

Enable Ireland

National Newsletter Summer 10

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LEFT: Brendan Courtney and Sonya Lennon from RTE's 'Off The Rails', who supported the Enable Ireland, TK Maxx 'Give Up Clothes For Good' campaign, pictured at the campaign launch with Steve Sheridan (4), service user at Enable Ireland Sandymount.

BELOW: Billboards advertising the campaign were placed around the country.



TK Maxx Give Up Clothes FOR GOOD

During the month of April, labels-for-less retailer, TK Maxx called on shoppers across the country to dig deep into their wardrobes and donate their fashion finds to raise money for Enable Ireland. The campaign, 'Give Up Clothes for Good' has been hailed as a massive success, with over €234,000 worth of stock donated to Enable Ireland and a further €47,000 collected through till donations in TK Maxx stores.

The generous Irish public made over 13,000 bag donations to TK Maxx stores between 5th and 25th April 2010. TK Maxx in Tralee had the largest number of donations during Give Up Clothes for Good with over 600 bags of clothes and gifts dropped into the store.

'Give Up Clothes For Good' generated a great response from people across the country from Galway to Dublin, who generously donated bags of clothes and at the till in TK Maxx stores for Enable Ireland. We are delighted that the initiative was such a success this year and we look forward to continuing to work with Enable Ireland to help build on its invaluable work in local communities throughout Ireland." said Jo Murphy, Head of CSR, TK Maxx UK and Ireland.

A number of famous Irish faces offered their support to the 'Give Up Clothes for Good' campaign, including 'Off the Rails' presenters Sonya Lennon and Brendan Courtney, who hosted styling sessions in Cork and Dublin, Blathnaid Ni Dhonnchadha and her boyfriend Michael Swift, who took part in Galway in-store activities and Ducksy and Tommy Walsh, who were on hand in Kilkenny.

From the Chief Executive's Desk

The many events and stories in the pages of this newsletter, once again, show the depth and breadth of the wonderful work going on throughout Enable Ireland over the last few months. However, this has also been a time of anxiety for everyone in the organisation, as the economic crisis and cuts to the disability sector continue; we are all concerned about the future of the services we have worked so hard to build.

Over recent months, we have been in regular contact with the relevant HSE and other government departments. We continue to communicate our message that any cuts to our budgets directly affect children and adults with disabilities and their families and result in a step backwards for the disability sector and the people we serve. Our message endeavours to encourage the government and HSE to protect the improvements that have been made in the disability sector over the last ten years. Substantial budget cuts in 2010 have necessitated pay cuts for every staff member in Enable Ireland. This has been extremely difficult for everybody and I thank staff and acknowledge the positive effect that this sacrifice has made to offset the €2.464 million cut from our budget. This action allows the organisation maintain current levels of service which children, families and adult service users need so very much.

In spite of these tough times, the past few months have seen many positive developments in the organisation. In

“ In spite of these tough times, the past few months have seen many positive developments in the organisation.”

December 2009 a state of the art new respite facility, Ard Na Mara, was opened in Ladysbridge, Co. Cork by MEP Brian Crowley. Deputy Crowley's comment at the opening, that coming into Ard Na Mara felt like 'coming home', was a glowing endorsement of the facility and echoed by many of those who had used it. The official opening of the new



At the first Milano Fashion Show of 2010, in Galway pictured L to R Emma Vettorello and Ian Kelly, Milano Ireland with, Joanne Murphy, Enable Ireland and Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Enable Ireland. Milano Ireland's partnership with Enable Ireland continues to raise valuable funds for service development and fashion shows have now taken place in Galway and Killarney

children's services centre in Oakview, Tralee in March 2010 was also warmly received by staff, service users and families, who are happily settling into the fantastic new building. These projects would, of course, not be possible without the financial support of the communities in which they are situated and from the proceeds of our retail and fundraising division.

garnered outstanding support from the Irish public, raising a significant amount of stock and cash for Enable Ireland shops. A big 'thank you' to TK Maxx associates and customers across the country whose enthusiasm to support children with disabilities, once again, highlighted the generosity of the Irish people.

Though tough challenges lie ahead, it is more important now than ever that we remain focused on the reason we are all here in Enable Ireland – to support the children and adults who use our services to achieve independence, choice and inclusion in their communities. I urge you to stay focused and to work together to provide quality services in these uncertain times.

With Best Wishes,
Fionnuala O'Donovan,
Chief Executive.

Jenny McCann speaks out on TV3

Service user Jenny McCann has been in the news recently. Following a feature in The Evening Herald on 8 March, Jenny and her mother, Carol, were invited to appear on The Morning Show on TV3 with Sybil Mulcahy and Martin King.

The interview began with an explanation of Dystonia, meaning muscle spasms, and how the condition first began to affect Jenny. Carol explained that when Jenny woke one morning with stiffness and an aversion to light, she assumed that she had meningitis. When an eventual diagnosis of Dystonia came months later it revealed a previously uncovered history of the condition in the family.

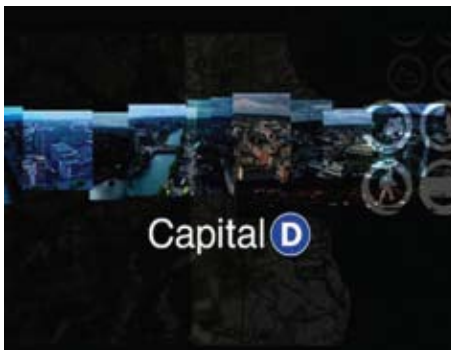
The feature focused on Jenny's many achievements, such as going to college, writing the book 'Sunshine and Rain', participating and winning seven gold medals in the Physically Challenged Irish American Games, her engagement to fiancée Richard in February 2010 and her role as editor of Enable Ireland's service user newsletter 'Hot Wheels.'

Presenter Sybil even invited herself to Jenny's wedding!



SeatTech Feature on Capital D

Keith Hayes, Disability Co-Ordinator with Dublin Adult Services, and staff from SeatTech, Enable Ireland's Custom Posture & Mobility Service recently featured on RTE's 'Capital D' factual television programme. Filming of the feature took place in January and was broadcast in March. The short but informative feature followed Keith from his initial assessment for a new powered wheelchair with custom-made seating to the actual integration of the chair and completed seating into his daily life.



The response to the feature from colleagues, family and friends was really positive. Many people commented on how the feature highlighted the importance of providing the correct mobility and seating devices for those who need them and how this can enable participation in life tasks while at the same time help to maintain a healthy posture.

The feature can be viewed on www.rte.ie/news/capitald

Visit to Strasbourg

Service Users Mossie Ford and David Walsh from Meath Adult Services pictured with their PA's and MEP Mairead McGuinness

In September 2009 Mossie Ford and David Walsh from Meath Adult Services travelled to Strasbourg where they participated in the Strasbourg Freedom Drive. The Strasbourg Freedom Drive is part of an overall strategy by European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) to empower people with disabilities across Europe. It is an opportunity for people with disabilities from all European countries to join together and converge on the European Parliament in Strasbourg, where they meet their national MEPs, the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament, and representatives of other key EU institutions. The Freedom Drivers will also drive a rally to the parliament.

New Parents rep on Board of Directors

In line with the core values, the Enable Ireland Board membership reflects the person-centred ethos of the organisation and so comprises service users, parents, volunteers and business representatives. All directors carry out their duties of governance on a voluntary basis. Four directors on the board represent stakeholders; one for each HSE region.

Lorraine Mangan, a parent whose son attends our Dublin Service, is the new Board representative for the Dublin Mid-Leinster region. Lorraine currently sits on the board of Sandymount School, is a member of the parents association and takes part in the parent to parent groups. Having been involved with Enable Ireland she has had the opportunity to speak with many pupils, parents and therapists, and is aware of the many needs and frustrations that these groups experience.

Lorraine says, "I am very eager to familiarise myself with the centres that I will be representing and am happy to come and meet any groups, and listen to any issues or ideas they may have. We all need to work together at this time to understand the restraints of funding that Enable Ireland is under and to find a balance in service provision that satisfies everyone. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible soon."

You can contact Lorraine Mangan through the North & East Regional Office:

Email: regionallofficene@enableireland.ie

Phone: 01 - 260 0498

Fax: 01 - 269 587



Building Blocks!

Ard Na Mara for Cork Adult Services

Enable Ireland's newest respite service, Ard Na Mara, was officially opened in December 2009 by Deputy Brian Crowley MEP in Ladysbridge, Co. Cork.

The service has been open since 2005 and moved to Ard na Mara in 2008. It provides individualised respite breaks for adults with primary physical disability who live in counties Cork and Kerry. This respite service was developed in partnership with the HSE and is funded by them. Ard Na Mara, located in beautiful East Cork, is a stunning modern design. It boasts an attractive open plan living and dining area, a separate quiet room and a hydrotherapy / Jacuzzi bath. Each of the six bedrooms is designed to meet the needs of people with physical disabilities; each has an en suite bathroom, ceiling mounted hoists and personal outside patio space. The landscaped gardens are accessible with views of the lighthouse and Ballycotton Bay.

At the opening, Deputy Crowley said "Enable Ireland has always been about

people. They ask people with disabilities what they need, not tell them what they think they need and coming in here to Ard na Mara makes you feel like you've come home. What people must remember is that people with disabilities are human beings with the same desires and feelings as everybody else and we don't want people to tell us what we should do. It's important to ask us what we want and Enable Ireland does that, they create an environment of inclusion."

Jim Forrest, who has used Enable Ireland Cork's respite service said "It is a privilege to use such an excellent facility. Our every need is more than adequately looked after by the dedicated staff who can deal with any situation in a caring and professional manner."

“Enable Ireland has always been about people. They ask people with disabilities what they need, not tell them what they think they need and coming in here to Ard na Mara makes you feel like you've come home.”



Visitors who come to stay at Ard Na Mara can enjoy a range of opportunities for social recreational and therapeutic supports whilst on a respite break. These include therapeutic massage, alternative and complementary therapies and arts and crafts. Along with the facilities available in East Cork for shopping, eating out and leisure activities, this makes Ard na Mara an ideal respite venue.

Kerry Children's Services find new home in Oakview

The long awaited new Enable Ireland centre for children with disabilities in Kerry was opened in March 2010. The purpose built, state of the art centre is complete with multi-sensory room, physiotherapy gym and hydrotherapy room.

The official opening was preformed by Mayor of Tralee Terry O'Brien. Enable Ireland service user, 15-year-old Gerard Mulvihill also made a speech, which you can see reproduced on page 7 of this newsletter.

On the day, Donal Cashman, Chairman of Enable Ireland commented, "We're delighted to announce the new Enable Ireland centre officially open today. This is a great occasion for the children

who attend the service, their families and for all the staff who work here. Our goal has always been to encourage and enable the children who use this service to achieve independence and inclusion in their communities and we look forward to continuing this work in these wonderful surroundings."

The planned project was first announced in June 2008 and was completed by July 2009. Tralee based developers Credon Developments and architects O'Sullivan Campbell have created a wonderful spacious children's centre to the highest standards. The cost of the project is €4 million and ongoing fundraising will continue to cover the costs of building and maintaining the premises.



Cian Meehan, 6, from Tralee Co Kerry at the opening of the new Children's Service's Centre in Kerry.

Cavan Building Project

The planned new building for Cavan Children's Services is well underway. Completion is scheduled for September 2010. Services will be provided from the Centre by Enable Ireland and the HSE to over 300 children in the Cavan area. Enable Cavan looks forward to working in partnership with the HSE and other agencies to meet the needs of children in the local area.

New Dublin Adult Service PCP Report

Leah O'Toole the PCP co-ordinator in Dublin Adult Services (DAS) undertook a research project designed to examine the existing PCP system, to identify strengths and areas for improvement from the perspective of people using the service and their families, as well as staff and management of DAS, with a view to the development of a plan for future improvement of the service.

To read the full evaluation report for further details, please email Leah O'Toole on lotoole@enableireland.ie

National Disability Survey 2006

The report National Disability Survey 2006 – Volume 2, published by the CSO in January 2010, presents the detailed analyses of the situation of people with a disability in Ireland in the following nine areas: Caring and help from other persons; Attitudes of other people; Transport; Built environment accessibility; Education; Work and training; Social participation; Sport and exercise; and some general issues such as use of medication, health and smoking.

Key findings from the report include:

- One-third of adults with a disability in private households had some difficulty doing routine tasks inside their home because of their disability, while a further 19% had a lot of difficulty. Overall, 43% of men had difficulty compared with 59% of women.
- Around 56% of persons with a disability in private households received help with their everyday activities. The most common source of help was from family members who lived with the person - 42% of persons in private households who had a disability received such help.
- A high proportion of adults with a disability in private households felt supported by the attitudes of their Family (90%), Health and care staff (87%) and Friends (79%).
- Bathroom adaptations were the most used adaptation in the home with 20% of persons with a disability in private households using them. This proportion rose to 45% of persons aged 75 & over. A further 12% of persons with a disability in private households needed but did not have bathroom adaptations.
- A lack of money was the most common reason for not having specialised features in the home with over half (52%) of adults in private households with a disability citing this as a reason.
- Difficulty getting on and off public transport vehicles was given by 16% of persons aged 5 & over in private households as a reason for not using or having difficulty using public transport. Difficulty transferring from one service to another was the next most cited reason (12%), while difficulty getting to the public transport was reported by 9%.
- Around half of persons with a disability in private households experienced difficulty with Going to town shopping (56%), Going away for a break or holiday (53%), Taking part in community life (54%) and Socialising in a public venue (49%).

Further Information

The full report is available to download from www.cso.ie

Try-It Award



www.try-it.ie, the on-line resource which provides access to new technology for people with disabilities with disabilities won the inaugural Neurological Alliance of Ireland Innovation Award in March 2010.

The website has been promoted in this publication before and is the first initiative of its kind in Ireland and allows people a unique opportunity to access a range of technological solutions to promote independence and aid day to day living. By providing an opportunity to try out equipment and devices, people can learn about what's available and select those that best meet their needs.

This is a multi-agency and non-disability specific initiative, initiated 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. An independent evaluation of www.try-it.ie has revealed the positive impact that this novel resource has had on the quality of service delivery, level of professional knowledge and cost-effectiveness in relation to assistive technology for participating organisations.

The Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) Innovation Award is a new initiative aimed at recognising and highlighting the pioneering work being done by hospitals, charities, healthcare professionals and others in providing services to the over 700,000 people living with a neurological condition in Ireland.

The winner was announced at the NAI keynote conference for National Brain Awareness Week in March 2010.

Presenting the award, CEO of the Health Research Board, Mr Enda Connolly noted " This website is an outstanding practical example of research and technology making a real difference in the day to day lives of people with a neurological condition. It deserves this recognition as an innovative approach to sharing and maximising the resources available within our health system".

Other shortlisted entries included the development of a unique electronic patient record for people with epilepsy in Beaumont Hospital, a multi-agency collaborative vocational programme for people with acquired brain injury led by Headway and a specialist led epilepsy service in St James Hospital, Dublin.



A Sense of Self created in Meath

In October 2008 Meath County Childcare Committee was awarded €10,000 under the AIB Better Ireland Awards Programme. Its winning project 'A Sense of Self' resulted in a giant sensory book being created by the children of Kells and North Meath. The book incorporates aspects of each of the senses including music, sound and movement, touch and smell.

The book was donated by Meath County Childcare Committee to be used by children from Enable Ireland and the HSE Disability Service in Ballis, Navan. It is located in the HSE special care unit where it will be used as a resource when working with children who access services there.



Get Connected – recommended websites!



www.disability-federation.ie

The Disability Federation of Ireland has updated their website. The's new homepage has sections on

- National Disability News;
- DFI Member and Upcoming Events; and
- a section with funding, policy research and Skills Programmes information

The new homepage is widget based so you can move it around as you see fit to highlight the features you find most interesting.

Limerick Ladies

Ladies all over Enable Ireland are getting ready for the Limerick Lady competition! The brainchild of service users in Limerick, centres are hosting their own local contests to qualify to enter the national competition in Limerick. One lady from each centre/organisation/county is chosen to participate in Limerick and become Miss Limerick Lady 2010 in June.



Ciara Brougham and Bobbi Connelly, qualifiers from the Dun Laoghaire heat of the Limerick Lady contest

Share the Learning

The Enable Ireland National Physiotherapy Group had their its annual 'Share the Learning' event in Portlaoise Parish Centre in December 2009. The aim of the event was to promote core professional development and shared learning using the existing knowledge and skills within the organisation. A very successful day was had with much discussion and collaboration among nineteen physiotherapists from different Enable Ireland centres on a range of issues.

The programme included a presentation on Goal-setting Methodology using the ICF and Goal Attainment Scaling, Clinical Case Studies and Group Discussions as well as Feedback from Spasticity Management Services Network



In my own words...

Gerard Mulvihill, Service User, Enable Ireland Kerry, aged 15.

This spring, the long awaited new children's service centre was opened in Tralee. At the opening event, service user Gerard Mulvihill made a speech and here is what he had to say:

"It is a privilege to be able to share my thoughts of Enable Ireland with all of you present for this momentous occasion. I first came into contact with staff of Enable Ireland fifteen years ago, having been born nine weeks premature. At that stage I was considered to be at risk and early intervention was recommended.

My first contact was with the physio department. I was later assessed by the speech therapist before availing of the service offered by the educational physiotherapist and well as the occupational therapist. All of these played a key role in both my personal and physical development over the years and I am very grateful to them all for the help my family and I received whilst I was attending the centre.



L – R: Mary Courtney, Regional Director of Services, Gerard Mulvihill, Service User, Enable Ireland Kerry, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Enable Ireland, Donal Cashman, Chairman, Enable Ireland, Terry O'Brien, Mayor of Kerry, Maria Leyden, Children's Service Manager, Enable Ireland Kerry.

and played the CD's on our journeys. I believe my first point of contact is extremely important, particularly

“ All of these played a key role in both my personal and physical development over the years and I am very grateful to them all for the help my family and I received whilst I was attending the centre. ”

As I grew up, I enjoyed many events through the social club. This enabled me to get to know other people of similar age who were also affected by cerebral palsy. These outings were made particularly enjoyable because the staff were so familiar with topics of interest to young people. They had a great knowledge of the latest music

to the child. I have always felt very comfortable coming to the centre. This was in no small way due to the friendliness and support shown by the administration staff.

All through the first years I rarely missed an appointment. This is mainly due to the fact that when my parents were

working my great friend and neighbour, Pat, was always willing to drive me to Tralee. I always enjoyed these trips and they usually resulted in a trip to Dunnes Stores for a traditional Irish breakfast and a detailed chat on world football. I am very grateful for this help. Thank you Pat.

I would like to thank my Mom and Dad for their help and encouragement. I would also like to thank the management and staff of Enable Ireland for helping all of us to overcome our disabilities and live as independently as possible.

When I grow up I hope I will be in a position to help the centre and will be glad to do so in any possible way.

Thank you.

Posture and Mobility Seminar a Success

The Irish Posture and Mobility Network and the Engineers Ireland Biomedical Engineering Division joined forces to present their second Day of Shared Learning seminar at Engineers Ireland Headquarters, Clyde Road on February 15 2010. This was an Engineers Ireland CPD-approved event.

Fourteen people presented on the day, and their presentations ranged from setting up a seating service, to regulatory compliance, universal design, as well as engineering research

and design projects relating to analysis of sitting postures, material behaviour, and seating design. Dr Barend ter Haar, former chairman of the UK Posture and Mobility Group (PMG), was the invited guest speaker on the day, and offered an insightful talk on Posture for Dynamic Seating. Representatives from Enable Ireland Cork and SeatTech were also among the presenters.

Further information is available from John Tiernan by emailing jtiernan@enableireland.ie.

Enable Ireland Research Department Update

SPARCLE

Study of Participation of Children with Cerebral Palsy Living in Europe

The first phase of SPARCLE (SPARCLE 1) commenced in 2004 with 818 children 8 - 12 year-old children participating from nine CP registries in seven European countries. Of these, 98 children were from the Cork/Kerry region. Results specific for this region were recently compiled and the SPARCLE 1 Local Report will be published on www.enableireland.ie and hard-copies in local Enable Ireland centres.

Some of the main findings were:

- Children with CP did not perceive their quality of life as significantly different from their non-impaired peers;
- Most children with CP experienced pain on at least a weekly basis;
- Children with CP participated in activities less often than their non-impaired peers.

The second phase of SPARCLE (SPARCLE 2) is now being implemented, with follow up of SPARCLE 1 participants into their adolescent years. Data collection is almost complete and analysis will begin over the summer months. There are numerous outcomes such as participation, quality of life, pain, parental stress/coping which, coupled with environmental, impairment and socio-demographic information, will provide us with useful information for future service development.

PYPPA

Participation of Young People with Cerebral Palsy in Physical Activities

This study is exploring the participation of young people with physical disabilities in recreational physical activities in Cork and Kerry.

As a leading disability service provider, we are all aware of the valuable health and social benefits of participation in physical activities, and we want to demonstrate how we can be more effective in assisting our service users to get active in their communities.

The study employs a mixed method design of a population-based survey and semi-structured interviews with a representative sample of service users.

We know from SPARCLE 1 that young people with cerebral palsy in Ireland participate less often in recreational physical activities than their European peers. This project aims to explore this reduced participation in more depth, describing:

Availability and location of various types of activities in the regional community;

Specific preferences of young people with CP for physical activities; and

What young people perceive as the main barriers or/and facilitators to their participation.

The data collection stage is now complete, with data analysis underway, and the PYPPA Project Report will be published in Summer 2010.



T Roddy – Champion Boxer!

We have an All Ireland champion working in Enable Ireland. Tricia Roddy is a Care Link worker in Kildare services and has recently won her All Ireland title in the National Stadium. Tricia is from Coill Dubh in Kildare and trains and competes with Bray Boxing Club

Christmas Parties!

Enable Ireland centres all over the country celebrated the festive season in style!



Nathan Zablocka made an extra special effort to dress up for the occasion at the Navan Children's Services Christmas Party



Santa and his elves came to the Enable Ireland Limerick Children's Services Christmas Party on Harley Davidsons thanks to the Mid West Bikers for Charity.

Celebrity Winning Streak

On New Year's Eve 2009, Kilkenny Hurling Legend Henry Shefflin chose Enable Ireland Kilkenny as it's beneficiary of his winnings on Celebrity Winning Streak. King Henry won a massive €23,900 for the service.



Taking it to the Maxx!

As part of the Give Up Clothes for Good campaign, Kilkenny legends hurler Tommy Walsh and Handballer Ducksy Walsh gave their time to promote the campaign

Leinster Jersey

Pictured here with Paul Glover, Dublin Adult Service Manager, Anselm Griffin purchased this fully signed Leinster Rugby Jersey from eBay recently for €310. The jersey was kindly donated to Enable Ireland Dublin Adult Services by Leinster Rugby.



Michael Swift Connacht Rugby giving Bláthnaid Ní Dhonnchadha, Paisean Faisean presenter a help with her donation for Enable Ireland by donating her clothes in the TK Maxx shop in Galway



Milano Ireland

The fashion show season never goes without notice in Milano Ireland. Once again the season kicked off with a high profile fashion show in Galway and Killarney held its first show on May 11. A big thank you also to Milano who have generously sponsored Enable Ireland and raised significant funds in their Christmas promotion.



Mount Brandon Climb

On a bracing day in spring, a brave group set out to climb Mount Brandon in aid of Enable Ireland. L-R-Sean Scally, Enable Ireland, Honor Mangan, Eileen Mangan, Paul Murphy, Lisa Murphy.

Enable Ireland Kilkenny Shop Opening



Service user David O'Keeffe, pictured with Fionnuala O'Donovan, Chief Executive and Donal Cashman, Chairman, Enable Ireland.

Mayor of Kilkenny, Malcolm Noonan, along with, guest of honour, ten year old David O'Keeffe from Thomastown, officially opened Enable Ireland's 21st Charity Shop at 17 High Street, Kilkenny on Friday 22 January 2010.

The Mayor, who interestingly makes a point of regularly wearing second hand clothing to official engagements, made a speech warmly welcoming the retail arm of Enable Ireland to Kilkenny city. He said "I'm delighted to be able to welcome Enable Ireland Retail to Kilkenny. Few people in Kilkenny are unaware of the valuable work that Enable Ireland does with children with disabilities at the O'Neill Centre. We cherish their contribution to our community and are overjoyed to have another way to support them. Also, as a member of the Green Party, the principle of reusing items that you no longer have use for, rather than throwing them out, is one I wholeheartedly support."

On hand to help Mayor Noonan cut the ribbon, David O'Keeffe has been attending Enable Ireland at the O'Neill Centre in Kilkenny for the past nine years. David is a dedicated sports fan with somewhat split allegiances! He says he supports Kilkenny first, Waterford second and loves playing soccer on his Playstation.

Chairman of Enable Ireland Donal Cashman said "In 21 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 Kilkenny 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."

Over the last decade, Enable Ireland retail has contributed €13 million to services nationally. Funds raised in the Kilkenny shop will also contribute to vital capital development projects for Enable Ireland. Donations of clothes, shoes, linen, bric-a-brac, books and new toys can be made directly into the Enable Ireland shop which is open from 9.30 - 5.30 Monday to Saturday.

What We Love!

What We Love! is the theme of Enable Ireland's stock generation programme for 2010 detailing the items we would like people to donate for resale through our 21 charity shops.

Workplace Bring Back Days, Coffee Morning Collections and a recent pilot Bring a Yellow Bag to School Day campaign in Dublin highlight the work of Enable Ireland, as well as generating urgently needed merchandise for our shops.

Retail sales are our biggest source of fundraising at Enable Ireland. In these difficult times, collecting good quality saleable merchandise is a constant daily challenge for us. This year, we have to compete for a smaller pool of quality merchandise with other good causes, commercial rag merchants and bogus collectors. We need many more supporters to join the stock collection effort for our shops.

Are you a member of a club or society? Do you work or do you have contacts in businesses local to where you live? Are you a teacher or do you have a child or sibling at school or college?

If so, are you willing to take 'Action on Disability' by helping us organise a Workplace Bring Back Day, a Coffee Morning Collection or Bring a Yellow Bag to School Day in your area?

Please contact Gerard on 01-8857156, 087-7946400 or email gkenny@enableireland.ie to play your part in bringing us more of "What We Love".



Limerick/ Cork Wedding Dress Events

Enable Ireland shops in Limerick and Cork once again held very successful wedding dress sales in the spring. Pictured here is the Enable Ireland Limerick Window.



Better Ireland Awards

Six Enable Ireland centres will receive a total of €22,000 from the AIB Better Ireland Awards 2010. Meath, Kildare, Galway, Kerry, Tipperary and Monaghan are all be lucky recipients of amounts ranging from €2,000 to €5,000.

An overwhelming 602,172 votes were received online and by text for the 2009/2010 AIB Better Ireland Programme. This is 100% more votes than was received for the 2008 programme and a huge demonstration of the public's commitment to supporting their local children's projects.

AIB's 182 main branches had €10,000 to award to local projects and the local communities have decided how the funding will be divided. Projects have been ranked according to the number of votes they received, first place with the highest votes will receive €5,000, second place €3,000 and third place €2,000.

Enable Ireland Meath €3,000
 Enable Ireland Kildare €5,000
 Enable Ireland Galway €2,000
 Enable Ireland Kerry €5,000
 Enable Ireland Tipperary €5,000
 Enable Ireland Monaghan €2,000

Well done to all involved!

Vanishing Dublin

The Enable Ireland staff in Capel Street couldn't believe their luck when this book was donated. It's an extremely rare first edition copy of 'Vanishing Dublin' by Flora H. Mitchell, published by Allen & Figgis in 1966 with an Introduction by the Earl of Wicklow and it fetched an impressive €450!

Announcing the No Limits Campaign

The Enable Ireland 'No Limits' Campaign will replace Action Week on Disability in September 2010. We'll be looking for volunteers to sell out No Limits kites, pins and trolley discs so staff please note that updates will be posted on Inform. Parents, service users and supporters can keep informed through their local centre, www.enableireland.ie and through local media. Please contact Niamh Gallagher, Donor Development Manager on ngallagher@enableireland.ie, tel: 01 8857157.

Big Fish for Enable Ireland

The first Enable Ireland Annual Pike Fishing Competition was held in 2009 at Limerick's Plassey River. A large number of Limerick anglers, young and old, turned out for this charity competition which was a great success and the fishing yielded some great fish with 18.5 lbs and 16.5 lbs being the heaviest. The money rolled in from anglers and sponsors who were most generous.

The Enable Ireland Cup went to Mickey Lysaght and the Rebecca Hannon Shield went to Juvenile J. Bowman. The prizes were presented in Charlie St. Georges Bar by Dolores Ryan and Christy Pickford of Enable Ireland. Also present were Deputy Jan O' Sullivan T.D. and Mr. Leo Shine who hosted the first competition with Daithi Robinson.

50 anglers braved the elements and high waters for this occasion.



Round Table

Paul Mc Courtney Chairman of the Round Table Dublin 203 visited the Tallaght Centre recently to donate €1,700 to the services following the Round Table's 60th Anniversary Dinner of which Enable Ireland was the beneficiaries. Pictured accepting the cheque is Director of Services for Tallaght, Anna Meegan with members of the Enable Ireland Tallaght Team.



Castleisland Triathlon

23 May 2010, Kerry. For further information, please contact Sean Scally on 066-7128220 or email sscally@enableireland.ie

GRID 2 Assistive Technology Workshop

26 May 2010, Dublin. Join the Enable Ireland National Assistive Technology Training Service for a Workshop on GRID 2. The Grid 2 is an all-in-one package for communication and access. For more information, please contact sdeakin@enableireland.ie or telephone 01-6363600.

Enable Ireland

Kildare Dinner Dance

28 May 2010, Osprey Hotel, Naas. For further information please contact Willie Callaghan on wcallaghan@enableireland.ie or 086-2341009

The Dingle Adventure Race - New Decade...New Race!

12 June 2010, Dingle, Kerry. This is a one day multi-activity adventure race consisting of bike, hike, run and kayak. Race individually, in teams of 2 or in fun relay teams of 4. Costs: Individual: €60. Team of 2: €55 each. Team of 4: €40 each. Raise more than €200 per individual, €250 per team of 2 or €400 per team of four and Enable Ireland will refund your registration fee! Please contact Sean Scally on 066-7128220 or email sscally@enableireland.ie

Irish Father's Parenting Experiences with their Disabled Child, and Exploratory Study

15 June 2010, Enable Ireland Sandymount, 2 - 4 pm. Presenter: Aidan Cooney. If you would like to book a place on the workshop please contact icurran@enableireland.ie. Places are limited so please book early.

Cork Night at the Dogs!

18 June 2010 Benefit Night at Curraheen Greyhound Stadium. Doors open at 6.45pm and tickets are just €10.00. Raffle Prize draw and Best Dressed Ladies Competition on the night. Something for all the family! For tickets contact: Ann McCarthy, Fundraising Coordinator, The Lavanagh Centre, Ballintemple, Cork. Tel: 021 4294434 or email: corkfr@enableireland.ie

Killarney Womens

Mini Marathon

26 June 2010 Location, Killarney, Co Kerry. Sponsorship cards available from www.killarneywomensminimarathon.ie

Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle

3 July 2010, Starting point: Killarney. Contact Sean Scally on 066-712 8220 or 087 760 9768 or at sscally@enableireland.ie to register.

Balla 10k Run / Walk

24 July 2010, Mayo. Further details to be announced. Please contact Mary Mulryan on 094-9060234 or email mmulryan@enableireland.ie

Busker Browne's Tag Rugby Blitz, Galway

14 August 2010 - 28 August 2010, Galway. Further details to be announced. Please contact Joanne Murphy for further information on 091-526321 or email

galwayfr@enableireland.ie

Dingle Marathon

4 September 2010, Kerry. Further details to be announced. For further information, please contact Sean Scally on 066-712 8220 or email sscally@enableireland.ie

No Limits! Enable Ireland's new Fundraising and Awareness campaign, will take place from 16 - 21 September. We'll be looking for volunteers to sell out 'No Limits Kite' - the smallest Kite in the world as a symbol of the achievement of Enable Ireland's service users.

Galway Bay Half Marathon

2 October 2010, Galway. Further details to be announced. Sponsorship cards available from Joanne Murphy on 091- 526321 or email galwayfr@enableireland.ie

Front Door Fun Quiz, Galway

18 October 2010, Galway. Further details to be announced. For further information, please contact Joanne Murphy on 091 - 526321 or email galwayfr@enableireland.ie

Dublin City Marathon

25 October 2010, Dublin. Registration is now open for Dublin City Marathon 2010. Further information on www.dublinmarathon.ie

Kildare Quiz Night

29 October 2010, Kildare. Further details to be announced. For further information, please contact Willie Callaghan on 045-846108 or email wcallaghan@enableireland.ie

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Please send your news, views, reviews, comments and photos to the editor at the above email address by mid-September 2010 for the Autumn/Winter 2010 newsletter.

We are delighted to bring you the Summer 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 Autumn/Winter 2010.

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