



Annual Report 2016

**AIDS Care Education and
Training**

ACET IRELAND 2016

CEO's Report



Thank you to all of our supporters and funders for making all the stories in this Annual Report a reality. Thousands of lives were impacted by our work in 2016 and here you will see just a snapshot of how our staff and volunteers are responding to the bigger picture of HIV by working in the margins and intersections that the global pandemic exposed.

Our hope is that these projects will be viewed as more than mere service provision - a reality that only reinforces unjust provider-client relationships - but rather as places and spaces of real mutuality, empowering lasting change.

For the 2015 Annual Report I used the image of seedlings to illustrate our projects - small and vulnerable pieces of work that have been birthed in and adapted to the quickly changing surroundings of HIV. For 2016, emergence of new fruit appears to be the clearest image. We initiated two new significant partnerships - Suaimhneas Recovery House with Depaul and our 1-to-1 supports of vulnerable migrants alongside Acts of Compassion. Our work with Migrant-Led Churches saw the delivery of first Parent/Teen Communication course for those who grew up in vastly different cultural and geographical contexts to their children. Our care work continues to surprise with the richness of multi-generational work and the case study included in this report shows much of the impact being made.

We also found a new home for our administration office. After 10 years on O'Connell Street we moved to The Exchange on Lower Gardiner Street. We are grateful to Trinity Church Network for hosting us and to the staff of Jobcare for assisting in the move. We will miss the energy of the Dublin's highest profile street. We won't miss the stairs!

Thank you to our board, staff and volunteers. We are excited about where God is leading us and we hope you will continue to walk with us with your faithful support.

Richard Carson, richard.c@acet.ie

CARE

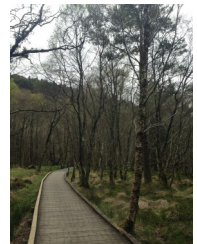
Care continued to be a core part of ACET's work throughout 2016. Eight new clients were referred and relationships initiated as well as the longer ongoing bonds continuing.

Together with our excellent full time care workers, Hansi & Olivia, we were also blessed to have Andy serving for part of the year during Olivia's maternity leave. Each of them is highly trained and has a real gifting in applying their skills in a multitude of ways within the various relationships as they serve those they work with, always within the policy framework and ethos of ACET. The relevant skills are flexibly applied in a variety of settings. One might witness motivational interviewing skills at the kitchen table, person-centred counselling in the community centre, suicide intervention on the phone, reduce the use on a respite visit, bereavement support in the local clinic, all in a day's work!



Each care worker is consistently providing practical and emotional supports empowering individuals to improve physical, mental & spiritual health. The focus of our support is the most vulnerable at the intersections of addiction, migration, poverty, poor medical adherence and HIV. These individuals or families often require highly relational and steady support and when we provide this support it has been shown to improve medication adherence, allow for inter-generational disclosure of HIV status and improve communication within families & between those we serve and other health professionals.

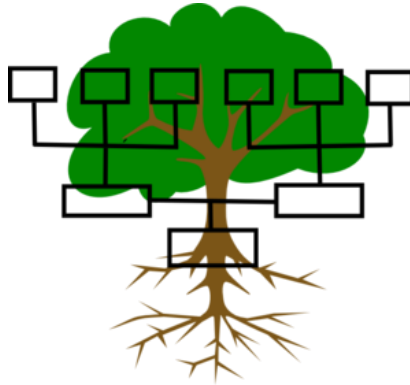
Our relational model of support ensures that the client-centred approach can flourish through values of mutuality and equality allowing for issues of addiction, housing, family tensions, migration and integration to be addressed. 1-to-1 supports in homes, community cafés and clinics provide the bedrock of our support while formal counselling, residential and day respite, group bereavement support and summer projects for young people deliver an integrated and flexible care plan.



Example of an Inter-Generational Family

Since each client interaction is unique and the care offered individually tailored to what is most helpful for the people we work with, one way of demonstrating part of the story is a case study of a family we have the privilege of walking alongside, spanning four generations.

(**Names and details have been changed to protect confidentiality**)



Caroline has lost many of her children to HIV and drug-related illnesses over the years and has been the Matriarch of her remaining children and grandchildren. ACET has been a part of her support since the 1990's, last year we saw her physical and mental health deteriorate into a degenerative condition and hospitalisation. Her support became more about helping her family members make sense of what this would mean for her, making sure she was receiving the best care possible and helping her family to process and grieve the loss of what she would not be able to be and do anymore.

"I'm forever grateful to you for your friendship, your advice and your heart and for allowing the Lord to use you in my life"

One of Caroline's surviving adult children, Lily, has been supported by ACET care staff over the past several years, primarily through giving her time and space to process family dynamics, improving communication with her children and managing her own mental and physical health. Because of the drastic change in her mother's health, this meant an extra-sensitive response to the implications of her own identity within her family tree. Her mother is her best friend, and the one who "kept everyone together and sorted things out." As she came to terms with what her mother was facing, the care support became one of helping to grieve the loss of what had changed, and what will change in the future. Supporting Lily through the weight of this change, and identifying her resources and coping strategies, was a huge part of the work during 1-to-1 interventions, as well as within the family home.

Beyond that, Lily has been facing changes within her own relationships and her partner's health, and has asked for support in developing the confidence to make her voice heard in her home, especially within interpersonal relationships (e.g. medical staff, family members, friends from the past). Part of ACET's role in this was to help Lily get to the root of how she is really feeling, how she wants others to hear her, see her, and find the hope in what feels like endless obstacles.

One of the greatest pieces of work for the year with Lily was becoming a grandmother unexpectedly and facing fears she had around how that would impact the already complicated home dynamic, expectations placed upon her and fears she had for her child entering into this unknown situation.

"Thank you for letting me just talk and get it out... and for listening. I know you're there and that's comforting. It feels so much better, I feel lighter."

Because of the intertwined relationship ACET has with this family, we had a strong relationship already built with her daughter Megan who was also struggling with multiple challenges such as anxiety, depression and uncertainty about her future.

The response to the crisis pregnancy, as well as her own issues that she brought to ACET's care worker, was to support her by ongoing emotional support and bringing her alongside other organisations who could help her feel well-resourced in times of distress. An intelligent young girl, she was feeling crippled by the lack of independence, the threat of growing anxiety and a lack of confidence. Again, ACET works in relationship with Megan by helping her feel heard, understood and looking at solutions together to dispel the hopelessness and equip her to feel armed with options. When her unexpected pregnancy came about, she knew she had a supportive relationship built with someone who could help her communicate with her family members and access practical resources to prepare for this massive change.

"I want to thank you for your support, for your words of wisdom and most of all for your friendship.... thank you"

Importantly, it also meant providing non-judgmental, compassionate time for her to go through the highs and lows of becoming a mother. We had the privilege of journeying with the family as they accepted and celebrated the birth of their newest member and could stand on hopeful ground and strong faith by way of huge support through their community, friends, and knowing that ACET would be there for an emotional support phone call or visit, a welfare office accompaniment or sharing the news of the latest ultrasound.

"Sure, you're family to us, what else would you be?"

Because of the positive, established relationship with this family, ACET's care response has been able to intersect with a total of four generations. Each person in each generation is taken as a unique individual with unique needs, and we strive to keep the history and family dynamics in context to help provide the most empathetic and organic support and safeguard each need as much as possible through the help of interagency work.

This is just one example of how the ACET care staff support a multi-generational family who have been a part of our world, and us a part of theirs, in 2016.

Hansi Chisnall, Family Support Worker

Outcomes experienced by client (through their feedback and experience of care staff):

- Learned new tools to improve family communications and integrating more regularly
- Empowerment through educating self around practical resources, specifically for unique needs as an individual, not just family unit
- Linked with other agencies to help with education and entitlements
- Found creative and practical solutions to temporarily improve home conditions and capacity
- Respite opportunities as a family and for individuals within the family, resulting in treasured memories together, closeness as a family, ability to communicate positive messages to each other, amidst many difficult circumstances in 2016
- Understanding importance of self-care and coping techniques and using them more often, reporting a positive difference and interest in learning more.
- Affirming abilities as a parent and growing in confidence as a result
- Accepting that the past doesn't have to define you
- Facing the future with less fear and feeling less isolated in uncertainty.
- Confidence to set boundaries within home - taking ownership of how to go about it and enforcing it.

COMMUNITY QUILT

The quilt group in Rialto is now in its 24th year and although membership has fallen due to the deaths of several members two of the original members are still quilting.

This service offers support to those who have been bereaved though a collaborative process of quilting. In recent years the group have produced quilts which have included memorial, community and personal stories.

Each year the group facilitates the Friends Remembering Friends memorial service and the newest quilt is unveiled. We have had several commissions from bereaved families and we are currently working on one such quilt.

We look forward to celebrating 25 years of quilting in 2018 and producing something which sums up the road the group has travelled.

Terrie Colman-Black



*Left: the Quilt Group's newest piece unveiled at the memorial, **The Rita Quilt**.*

Right: Friends Remembering Friends 2016



ACET Care, the Numbers

179 family care visits ∞ **119** youth sessions ∞ **499** adult care visits
plus **70** volunteer led visits ∞ **187** respite trips ∞ **22** support group
meetings ∞ **60** counselling hours

Totals **1136** Interventions

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Migrant Led Churches

2016 was another year of development and growth for our work with Migrant-Led churches. Our aim is to build an ecological model of health promotion for these churches in addressing HIV and related issues. This means delivering activities that aim at top-down impact through mentoring and training local leaders, bottom-up supports for the most vulnerable and in-out training on emerging issues.

With this in mind 2016 saw two new developments for this project:

In partnership with ACET Northern Ireland we delivered two Parent/Teen Communication courses through two migrant-led churches in Dublin. We believe this is the first course of its kind developed for use among migrants in Ireland who grew up in a vastly different cultural context to that of their children. The courses are accredited to the Open College Network.

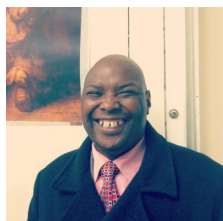


A new partnership was developed with Amos Ngugi of Acts of Compassion Projects whereby Amos is delivering 1-to-1 supports to vulnerable migrants, impacted by profound levels of social exclusion and related health difficulties, in the North Inner City of Dublin. His counselling space was a brothel in the 19th century and is now a place offering hope and new beginnings for many of our newest citizens. Referrals are received through local churches, direct provision centres and through the positive reputation and rapport Amos has built up with the local community.

Even in the early stages of this project the impact has been startling. 75% of all attendees have reduced their sleeping tablet prescription during their time with the project and have attributed this to Amos' support. All attendees have been linked to ongoing referrals in areas of housing, employment, education and counselling.

ACET have been working alongside Amos for 7 years delivering seminars to church leaders and offering support to individuals in Direct Provision. It is

fantastic to see this new stage of our partnership flourish. Mutual mentoring is ongoing and it is exciting to see the growth and development of these links between our education and care work.



Amos himself is an Irishman with a story of living within and across thresholds. As an asylum seeker in Mosney he took the lack of educational and vocational opportunities offered by Direct Provision into his own hands and walked 10km to the nearest town to present his credentials as a hospital chaplain. It is encouraging how many years on, he continues to dedicate himself to the welfare of his peers.

Our 1-to-1 supports for church leaders continued, including those who are living with HIV. In 2016 we increasingly found that leaders are open to supports as they minister in the complex interactions of health, church life, mission, migration and integration.

In this regard our work also took on a clearer geographical focus in 2016. The North East Inner City of Dublin hit the newspapers throughout the year. The increased number of murders related to the so-called gangland feud provided a focus for local community leaders to come together for mutual support and prayer. In addition, our workshops on HIV, mental health & integration provided a vital equipping for those serving communities in this challenging context.

Talbot Centre

Throughout 2016 we continued our partnership with the Department of Education & Skills and the Talbot Centre—HSE.



The Education Worker in the Talbot Centre is part of a multi-disciplinary team that is committed to developing supportive relationships with children, young people and their families whose lives have been affected by drug and/or alcohol use in the North Inner City of Dublin. We administer this post which sees workers in a broad range of agencies including schools, parent groups and YouthReach centres trained in drug education and prevention.

Suaimhneas

Opening its doors in August 2016, Suaimhneas is the new Recovery House in Dublin which provides residential Stage 4/5 support for women in addiction recovery, to assist the transition back to independent living and encourage them to reach their potential. This house, run by Depaul Ireland in partnership with ACET, is funded by the HSE Addiction Services and the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive. Suaimhneas is Irish for serenity.



LGBT & Faith

After our successful Stories of Belief events in 2015, our LGBT & Faith project had a change of tack in 2016 as a result of a funding change. So the focus of the year was on partnering with other agencies in hosting overseas visitors with expertise in the area.

In July, Brandon Robertson, who is the author of *Nomad: A Spirituality for Travelling Light* brought his book tour to Third Space Café in Smithfield Dublin.

In October Rev Sally Hitchener delivered a workshop entitled “A Life-giving response to young LGBT Christians.” Subsequently a Dublin-based ‘hub’ of Diverse Church - a peer support for young LGBT Christians - was established.

Both of these events took place in partnership with Accepting Sexualities and Changing Attitude Ireland. The goal of this project is simple: to move the conversation from LGBT Christians being talked about to being talked with - “with” meaning all the richness and depth of the New Testament church.

UCD Church of Ireland chaplain Scott Evans; Gareth Williams, Accepting Sexuality; Reverend Sally Hitchiner & Richard Carson



Education & Training, the Numbers

875 person-training hours in total across all our projects and partnerships* ∞ **1** new parent/ teen communication course for Ireland with **14** graduates ∞ **35** leaders of migrant-led and multicultural churches trained ∞ **50** one-to-one capacity building support interventions with church leaders ∞ **108** new one on one supports with vulnerable migrants through Acts of Compassion Partnership ∞ **1** new Recovery House established & at capacity with **6** residents ∞ **2** LGBT & Faith events supported with **80** attendees ∞ **3** World AIDS Day events in civic, corporate & educational sectors

* All of our interactive, non-directive and creative training sessions are always with less than 20 people at a time



MATILDA PROJECT

The Matilda Project is a project of ACET Ireland, set up in 2001 as a response to people dying of AIDS in Zimbabwe. We help fund school breakfasts, home-based care, food packs, and support groups for adults living with HIV.

Hunger, malnutrition and resulting failure to adhere to ART medication were the biggest challenges facing Matilda partners in Zimbabwe in 2016. These followed 2 consecutive years of drought caused by the worst El Nino cycle in living memory. Subsistence farmers harvested nothing for 2 years. In a country without state supports for orphans, the elderly, the disabled and sick, this left huge vulnerabilities in the areas where **Willard's Community Care Programme** and **Gift's Tshelanyemba AIDS Care & Prevention Programme** serve. Levels of Severe Acute Malnutrition in Under 5s were the highest in over 30 years.

Our main response to this was to increase the number of food packs each month at Tshelanyemba. 2 new trust fund grants made this possible, as well as some exceptional generosity. We have continued this level of support up to the distribution in April 2017. The more able-bodied families at Tshelanyemba have now harvested a little, so we have reduced number of food packs by half as Gift consults with village heads to assess yields and how long they will last.

In November we sent funds to buy sacks of sorghum seed. This was distributed along with the last food pack of 2016 to those families who had the resources to plough their plot. Amazingly the crop survived the floods in February/March and has given good yields. So for now, some families can manage without a food pack. Referrals for food packs come from Tshelanyemba Hospital's Family Care Clinic, Opportunistic Infections Clinic (ART dispensary) and from area co-ordinators for each village.



CCP's breakfast for kids in 8 primary schools, was run on a day-to-day basis by volunteer cooks, mostly mothers and grandmothers. A token of appreciation is given to them each term, which usually consists of 3 food items. Term 3 of 2016's token was maize seed at the request of the cooks. Each school holiday Willard distributed food packs to double orphans and children on ART (CLP). Sanitary pads were provided to the older girls, to help their attendance.



29 of the children known to be living with HIV, aged from 1 to 17 years, have already lost both parents to the virus, 35 have both parents still living. Of all the impacts of HIV in Zimbabwe these children are the hardest hit. Often they are quite sick before being tested for HIV. Guardians may be overwhelmed by the responsibility of feeding and caring for young children. Every need is exaggerated by the combination of being orphaned and HIV-sick. Each year the numbers of double orphans are slowly

falling and the numbers of CLP are rising.

CCP volunteers, themselves HIV positive, also facilitated support groups for adults living positively.



Greatman was 13 when we met in Feb 2016. He is the oldest of 6 children who live with their grandmother since their mother passed away. He takes ART. He told us his grandmother is old and she is not strong.

One unusual donation in 2016 was \$500

to buy school books for Gwandavale Primary, the most disadvantaged of the schools in CCP's breakfast programme. School fees for primary and secondary students who could not otherwise have attended school, were paid along with O Level exam fees.

At the end of 2016 we closed a chapter by ending a funding partnership of 13 years with the **Nehemiah Project** in Bulawayo whose support groups for people living with HIV we had funded. ACET UK had begun a significant funding partnership of Nehemiah's work in peer education and care for women in prostitution. That new source of funds combined with Gloria Green stepping down as project director seemed the right time.

Wendy Phillips, matildaproject@gmail.com

Matilda Project, the Numbers

600 families affected by HIV and hunger received **food packs** every month ∞ **139** adults involved in **10 support groups** ∞ **42** primary & **35** secondary students **school fees** paid ∞ **320** orphans receive **food packs** during school holidays ∞ **2,700** children in **8** schools = **514,800 breakfasts** prepared by **186** volunteer cooks

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenditure sheet Year ending 31 December 2016		2016	2015	2014
		€	€	€
Income	ACET	255,581	182,921	150,752
	Matilda	<u>136,104</u>	<u>106,786</u>	<u>79,284</u>
	Total	391,685	289,707	230,036
Expenditure	ACET	-258,513	-166,535	-147,164
	Matilda	<u>-138,268</u>	<u>-107,989</u>	<u>-67,216</u>
	Total	-396,781	-274,524	-214,380
Surplus/ Deficit	ACET	-2,932	16,386	3,588
	Matilda	<u>-2,164</u>	<u>-1,203</u>	<u>12,068</u>
	Total	- 5,096	15,183	15,656
Accumulated surplus brought forward	ACET	16,376	-10	-4,198
	Matilda	<u>18,635</u>	<u>19,838</u>	<u>8,370</u>
	Total	35,011	19,828	4,172
Accumulated surplus carried forward	ACET		16,376	-10
	Matilda		<u>18,635</u>	<u>19,838</u>
	Total	29,915	35,011	19,828

Balance Sheet (ACET & Matilda Project) as at 31 December 2016		2016	2015
		€	€
Current Assets			
Debtors		233	154
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>63,733</u>	<u>75,434</u>
		63,966	75,588
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(34,051)	(40,577)
Net Current Assets		<u>29,915</u>	<u>35,011</u>
Total Assets less current liabilities		<u>29,915</u>	<u>35,011</u>
Reserves		<u>29,915</u>	<u>35,011</u>

THE LEGAL BIT!

It gives the Board great pleasure to present the 2016 Annual Report of ACET Ireland, which, in conjunction with the Financial Statement provides a detailed overview of the work and achievements of AIDS Care Education and Training (Ireland) CLG during 2016.

ACET is governed pursuant to its constitutional documents, the Company's Memorandum & Articles of Association where its stated purpose can be summarized as, improving the lives of those living with and affected by HIV and playing its part in reducing the number of new cases of HIV in Ireland.

In 2016, a name change occurred to include the words Company Limited by Guarantee (or CLG) as part of the legal name of AIDS Care Education and Training (Ireland) CLG, as required by current legislation.

Day to day operation of ACET is delegated by the Board to CEO Richard Carson, who together with the team of staff and volunteers provide the care and education projects more fully detailed throughout this report.

On behalf of the Board, I commend to you the reading of the Annual Report and Financial Statements in their entirety and confirm that the Board has reviewed and approved the contents.

Prof Sam McConkey, Chairperson

Board:

Prof. Samuel McConkey (Chair)
Ifedinma Dimbo
Moyra O'Neill
Daniel Ramamoorthy

Tony MacCarthaigh
Rev. Dr. Trevor Morrow
Richard Phillips

THANKS

We are very grateful, as always, to all those who gave regularly or through one-off donations or fundraising events, to both ACET and the Matilda Project. Many thanks, also, to all our volunteers, trustees, and members for their valuable contributions throughout the year.

We appreciate the support of the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force; MAC AIDS Fund; the HSE Lottery Fund; The Community Foundation for Ireland; PA Foundation; Tusla, Child & Family Agency; Dublin City Council; CDYSB; Ormond Quay & Scots Presbyterian Endowments; ACET UK and ACET NI; Google; Pricewaterhouse Coopers; St Patrick's Cathedral Community Fund; Third Space; Vox Magazine; Rialto Community Drugs Team; the GUIDE Clinic; the Mater Misericordiae clinic; HIV Ireland; Quality Action; Positive Now and all those in the HIV Services Ireland; Acts of Compassion Projects; the Corrymeela Community; Lucan Centre; Orlagh Retreat Centre; Trinity Church Network; Redeemed Christian Church of God; Dundrum Methodist Church; Christ Apostolic Church; Mercy Christian Fellowship; Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church; Lucan Presbyterian Church; Holy Trinity Rathmines plus the other churches that we have had the opportunity to collaborate & work with; Discovery Gospel Choir.





ACET (AIDS Care Education & Training) Ireland GLG

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[Donations](#) can be made directly from our website.