

ACET News

Winter 2015

ACET (AIDS Care Education & Training) Ireland provides care for those affected by HIV, and education & training services on HIV and related issues.

As we gather up all the beautiful Christmas hampers, it is the perfect time to reflect on all the other gifts we've received throughout the year: generous donations from supporters; consistent funding from organisations, trusts and government agencies; time and expertise from our volunteers and board; knowledge and insight from the courses and workshops we've been able to attend; friendship, trust and respect from those we work with and alongside; encouragement from each other, our families and friends, as well as those we meet on the journey. We are grateful, and we thank you.



education work with the Healthy Church is moving into a new form (see next page), and as we establish new relationships with different organisations we see new referrals for care work coming in. The quilt group are starting two new memorial quilts, for two beloved members who have recently passed away. There will be things to celebrate and losses to mourn, but we face 2016 holding hope for ourselves and for

our clients.

May each of you know hope and peace in this season, and the ones to come.

We look forward to the new year and all that it will bring. Our Richard, Terrie, Vivienne, Olivia, Hansi and Lynn

Thank you for your support which allows us to carry out our projects every day. Will you join us as we seek to improve the lives of those living with HIV?

A donation of :

- ◇ **€20** will help us provide a half-day respite to a family affected by HIV in Dublin.
- ◇ **€50** will help us provide supports across multiple generations to a family in Dublin impacted by drugs, HIV and the ongoing housing crisis.
- ◇ **€100** will help us provide a residential respite weekend with related personal development supports for someone living with HIV.
- ◇ **€200** allows us to train and provide follow-up supports on engaging with HIV to a church leader in Ireland, thereby impacting hundreds of congregants.

If you would like to give: Bank details:

Bank of Ireland, O'Connell St, Dublin 1

Acct. 60959790 Sort code: 90 00 33

Standing order forms available from the office

Or click on the donate button here or on our website

Donate



Care

Sitting down in November creating profiles for hampers allows time for us as a care team to review and reflect on the practical and financial needs of the individuals we work with. It is striking how intertwined these care needs are with emotional stresses and burdens that are experienced throughout the year and are magnified with Christmas pressures. The past months have been marked with bereavement, poor health, addiction issues and isolation for many we work with, a stark contrast to the idyllic Christmas picture so often presented. We spend time with clients listening to challenges and working together to find practical solutions to make these stresses feel a little less overwhelming.

In 2015, there has been an increase in new HIV diagnosis as a result of a wider media promotion and availability of testing through A&E services. Subsequently, in the last quarter we received referrals of newly diagnosed clients and supported family members through HIV and sexual health testing. Work has taken place at home with newly diagnosed clients, their partners and family members to dispel misconceptions and educate about the reality of what it means to live with HIV. This has included a holistic review of lifestyle choices with new medication regimes, accompaniment to clinics, challenging personal beliefs about HIV and stigma, and resourcing individuals with relevant information based on their personal needs.



Flexibility and adaptability continue to be critical to the ongoing nature of ACET's care work. With the housing crisis and increasing homelessness,



the care team work hard to ensure clients continue to be supported regardless of where this takes place. Practical resourcing in the form of applications for medical cards, liaising with clinics for appointments, empowering individuals to have honest conversations with doctors and medical staff, and encouraging adherence to medication are all vital to maintaining consistent support.

Thanks to the HSE Respite Care Grant Scheme, the last few months have also included some well-needed respite time for several families in the [Cavan Centre](#), as well as mid-term youth activities and one-to-one and small group teen mentoring, particularly in a pastoral capacity.

As we close out 2015 with our annual hamper deliveries, we recognise the value of striking the balance between practical support and emotional care. The hampers provide a wonderful opportunity for churches, schools and individuals to donate and bless others in such a touching and practical way, while also allowing for an end of year space to spend meaningful time with clients and their families.



As always we thank you for your prayers and support during this year and look forward to sharing more about our work in 2016.

Photos: *Above centre & left*, Outdoor fun at the Cavan Centre. *Above*, Climbing the walls during midterm break.

Richard Carson wrote a guest blog post for [Vox Magazine](#). You can read "Advent, Asteroids and World AIDS Day" here: www.vox.ie/vox-blog/

Thank you to all those who helped make our Christmas hampers happen this year! We could not do it without the generous support of many individuals, along with [Adelaide Road Church](#), [Christ City Church](#), [Notre Dame Junior School](#), [South City Church Temple Carrig School](#), and [Trinity Church Network](#). As always, our clients were very blessed.

Education:

In 2016 ACET Ireland are launching a new initiative for parents and those that work with parents. The **Parent/Teen Communication Skills Course** will be specifically tailored for migrant communities for whom there are particular challenges in terms of raising teenagers within a cultural context different from that in which parents grew up. The course will be delivered in conjunction with staff of **ACET Northern Ireland** and is accredited to the **Open College Network (NI)** at Level 2 (similar to FETAC Level 5-6). For more details contact Richard Carson at richard.c@acet.ie

ACET Ireland
14-15 Lower O'Connell Street
Dublin 1

01 8787700
dublin@acet.ie
www.acet.ie
www.facebook.com/ACETIreland