

ACET News

Spring 2015

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

"Take more time, cover less ground." - Thomas Merton

Thank you for your support in the last few months. Your support allows us to deliver a diverse range of projects all of which are featured in this newsletter. You will read stories of how your support allowed us to continue our care to those marginalised and living with HIV, how we are working with church leaders to transform the health outcomes for members of their local congregations. You will also read about our project with LGBT Christians as we develop creative and generous spaces to interact with church leaders.

In recent months we have been reflecting on the above quote by Thomas Merton. There is an enormous temptation, with medical models and consumerist agendas surrounding us, to grasp at key performance indicators and at what we might view are successful results. But we value the extra ordinary potential of deep and lasting relationships far too highly to settle for this. As we prepare our Annual Report (2014) we will have some amazing statistics to share. You will see some great outputs (how much we do) and outcomes (the impact it makes). However, just as important to us is the fact that new hope is being forged through cups of tea across tables in our city in ways that are difficult if not impossible to measure. Our faithfulness is to a Bigger Story.

We continue to need your support so please join us for the next stage of our adventure. You can donate through our website (www.acet.ie) or if reading this online through the "Donate" button on the back page. Thank you.

— Richard Carson, richard.c@acet.ie



It's been a busy few months for the Care Team and we've seen lots of different opportunities and challenges emerging as a result.

Some positive happenings include the start of family-based projects taking place in clients' homes: baking and cooking lots of delicious items while finding ways to integrate helpful family communication, strengthen relationships and have a bit of fun together while learning some practical skills as a team. We also ran various youth outings during the mid-term and Easter holidays with visits to Jumpzone, St. Stephen's Green and Fort Lucan, which were all great days out with some fab weather!



Our care work has expanded even more due to a steady amount of new referrals from Beaumont

Care update, continued:

Hospital, providing us more opportunities to engage with and build new relationships with individuals experiencing a variety of circumstances and HIV-related needs.

We've also been able to offer some extra practical support to those we work with due to a newly created Hardship Fund, with **MANY THANKS for the donations given specifically for this need!**

One of the greatest challenges we've seen has been a shift of the care work becoming more hospital based due to chronic ongoing illnesses, as a result of factors such as the cold snap at the start of the year, extra home stress factors and especially HIV-related compromised health issues. Other trends we have been seeing include mental health concerns as well as the experience of ageing with HIV, specifically with clients we have recently started working with.



The next few months will keep us busy as we continue to support the individuals and families we work with, as well as plan for the summer months with more focus on offering respite, family projects and youth support during this time.

—Hansi Chisnall & Olivia Corbett,
hansi@acet.ie, olivia@acet.ie

Philip McKinley, a former member of staff at ACET, is rejoining us on a part-time basis. He will be helping us as, through our work with faith communities, we support migrants affected by HIV and identify barriers to social inclusion that they experience in Ireland.



In March ACET Ireland, in partnership with the **Corrymeela Community** and the **Trinity College Dublin Chaplaincy**, hosted their first *Stories of Belief* event. The purpose of the

day was to gather together church leaders and LGBT Christians (including leaders). The agenda was not so much to discuss theology, ethics or the upcoming referendum as it was to do theology through the practices of learning to listen well to one another. The Irish LGBT Christians present shared their profound and humbling experiences of coming to Christ, discipleship, courage, exclusion, church community and much much more. Through avoiding the tyranny of speaking in abstractions about LGBT people rather than with them, and by understanding the role of power and privilege in the room, the participants were encouraged to apply this learning into their local settings. For more details on this project, which is supported by the **Community Foundation for Ireland**, please contact Richard Carson at richard.c@acet.ie.

Our work with migrant-led and multiethnic churches in Ireland is coming toward the end of its annual project cycle. Thank you for your support which helps us to train leaders to transform the health outcomes of migrants within their churches. We have two single-day “Healthy Church” training sessions coming up at the Lucan Centre. Saturday 25th April is fully booked but there are still some places for Saturday 23rd May. Contact Richard Carson, to book your place. We are also developing a cluster in the North East Inner City of Dublin where we are working with the leaders of five churches. This project is supported by a wide range of funders including the **MAC AIDS Foundation, the PA Foundation, the Community Foundation for Ireland** and **Dublin City Council**.

— Richard Carson, richard.c@acet.ie

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