

ACET News

Winter 2014

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



CEO's Report

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

This opening line from Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* sums up another extraordinary year for us in ACET. We watched as families committed to break cycles of despair, developed new skills in respite and found hope through the consistency of the care offered by our staff and volunteers. We celebrated seeing our funding situation positively turn around. We found new clarity in many of our projects, most notably with Project Hope, where we are seeing churches take seriously the need to engage with health issues in their congregations and embrace the importance of HIV testing.

Yet for many of those we work with, 2014 was an extraordinarily difficult year. Hardship in terms of food, clothing and housing was at it most acute for many years. In addition, the enduring legacy of HIV-related stigma seemed, at times, to have an overwhelming hold as it drove apathy, fear and hopelessness. But even in the darkest of times, the hope we were privileged to give and receive from those we work with has shone brightly.

The Executive Director of UNAIDS, Michel Sidibé, recently stated that "We have bent the trajectory of the epidemic. Now we have five years to break it for good or risk the epidemic rebounding out of control."

Please join us as we pray that the bend in the trajectory of the epidemic would become a steep downward fall and that these flickers of light we are witnessing would turn into a bright new dawn.

— Richard Carson, richard.c@acet.ie

For a child has been born—for us! The gift of a son—for us!

His names will be: Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness.

There'll be no limits to the wholeness He brings.

—Isaiah 9:6 *The Message*

We want to wish all of you **a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful 2015!** We are grateful for the support we receive from people and organisations all over Dublin, Ireland, and beyond. Without all of you standing with us, we would not be able to do what we do. We are hoping for improved health and well-being for all of our clients in the new year and looking forward to continuing to build relationships with those whom we work alongside.



All the best from the ACET Ireland team: Richard, Terrie, Vivienne, Olivia, Hansi and Lynn

'Tis the Season!



We are part way through delivering our Christmas hampers, which once again have been provided by generous donors of all ages. This year we have also seen an amazing response to the appeal for our hardship fund, which will go toward buying basic food supplies or vouchers as they are needed in the coming months. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this big part of our annual care work! A special thanks to **Trinity Church Network** and **Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church**, who allow us space to work and where people so consistently and generously give, and to **Notre Dame Junior School** who go above and beyond in their giving.



In the run up to Christmas, we are always amazed at how different each year can turn out, yet still see new and ongoing challenges within our care

work. We have seen a high amount of practical and financial crises within families, health declines brought on by stressful and chaotic home environments and the ever-present need for positive relationships and respect from others. As always, our aim is to respond to these challenges by maintaining a caring, consistent and respectful presence with the individuals and families we support, and working together to find the light and hope in many dark situations.

The care team feels privileged to be a part of these relationships and to be invited regularly into their stories as they allow us on their journey with them through day to day struggles. We look to the new year with hope and gratitude for the favour we have had in funding, the ability to offer and provide quality respite/care opportunities and most importantly, the ongoing relationships we are blessed to share in.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our care work as we continue to seek God's vision and wisdom in all that we do.

— Hansi Chisnall, hansi@acet.ie



In December we held the second of our **Healthy Church** training events. This training is part of Project Hope which seeks to both train leaders of migrant-led and multi-cultural

faith communities in Ireland and support those most marginalised by HIV within those communities. While the numbers attending were lower than we had hoped for, we had a very productive time together as we explored the challenges of catalysing change in our communities. We are deeply grateful to all who are part of this event as they did not hold back in wrestling with what are complex issues.

Once again thank you to everyone at the **Lucan Centre** for their hospitality. Also a big thank you to our funders **MAC AIDS Fund (UK), the Community Foundation of Ireland, Dublin City Council and the PA Foundation.**

Richard Carson also had the recent opportunity to visit the parish led by one of our last group of Healthy Church trainees. It was fantastic to see the leadership team of the parish enthusiastically get behind the importance of HIV testing for the whole congregation. Training was being applied, new contacts were being built through visiting leaders and the entire faith community was taking on board the messages communicated. A great outcome and encouraging case study for the future of the project.

— Richard Carson, richard.c@acet.ie



Copies of our new leaflet are now available! **ACET: Improving Life Stories** explains our care work, referral process, current education projects, and other organisations we are linked to, and gives our contact details.

Thanks to **Dreamsedge Studios** for a beautiful design! If you would like copies for your clinic, school, church or office, please let us know.

For information on our services, volunteering, or praying for ACET, please contact Olivia, olivia@acet.ie, or Richard, richard.c@acet.ie

If you would like to give: Bank details: Bank of Ireland, Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin 1

Acct. 60959790 Sort code 90 00 33

Standing order forms available from the office

Or click on the donate button on our website



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

01 8787700
dublin@acet.ie
www.acet.ie

www.facebook.com/ACETIreland