

ACET News

Spring 2014

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



CEO's Report

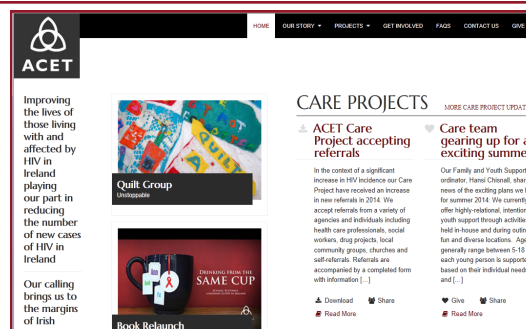
Welcome to our latest newsletter.

This year there is a 30% increase in HIV infections compared to the same time last year. Added to the fact that many of our clients continue to experience the ongoing impact of cutbacks in a range of supports they receive, our work is as vital as ever.

However, in the midst of all these challenges we are looking positively to the future. We are seeing the difference our staff and volunteers make as they are present in the margins of society, building relationships of mutuality and equality that help our clients overcome the barriers they face. After many difficult years we have worked our way out of our financial deficit and are building new funding partnerships every month. We would love you to join us in the new chapter of our work.

Check out our new website at www.acet.ie: interact and let us know what you think.

— Richard Carson, richard.c@acet.ie



We are excited to announce the launch of our new website, www.acet.ie, thanks to Phil Nixon of Dreamsedge Studios! The new website will be live from Thursday, 22 May.

This website will be updated regularly with news and information about our work and HIV in Ireland. Please spend some time checking it out and let us know what you think!

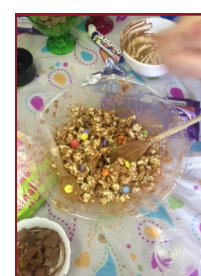
We are delighted to tell you about the growth of our partnership with **Community Foundation Ireland**. Recently they have funded our LGBT & Faith Project. This year CFI will also be partnering with Project Hope, our work in supporting migrant-led churches and their leaders in addressing local health issues. Finally, CFI will be supporting our respite project for those family carers who need a break from the challenges of home life.



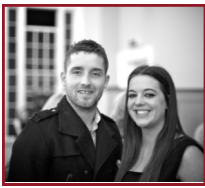
While January often presents various challenges for ACET and those we work with, this year we found that many people were combating sickness and other health challenges that slowed down our ability to reconnect in the new year.

There was a notable surge of newly referred clients at the end of 2013 which has brought an opportunity this year to meet with new clients and start exploring ways we can support them. Dependant on individual needs, this has included housing issues, respite, and advocacy for funding and family support.

Cont'd on page 2.



Staff News



We are delighted to announce that **Olivia James and Anthony Corbett** are engaged! Olivia is our Adult Support Worker and Volunteer Manager; their wed-

ding will take place later this year.

Congratulations to **Michael and Cara Rossney** on the birth of their daughter **Aimee Rachel**, who was born in December. Michael was our Family and Youth Care Worker and Cara was one of the key volunteers with Generation Text.

Lifelong Learning

As part of our commitment to excellence, ACET staff take advantage of up-skilling opportunities that come our way. Here are some of the courses/workshops team members took part in last year:

Learning Together Working Together - Talbot Centre (HSE)

Safe Talk (x 2) - Oasis Counselling Centre
Drug-related intimidation in the community, focus group - North Inner City Drugs Task Force
Working sensitively with asylum seekers who have experienced rape and sexual violence - Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

Gay Health Forum - Gay Men's Health Project (HSE)

HIV Multidisciplinary Course - GUIDE Clinic, St James' Hospital

Foundation in Counselling - Zest4Life

Sensorimotor Psychotherapy - Sensorimotor Psychotherapy Institute

Guiding Principles for Fundraising - Irish Charities Tax Research

We received **€2008.50 from Pricewaterhouse Coopers** for 2013 — a big thank you to all those who are participating in the ongoing An Post study! If you are interested in taking part, either by sending letters or receiving them, please contact us.

Care update, cont'd:

In February, we hosted a Valentine's women's morning and created a space focused on self-care, where we made a variety of pampering products and enjoyed a time of relaxation and mindfulness exercises facilitated by Vivienne Morrow-Murtagh.

In line with an expressed need by clients for family support, we continue to assess the needs of the families we are working with, developing more personalised family support for them, including youth activities for the future. As a result, we are running more need-specific youth activities and are making plans to do more of these throughout the coming year. These intentional activities serve a valuable purpose for the encouragement, 1-to-1 attention, confidence-building support they provide, as well as being a respite to the family.

We are looking forward to the next season, hopefully with brighter days ahead and the possibilities that might be in them. Thank you for your prayers and support for the care work of ACET.

— Olivia James, olivia@acet.ie;

— Hansi Chisnall, hansi@acet.ie



Congratulations to **Clair Breen**, the winner of the draw for a Fergus A Ryan handsigned limited edition giclée print! Clair hosted one of the ACET coffee mornings.

Important Note: Recent changes in legislation regarding charitable donations mean that charities can receive money back from the government from **any** donation over €250/year (previously restricted to PAYE employees only) — so anyone who is retired, self-employed or has income other than PAYE is now eligible. If you have received a CHY3 cert from us and have not yet completed it, please do so and return it to us. If you have any questions about this or other matters regarding donations, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

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



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