

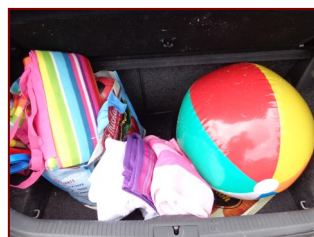
ACET News

Autumn 2015

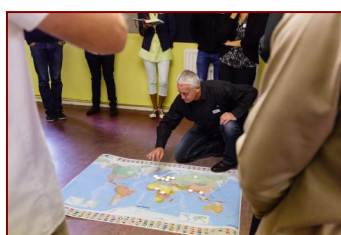
ACET (AIDS Care Education & Training) Ireland provides care for those affected by HIV, and education & training services on HIV and related issues.

Thank you once again for your continuing support! Your support allows us to deliver a diverse range of projects in a variety of settings: from beautiful beaches in Co. Wicklow where some of our families enjoyed much-needed get-away-from-it-all time, to the streets of Dublin and to London with members of the ACET family from around the globe. Please keep reading to hear all that your support has enabled us to do in the past few months. Through Stories of Belief, Healthy Church and our ongoing care work, we've been part of conversations around culture and community, health and relationships, finances and family. We have been encouraged looking back at it, and we hope you are too.

Your support is vital as we head into winter! **In the next month we will be getting set up for Christmas hampers so if you or a group you are part of are interested in providing one for one for our ACET families or a single person, please contact the office.** As well, you can donate through our website, www.acet.ie, or through the 'Donate' button on the back page.



Summer fun in many flavours!



ACET International Alliance

In September Richard Carson was in London for a hastily arranged ACET International Conference. Delegates from 16 countries met in Ealing to share their diverse experiences of responding to HIV. The ACET family is now over 27 years old with long-established agencies in places like Thailand and Uganda continuing, while new initiatives begin in places like Lithuania. It was great to see a mix of old and new faces and share our experiences of engaging with the changing face of the virus.



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As we come out of a cold particularly wet summer, we find ourselves in the tell-tale signs of autumn once again — heavier morning traffic and the gradual darkening of evenings. With ACET families, it also means plenty of emotional and practical needs for starting yet another year in school, kick-starting new routines, and managing difficult health and financial situations.

We made the most of the rainy summer through the continuation of youth and family activities,, primarily youth-specific outings and in-home family projects. The care team views this period as an extension of the ongoing relationships and activities already occurring with the young people and families, but helping to provide additional support and fun for both parent and child during those few months off.

This was a great summer for respite as we were provided funding by the **HSE Respite Fund** to facilitate a few high-need families in receiving time and space away together for key relationship building, because of current hardships in their home environments. One family told us that it was a helpful time for them because they proved to themselves that they can work together as a team: family members got along, they had a peaceful time, and together were able to keep the space tidy, proving to themselves that it was possible to maintain this once they got home.

We have also received funding for a weekend multi-family trip to the **Cavan Centre** this autumn. Trips to the Cavan Centre have become a tradition within ACET over the years and we will often reflect on memories together there before, during and after the trips. The staff there are always wonderful to work with, and they have a great relationship with ACET and several of the returning families.

Overall, we have found the main needs for those we work with over the past few months have been emerging health issues and crises, accommodation concerns, complex family dynamics, ongoing financial challenges, and a desire for return to education and/or work for personal development. The care team collaborates with the individuals and families, supporting and empowering them to achieve their goals and respond to emerging crises. We also find it essential to work alongside various partnering agencies in order to resource our clients as best as possible, as well as building community awareness and supporting each other.

As always, we thank for your prayer and support of the care work within ACET. We so value the relationships of both the ACET clients and ACET supporters.

Education:

LGBT

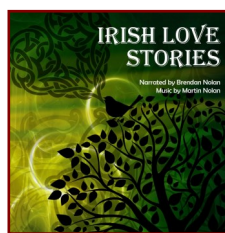
Our final **Stories of Belief** event for the current season takes place in October. These events, funded by the **Community Foundation of Ireland**, provide spaces for LGBT Christians and church leaders to gather and do theology together in ways that name and identify the powers and privileges that operate in our society and churches. They have been moving, humbling and transformative events and we look forward with anticipation to what our LGBT & Faith project becomes in the future.

Healthy Church

We are delighted that we will be rolling out **Healthy Church** training once again as we continue our partnership with **MAC AIDS Fund** and a range of other funders. We will be training leaders of migrant-led and multi-ethnic churches on HIV and HIV-related topics. Look out for emerging courses on Parent-Teen Communication Skills and Preventing Domestic Violence. For more information on this project, contact Richard Carson at richard.c@acet.ie

Talbot Centre

We are delighted to form a new partnership with the **HSE and Department of Education & Skills (DES)**. The Talbot Centre is part of the HSE Addiction Service and is the longest established drug prevention and education service for children, young people, and their families whose lives have been affected by drug and/or alcohol use in the North Inner City. From September ACET will be administering the Education Worker post at the Centre, which is funded by DES. It is currently held by Abbie Carrick who is training a range of educational professionals and community workers across the North Inner City of Dublin



Irish Love Stories: an evening of story and music featuring storyteller Brendan Nolan and uilleann piper Martin Nolan takes place on Saturday, 17 October @ 8 pm. In aid of **Matilda Project**, tickets are €12 and include tea/coffee and a sweet treat. Twelve euro will provide 222 school breakfasts in Zimbabwe.

This house concert is at 34 St Mary's Drive, Dublin 12 and is more suitable for an adult audience; please RSVP to 087 9744836 to reserve a place. Guests are invited to bring along wine or another beverage if they wish.

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

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