireland Ball in the Osprey Hotel, Naas, on Friday 2 October, last.*

## Taste Kildare Festival

The second annual Taste Kildare Festival took place in the Walled Gardens of The K Club in August and all proceeds from the day went to Enable Ireland in Kildare.

The day proved to be a huge celebration of local food and crafts with over 14,000 visitors chatting with producers and top chefs and enjoying the cookery demonstrations. Activities included golf competitions, fishing on the Liffey, horse riding and face painting, a 'Duck Race' on the river Liffey, as well as Wine Cellar and Art Tours in The K Club Hotel.

### **Tralee Mind Body & Soul Night**

Monday 16 November at Fels Point Hotel Tralee. Tickets cost €15. Contact Sean Scally on 066 7128220 or email [sscally@enableireland.ie](mailto:sscally@enableireland.ie)

### **Galway Health Body & Soul Night Part II!**

Monday 23 November. Enjoy relaxing and fun night out with us in Lohans Bar in Salthill experiencing something new and alternative. Limited places are available so book your place in plenty of time. Text HBS to 087 6658664

### **Posture Positioning and Mobility Equipment Seminar**

Tuesday 24 November – Sandymount Services Building 9.00am to 4.00pm. Supplier exhibition, equipment evaluation forums and information sessions. The equipment categories will be: Wheelchair Seat Cushions, Powered Mobility Controller and Access Devices, Toilet / Shower / Bath seats for those who require postural support, Stenders. The main target group for the day is service providers. However, users of the equipment and / or their carers are also very welcome. Please contact Linda Wynne - [lwynne@enableireland.ie](mailto:lwynne@enableireland.ie) or phone 01 2615926.

### **Tralee Night at the Dogs**

Friday 27 November. Tickets €10. Contact Sean Scally on 066-7128220 or email [sscally@enableireland.ie](mailto:sscally@enableireland.ie)

### **Exclusive Discount Shopping Event in Galway**

Friday 27 November Eyre Square Shopping Centre. Get your Christmas shopping list at the ready in preparation for this night of shopping full of bargains and discounts for all. Tickets available from Enable Ireland and the Enable Ireland Shop. Text Shopping to 087 6658664

### **Christmas Cuppa & a Cake!**

Wednesday 16 December - Sam Baileys on Eglinton St in Galway. Rest your feet and your credit card from all your Christmas Shopping, sit back relax, enjoy the atmosphere, cake and a steaming hot cup of tea or coffee of your choice!

### **Christmas Day Swim**

Friday 25 December Brave the chilly waters of Galway Bay whilst raising funds for Enable Ireland. Build up your appetite for Christmas Dinner and clear away the Christmas morning cobwebs with a sponsored dip in Galway Bay! Sponsorship packs are now available. Text Swim to 087 6658664

Further information on all of these events is available on [www.enableireland.ie](http://www.enableireland.ie)

### **Regional Fundraising Offices and Contact Details:**

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Please send your news, views, reviews, comments and photos to the editor at the above email address by mid-March 2010.

We are delighted to bring you the Winter 2009/2010 edition of our national newsletter. As you are aware the newsletter aims to provide a forum for exchange of information and acts as a communication tool for staff, service users, their families and other associated bodies. We hope that readers find this newsletter a useful source of information on what's happening in Enable Ireland and beyond.

Thanks to all who contributed so enthusiastically to this issue and we look forward to another bumper issue in Spring 2010.

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