

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

### Welcome to the Spring 2016 edition of ACET News!

Have a browse through our newsletter to see what's happening with our education work (*this page*), care work, Matilda Project in Zimbabwe, and some recent honours that have come our way (*page 2*).

We are currently compiling our **Annual Report** for 2015 so if you are interested in reading a copy online or in the post, please let us know. And, as always, feel free to drop us a line or catch up with us on [Facebook](#) or at [acet.ie](#)!

### 1916, HIV and the local church

Richard Carson has been supporting and training local church leaders in the North East Inner City of Dublin. This work, funded by the MAC AIDS Fund and Dublin City Council among others, takes place in partnership with **Acts of Compassion Projects** led by Rev Amos Ngugi. Areas addressed together include HIV, listening skills, supporting the person living with HIV, and HIV testing. We also took the opportunity to join with many of the church leaders on Easter Sunday on O'Connell Street, before the State commemorations began, for their annual open-air service.



Respite in many forms: outdoor activities, crafts, and home baking skills.



MAC  
AIDS FUND

Dublin City  
Baile Átha Cliath

**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?**

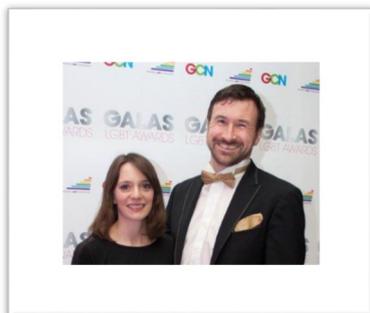
A donation of :

- ◇ **€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**  
**BIC: BOFIE2D IBAN: IE82 BOFI 9000 3360 9597 90**  
**Acct. 60959790 Sort code: 90 00 33**  
**Standing order forms available from the office**





ACET's own Richard Carson was honoured for his work in three award ceremonies in recent months.

The [DebSandy Foundation](#) who provide information, support and access to healthcare and advocacy presented Richard with an award in recognition of his "valuable contribution to raising health awareness in Ireland."



The [Sunrise Foundation](#) also honoured him with an award at a spectacular event in the Gresham Hotel in Dublin.

Finally, Richard was nominated for the **Noel Walsh HIV Activism Award** at

the [2016 GALAS](#) – Ireland's LGBT Awards. At a great night at the Mansion House, Deirdre Seery won the award for all her work with the [Sexual Health Centre](#) in Cork.



## Care Work

In the past few months, our care work has focussed on:

- **Medical support:** particular clients have been motivated to engage with testing, adhere to new and existing medication regimes and attend clinic appointments with the support and encouragement of care staff.
- **New referrals:** needs range from housing, health and migration issues. While building new relationships we have also assisted with applications and interagency work, alongside the appropriate health focus.
- **Linking with extended family members of existing clients:** as a result of already established relationships, we have been able to provide immediate support in areas of health promotion, advocacy for social justice issues and boundaries within family units.
- **Mid-term and Easter respite:** visits to museums, the zoo, Malahide Castle and Farmleigh provided a welcome break for families and individuals. Creating memories also helps strengthen intergenerational relationships.



## Zimbabwe update:

Hopes for rain have dwindled as the driest wet season in 35 years is drawing to a close, with President Mugabe declaring a state of disaster in rural areas, due to drought. Unlike previous years, the drought has also affected Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique, causing food prices to rapidly increase. A regional shortage of maize means the school breakfasts cost \$210 more in March than February; price increases are expected to continue.

Matilda Project's **Wendy Phillips** visited the Matilda partners in February, along with ACET volunteer Colm Geraghty, Zeph Phillips and Hannah Boles. The trip was filled with useful discussions about various aspects of the work, meetings with old friends, and exchanging of blessings.

For information on how to donate to Matilda Project, please go to [matildaproject.com](http://matildaproject.com).



Cauldrons of porridge; students enjoying breakfast; Colm & Wendy helping serve.

**Matilda Breakfast Programme** has **8** schools. At Silozwe Primary School, each cauldron holds **300** or more **mugs of porridge**. Of the 5 cooks, 4 were grandmothers. **2,700** kg of **mealie meal** is cooked and served each month. **39%** of pupils in one school were orphans or vulnerable children. **2,700** children eat breakfast every day.