



Our Annual Report

2023



ACET

EDUCATING AND CARING

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The ACET Ireland team would like to dedicate this 2023 Annual Report to long-time ACET member and supporter, Ian Black, 1954-2023.



Husband of co-founder Terrie Colman-Black, Ian provided space, time and expertise to ACET, including fundraising, especially in the early days when there were no government grants or steady funding. He was always keen to be sure governance and administration were done well, helping to lay a strong foundation on which we could build: his presence will long be felt in the ongoing good work ACET continues to do.

At the end of every AGM Ian warmly thanked the staff and volunteers for all their efforts throughout the year: this year we would like to publicly acknowledge all Ian has done on ACET's behalf in the past 32 years.



CEO's Report

“There is nothing new under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 1:9b

This verse from the Bible is well known though often challenged. It is regularly held in tension with the idea that, actually, all is being made new and each day brings new opportunities for new beginnings.

2023 brought many new things for the ACET team. Positive Youth Project is our new initiative supporting young people growing up living with HIV. Our return to formal training in the area of anti-racism work brought a new angle to old skills. That work compliments Migrant Plus where new openings for health inclusion are emerging. Indeed, every action in all of our projects seeks to be a demonstration of new beginnings beyond the limitations of our circumstances and imaginations.

Yet, that there is nothing new under the sun still rings with some truth. Three decades on we are still responding to the same virus. Though medical treatments have radically transformed the setting, we still return to similar themes of stigma, exclusion and grief.

The good news is that we continue to have a dedicated and gifted team of staff and volunteers with a faithful group of funders allowing our work to thrive. Whether based in Dublin, Zimbabwe or elsewhere, this annual report tells those stories of the new and nothing new — the paradox in which impact is most apparent, in which hope is most effectively fostered and where life is most wonderfully lived.



— **Richard Carson**



It is important to us to give the clients' voice in this annual report: you will see quotes from them throughout these pages.

“Thank you for listening. I know I can always talk openly and not hold back, and that means a lot.”

An ACET banner along with memorial quilts on display in Google for a World AIDS Day event, Monument to a Plague, in December 2023.



ACET Care Work

We in ACET work with people living with and affected by HIV. We are supervised, funded and monitored by the HSE.

Every year we reflect on the values within the care work, the ‘how’ and ‘why’ and all the spaces in between. One value that has stood out this year is the ‘with’ — the presence and intentionality of our work, the showing up. Our long-standing relationships have been created and maintained on the basis of trust, mutuality and safety. As Aishling observed during her maternity cover, we are “entering into their homes and their worlds, with trust and vulnerability”.

Caring for the Mind and Person

Mental health in the care world is one of the most significant themes we see on a regular, and perhaps increasing, basis. Issues that we have seen this year include: anxiety, depression and low moods, anger, isolation, disordered eating, phobias, sleep and somatic issues, procrastination, suicidal ideation or attempts, self harm, fear of the future, low self esteem, complicated grief, PTSD and shame-based responses.

HIV-related concerns, such as shame associated with stigma, disclosure concerns and other invalidating battles that stem from systemic and societal responses to diagnoses, are a core issue for many. Outside of HIV-related themes, stigma or lack of support around methadone use, addictions and recovery, ageing, or disabilities are often brought into conversation with the care team.

ACET 2023 Care Work

We work to improve the lives of those living with and affected by HIV who, as a result of profound stigma and health exclusion, require our approach of mutuality, patience and presence.

We give our clients non-judgmental and compassionate, active listening spaces, in their homes, out on a walk, on the phone or wherever there is privacy and safety. It is important that we give those we care for the time to have concerns acknowledged, validated, and responded to and that we show genuine interest in their thoughts, feelings and experiences. We help make sense of what is needed, and integrate tools such as thought



838 adult care visits
+ 42 volunteer-led visits



83 clients
Eldest 83 years,
youngest
11 months



221 family and
youth sessions



64 counselling
sessions



1 new project
launched:
Positive Youth
Project



51 times of
respite, including
1/2 day outings
and family camp

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management techniques, grounding practices and identifying personal resources within themselves, their own environment and wider community. Together we focus on strengths, needs and what an achievable self care plan might look like, including liaising with health professionals like GPs, external counsellors or other mental health and community services.

“Thank you for today – its unreal how better I feel getting those appointments sorted and figuring it all out.”

Advocacy highlights:

- helping one client find the right outfit to boost confidence in attending family members’ communion and graduation events.
- a client successfully moving from independent living to supported housing, which was a positive change.
- other clients beginning to engage in activities like cooking and health classes, gardening, and personal development.

Respite



Throughout the year, clients faced various challenges. Different themes we saw included drug intimidation, poor health and hospital admission, domestic violence, and financial struggles. Respite is a vital part of our work and encourages clients to change scenery, step out of their day-to-day setting, park specific difficulties, and take some space and rest. We have supported clients in leaving the city and enjoying different spaces, such as nature settings like Glendalough, the slower pace of a smaller town like Wexford, or a family-catered environment with lots of activities and open space in Fort Lucan.



“I love our days out – I can chat about anything and feel like a weight has lifted by the the time I get home. It makes it easier to face anyways and now especially since I learn a lot from our chats.”



ACET care team are (left to right) **Hansi Chisnall, Olivia Corbett and Aishling McCormack.**



Reflecting on the loss of those we care for:

There is a gritty remembrance of the stories shared in sitting rooms or clinics; the laughter and the frustrations over family stories or mysteriously worded medical letters coming through letterboxes. We remember fears addressed, pain held, hampers heaved through doorframes, graves visited together with flowers placed on tidied headstones — or sometimes plans changed last minute because the day was too hard to face, no explanation needed: we understood. We showed up, were given permission to enter these homes, these worlds; we would often remember loved ones together, candidly and unedited. We would try to understand and manage practical concerns that would often arise, whether it be hospitalisations, medications, financial burdens, family issues or isolation, and listen to many stories of both intrigue and devastation. And then when the loss of our cherished care relationship ends through death, we continue to grieve and remember their stories, their families, their presence and we hold them in our hearts, tightly and with gratitude for that time together.

— Hansi Chisnall

Reconnecting after maternity leave:

The impact of the rising cost of living was so stark and the subsequent effect on budgeting and basic needs was immediately apparent. Work to ensure clients were able to make payments on food and energy bills and attend hospital appointments was prioritised.

In November the rioting in city centre had a significant impact on many clients who live in town or attend services there. Concerns of safety and uncertainty about how the situation would be handled permeated care conversations. Unfortunately a rise in violence was an escalating issue and had been reported several times in the later months of the year.



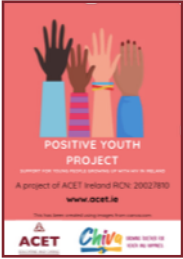
Hamper deliveries took place in early December and included practical everyday food items, items to help with minimising the impact of rising energy cost and as always a few personal treats. Hampers have been honed over the years to benefit each

individual or family. They are delivered early in the month so clients know what they have in before the hectic build up to Christmas and to allow for a joint care call to have time together to finish out the year and provide any practical supports before the Christmas break.

— Olivia Corbett



Positive Youth Project and Quilt Group



Introducing Positive Youth Project, supporting people under the age of 25 growing up with HIV: in partnership with UK charity Chiva, the project will collaborate with clinic teams, social workers, and community workers to provide psychosocial and holistic support outside a medical model. We will carry out one-to-one work and home visits, organise local peer group meet-up events and residentials, and facilitate different workshops around HIV, sexual health, and self-empowerment, as well as collaborate with Chiva and regional organisations to create arts engagement projects.

The beginning months of the project were focused on development which included networking and building new relationships with clinics. Meetings were organised with the paediatric clinic to see what needs or challenges they are noticing for young people living with HIV. Themes of self-harm, sexual health and gender identity were discussed. In response to these discussions, I undertook training courses, including a relationship and sex education-accredited course with Acet UK and “Understanding Self Harm”, facilitated by HSE mental health services. During this time we also focused on webpage design, creating and distributing leaflets, and developing referral forms and risk assessments.

Breaking new ground comes with a slower rhythm and work pace as the latest project becomes more established.

— *Aishling McCormack*



Quilt Group — 30 Years

2023 was a very special year for the quilt group as the group was formed in the summer of 1993. We met many times to plan a 30th anniversary event swapping stories of ‘the old days’. We mingled tears for the memory of those who were part of us and had passed and those whose lives we memorialised with the many laughs we had throughout the years. Today we still laugh and cry together; two of the original members are involved, with several new people coming and going. We are now the longest running bereavement support group in the area.

Planning a celebration for our 30 years of the quilt group takes time and lots of careful planning and so the event which we hope will be a testimony to the work will be held in the autumn of 2024. In celebrating, we hope to look back and honour the memory of our years together and look forward to what the future holds.

— *Terrie Colman-Black*





ACET Care: Counselling, Support and Supervision

ACET counsellor Vivienne Morrow-Murtagh works with some of our clients, from ages 18 up to mid 60s, as well as providing off-line therapeutic support to ACET staff and project coordinating staff from two of our historic partnerships, Suaimhneas, a residential recovery house for women run by of Depaul and Recovery Academy Ireland. Care worker Hansi Chisnall is also fully accredited with the Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and has counselling sessions with clients.

Words that represent our therapeutic and supervisory relationships for this year are **change and connectivity**. There have been in the lives of some of our staff, partners and clients an inordinate amount of pain and change. For some it's dynamic and exciting, for others devastating, heartbreaking and overwhelming beyond words.

Over the years our relationships have become embedded in warmth and empathetic connection and in these painful times of change we try to stay in that place, not trying to change their direction but being there as they find their way: endeavoring to stay in gentle, compassionate curiosity.

I find that I must always try to resist the temptation to try to 'fix' people. Our people invariably need to be emotionally and psychologically held and heard until they are ready to identify their own next steps. In line with Social Baseline Theory (Becke and Coan) who have taught that the hard things in life are less hard if we have someone with us, even a stranger, so we in ACET try to offer accompaniment with non-judgemental presence. As in the words of the inimitable Bonnie Badenoch, "being in a state of agenda-less presence". We will often get this wrong but mistakes are sometimes opportunities for rupture and repair — sometimes leading to even greater attunement.

Often the pain is not so much the circumstances of change and its consequences, but being alone in it. Lou Cozolino takes about the "Social Synapse:" the space between, the space of open listening, that allows nervous system to nervous system co-regulation, creating connection. This enables our people to articulate their feelings and experience in the midst of difficult changing circumstances, creating connection and safety and causing them to deepen and deepen into the experience until it is somewhat processed. And in all this holding appropriate boundaries, creating even more safety — and safety is the treatment (S. Porges).

— **Vivienne Morrow-Murtagh**



World AIDS Day 2023:
Chipso Harper and Richard Carson were part of a panel discussion at the Monument to a Plague event in Google (left) and the ACET team attended the launch of the AIDS Memorial in the Phoenix Park (right).





Year 2023 could be considered as a possible prelude to a post pandemic era where COVID-19 is no longer the top public health emergency. For the first time since the pandemic outbreak, and even though the pandemic was not stopped yet, vaccination campaigns and other public health measures have led to a noticeable improvement in the overall situation.

This led to the lifting of the most constraining public health measures and things started going back to some kind of normality: social life, economic activities, and various professional activities restarted. Unfortunately, at the same time, pre-existing health issues and other concerns that were previously overshadowed by the urgency of the pandemic started to slowly resurface. These included issues such as health inequalities, barriers to accessing health services, and the impact of social determinants of health. Due to a combination of a variety of factors, people from migrant backgrounds are more affected by these issues.

Migrant Plus' Key Activities

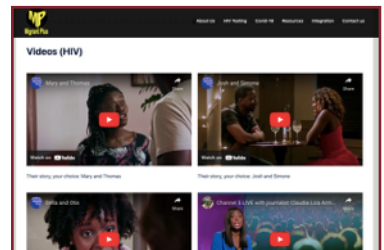
Information provision and support:

An important part of our work was providing relevant information on issues and topics impacting migrant health. Accurate and simply-presented information on health empowers people to make the right decisions or choices, which is essential to protecting and improving community health. Also, the project offered customised support to those who requested or needed it. Support was offered not only specifically on health matters, but also on issues affecting the general health and wellbeing of migrants.

Tackling misinformation on health

But, despite being a key element, the impact of provision of information is often hindered by factors like misinformation targeting or circulating within migrant communities. This is why we usually couple information provision and tackling misinformation.

Misinformation has a significant impact on migrant's ability or willingness to embrace public health initiatives, health campaigns or messages. And misinformation is misleading and deceitful.



Migrant Plus website with information videos.



Migrant Plus

HIV and AIDS and vaccines are among the main health areas where there seems to be persistent or recurrent misinformation that is difficult to eradicate.

Migrant Plus worked to tackle health misinformation and help migrants access trusted health information and education, as these are key to improving the community health and wellbeing. Tackling misinformation is done through sensitive and respectful interactions, either one-to-one or in group meetings.

HIV/AIDS

A number of studies show that people from migrant background are among those at a high risk of acquiring HIV infection in the host country. This may be due to a combination of factors, including stigma, increased risk behaviours, the lack of or limited access to HIV prevention services, but also because of the progress on anti-retroviral therapies, HIV has somehow become a transparent health condition for many migrants. This highlights the need to constantly reminding people that HIV/AIDS has not been eradicated yet.

Our focus was on raising or maintaining the awareness about HIV/AIDS (information provision, support), signposting available public services, tackling HIV-related stigma, encouraging people to get tested to know their HIV status and to protect themselves and their partners against the virus.

Due to operational reasons, the project is no longer providing HIV testing. Instead, we encourage and refer people to structures that offer this service.

Mental health

Mental wellness remains an issue often disregarded by migrants themselves, in a context where the emphasis is put on values like resilience, being strong, or being able to cope with hardship in a foreign country.

It is an area where the lack of awareness is obvious. Cultural factors play an important role in the way mental health is perceived and addressed. Stigma attached to mental ill-health makes it difficult to have candid conversations on the topic.

Engaging with people from migrant background on an issue they do not perceive as predominant makes it difficult to work at a suitable pace. Fortunately, there seems to be a glimmer of hope, as through a sensitive and



patient interaction, we have managed to convince some migrant faith leaders to join the effort to start raising mental health awareness within their local faith groups. So, slowly progress is being made.

Advocacy







The project advocates on behalf of people from migrant background on issues such as service access, barriers and challenges faced by migrants, health concerns, and migrant involvement as stakeholders of public service provision.

Partnership and Networking

The project is a migrant-led health initiative that holds solid ground within the migrant community, maintaining good credentials. It is also appreciated by policy makers that we come across.

We attended various meetings, training, and events including the COVID-19 Vaccine Migrant Community Network, COVID-19 Vaccine Community Network, Health Responses for Ukrainian Refugees, Social Inclusion Working Group, Fast-Track Cities 2023 (Amsterdam), Faith Responses to HIV-related Stigma, UNAIDS PCB SIDE Event, Taking Action to Overcome HIV Stigma and Discrimination, HIV Ireland, Clondalkin Drug and Alcohol Task Force, Improving Equity in the National Screening Service, Sexual Health

Promotion Workshop, Sexual Health meeting – Needs Assessment, Anti-Racism Training, PEFI meetings, and People of African Descent event.

<p>ACET 2023 Migrant Plus</p>  <p>5 venues supplied with period dignity products</p>	<p>Migrant Plus is ACET's testing, awareness and integration project working with other agencies to reduce the incidence of HIV in Ireland and end the story of Aids.</p>  <p>87 1:1 and 75 group information sessions</p>
 <p>6 topical presentations</p>	 <p>160 personal support sessions</p>
 <p>1 testing van launched</p>	 <p>40 networking & partnership meetings + 8 training sessions</p>

Outcomes Summary

Some of the outcomes for 2023 could be summarised as follows:

- Providing information, tackling misinformation, advocating for migrant better health, raising awareness on HIV/ AIDS, and supporting migrants in need were the main activities.

• The project has maintained its position of recognised knowledgeable and reliable source of information; it also kept on advocating on the health of people from migrant background.

• The project has maintained its visibility by being present where migrant health issues are being discussed.

• Some migrant faith leaders have joined the effort to raise mental health awareness within migrant communities.

—*Yvon Luky*



Peer support and mobile HIV testing:



My role has two areas of focus: as a peer support worker linking with various settings of migrant community life and working with the development of a new mobile HIV testing service in partnership with HIV Ireland, both with the goal of improving health inclusion for communities of migrant background.

The year, characterised by relationship building with migrant communities in churches, tertiary level institutions, women's

peer support workers and some youth services, also involved reviewing and writing the standard operating procedures for the **Equal Check and Chat van** (*right and above*) which was launched in December by the Taoiseach, with volunteer training starting up as the testing service hits the road.



As a peer support worker I distributed female hygiene products and related information as part of the HSE's period dignity project to venues of migrant life in Dublin.

Training for the various aspects of working in community settings was an important element of 2023: I took part in the pilot for sexual health training for International Protection Applicants by the HSE in CHO9. I also attended the **Amsterdam Fast Track Cities conference** (*left*) in September. Other trainings are Children First, domestic violence and coercive control and sex trade and human trafficking.



Finally, the completion of my Training the Trainer programme with the Irish Network Against Racism provides an important tool for the systemic and structural challenges ahead.

— *Chipo Harper*





Matilda Project

The Matilda Project is a project of ACET Ireland, set up in 2001 as a response to HIV in Zimbabwe. We help fund home-based care, food packs and support groups for adults living with HIV.



“Supplementary Feeding has changed many lives of the children, some who could not have attended school due to hunger and some who could have defaulted on their [HIV] drugs and shortened their life as they could not take their medication on an empty stomach. Thanks to those who keep giving for this cause.”

— from the minutes of a meeting of the committee of ACET Zimbabwe’s Community Care Programme in November 2023.

‘Supplementary feeding’ refers to the monthly food packs Matilda Project funded through 2023 for 103 young people under 18 years who have lost both parents, to 73 young people who are Living with HIV (on Anti-retroviral therapy), and to a further 110 young people who are deemed to be “vulnerable” due to poverty, without enough to eat.

Another theme for the year was increased efforts to provide training and a way to earn a living for school leavers who are unemployed. 2023 saw new intakes of students to the Youth Skills Centre in both Dress Design and Carpentry classes (*right*). One of the new carpentry students is Anele, whose mother died shortly after his birth and who has been supported by the project since he was a baby.



After three failed attempts to engage young men with the raising of chicks for broilers, Willard has given up in frustration. The two broiler Income Generating Projects in the care of young women are prospering nicely.

Crispen, the young man who is apprenticed to an elderly couple as a farm-hand, with his allowance paid by Matilda, is thriving. His health is good and



Matilda Project

he is able to provide for his mother, who is unwell, and to use some of his earnings to buy blankets for them both, and to invest in two goats (*right*).



One of the graduates of Dress Design in November 2022 passed away 11 July. Lindo (20) had lost both parents as a very young child. Her aunt Mildred had raised her and kept her going through several HIV-related health issues until she began taking ART. Matilda Project had paid her school fees all through her schooling and provided food packs for her.

Borehole drilling through 100m of granite at the ACET compound did not find water, a huge disappointment. This was eased by the gift from an Irish family of solar panels to power Willard’s home, allowing him to charge his phone and laptop at will.

Provision of Home Based Care to patients in the late stages of AIDS, including supplies of Paracetamol; school fees to some children whose guardians could not afford to pay; and provision of sanitary protection to the girls whose schooling would be disrupted without it, all continued through the year.

Finally, as 2023 continued it became clear that the southwest of Zimbabwe

ACET 2023 Matilda Project		<small>The Matilda Project is a project of ACET Ireland, set up in 2001 as a response to HIV in Zimbabwe. We help fund home-based care, food packs, and support groups for adults living with HIV.</small>		Children with food packs.	
	3,212 food packs to orphans & vulnerable children, including those living with HIV		690 people living with HIV cared for by Home Based Care volunteers in 11 villages		
	22 primary & 26 secondary school students fees paid		199 adults in 14 support groups for people living with HIV		
	180 Home Based Care Volunteers given 5 kg of seed in appreciation for their work		94 deaths of people living with HIV		
This has been created using images from Flaticon.com					



Matilda Project



Left: A Home Based Care volunteer with her groundnut crop on 9/3/23, grown from seed given as a token of appreciation for year's work.

was being seriously impacted by another El Niño cycle, throwing up challenges of food, and even more crucially, water, supply.



— **Wendy Phillips**

Education and Training



In 2023 we returned to a familiar field of work after a long hiatus — delivering formal training.

The National Drugs Strategy provided the context for two areas of our work to come together: anti-racism training and drugs and alcohol projects. In partnership with the Institute for Antiracism and Black Studies we trained 50 workers from agencies across north Dublin with brief modules that directly tied to their activities and settings. With the support of the HSE, all materials were developed and piloted specifically for this project. The major finding of our training was that a majority of participants perceived racism to be something different to what was



presented. The need for this shift from the individual and behavioural to the structural and systemic is a key learning and ties well with the understandings of the 2023 National Action Plan Against Racism.

The Department of Integration provided us with the opportunity to celebrate the International Decade for People of African Descent as a broad range of speakers brought recognition to African perspectives on health. The audience, from many statutory and community organisations, were challenged on our assumptions of both Western and African lenses on health as they apply to healthcare, social work, racism in the workplace and much more.

Recognising African Perspectives on Health
 7 DEC 2023
 9.30 am - 1.00 pm

The programme will offer an opportunity to explore the challenges and ways to tackle an equity agenda in health care. The African continent and how the world's most rapidly growing economies is linked to health. All those working in the area of health are welcome to attend.

With (Moderator: Fran-Ing)
 Fran-Ing, Margaret Phelan
 Dr. Steve Joseph, Institute of Health Services and Health Professions (IHSHP)
 Professor Olayinka Oyedele, Margaret Phelan and Richard Gannon, IHSHP

Please register on Eventbrite

ACET



Partnerships



Cairde:

Nataliya Marchenko is working in partnership with Cairde by providing much needed community development and health inclusion supports to Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection in Dublin. 1-to-1 supports, seminars, small group activities for women and wider social media inputs combiner this important and ongoing project.



Chiva:

Chiva specialises in enhancing the health and psycho-social wellbeing of children, young people and adults living with HIV and is partnering with us in the Positive Youth Project.



Dublin City Interfaith Forum

Also based in the North East Inner City is our partnership with Dublin City Interfaith Forum. Some new funding from the NEIC initiative will allow us to deliver workshops and supports that focus on hate crime and safety. The Dublin riot of 23rd November provided a tragic, though timely, context for this work in 2024 as the sustainability and presence of many faith communities in the area was itself challenged.



HIV Ireland:

Together with HIV Ireland, we operate a testing van that is used in various settings, including among communities of migrant background, for health supports. Community HIV testing is a key activity in allowing all those living with HIV to access treatment.



North East Inner City

Many of our partnerships have some connection to the Department of the Taoiseach's NEIC initiative. Richard Carson sits on the Enhancing Policing Sub Group as a representative of the North Inner City Community Coalition.



Talbot Centre:

Our partnership with the Talbot Centre continues. Bernie McDonnell has been using her many years of experience in the area of drug education to support local project workers, teachers, parents and young people in building capacity in this area.

Staff Training

Our staff took part in various Continuous Professional Development activities during the year. Hansi Chisnall successfully completed her MSc in Pluralistic Counselling and Psychotherapy from IICP College.



Financial Report

Income and Expenditure

Year Ending 31 December 2023

		2023	2022	2021
		€	€	€
Income	ACET	387,196	282,222	276,079
	Matilda	<u>132,746</u>	<u>159,597</u>	<u>134,605</u>
	Total	519,942	441,819	410,684
Expenditure	ACET	(394,402)	(279,879)	(276,931)
	Matilda	<u>(133,397)</u>	<u>(178,646)</u>	<u>(128,754)</u>
	Total	(527,799)	(458,525)	(405,685)
Surplus/ Deficit	ACET	(7,206)	2,343	(852)
	Matilda	<u>(651)</u>	<u>(19,049)</u>	<u>5,851</u>
	Total	(7,857)	(16,706)	4,999
Accumulated surplus brought forward		83,849	100,555	95,556
Accumulated surplus carried forward		75,992	83,849	100,555

ACET and Matilda Project Balance Sheet 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	€	€
Current Assets		
Debtors	432	9,320
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>176,210</u>	<u>178,008</u>
	176,642	187,328
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(101,142)	(103,971)
Net Current Assets	<u>75,500</u>	<u>83,357</u>
Total Assets less current liabilities	<u>75,992</u>	<u>84,341</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	-	(492)
Reserves	<u>75,992</u>	<u>83,849</u>



Director's Report: Prof Sam McConkey

After another year of activity across our broad range of projects, I want to thank the funders, staff and volunteers of ACET Ireland. Our role as a Board is to provide the necessary and important governance to ensure that the wonderful work carried out by our team can thrive. This Annual Report provides vivid stories from Dublin to Zimbabwe of how dedicated, skilled and compassionate acts of service are impacting lives.

The period during and after Covid provided enormous testing for our team and all of those they serve. It was a time for stark adaptability and flexibility as every season seemed to bring new and emerging challenges. It seems apt that the team now engage in some strategic planning and look forward to what the next few years will bring.

The Board itself has had and will continue to have some tradition. **Juliet Amamure** returned to Uganda in 2023 and we thank her for her time serving with us. She has been ably replaced by **Maria Katanga Noble** who also brings the wisdom of the Uganda-Ireland link. My own time as Chairman of the Board will come to an end in 2024 following 17 years as a trustee, and 11 as chair. It has been a privilege to serve and I know that the organisation is in good hands and will continue to make a positive impact in its response to HIV for many years to come.

— Prof Sam McConkey, Chairperson



We would like to acknowledge the **ACET Board of Trustees:**

Samuel McConkey - Chair

Dr Eburn Joseph

Antoin MacCarthaigh

Karen Thompson (Secretary)

Juliet Amamure (resigned 30/11/2023)

Maria Katanga Noble (joined 15/4/2024)

Rev. Philip McKinley

ACET's purpose: the advancement of community welfare including the relief of those in need because of youth, age, ill-health, or disability and the promotion of health, including the prevention or relief of sickness, disease, or human suffering. We do this by providing care support to those affected by HIV and training, awareness, and testing work to those that have been marginalised by society, including through partnerships responding to addiction and social exclusion. We offer this to individuals, families and communities both here in Ireland and with fundraising and capacity building support to Zimbabwe.

ACET Ireland is fully compliant with the Charities Governance Code for complex charities.



Thank You

We are very grateful, as always, to all those who gave regularly or through one-off donations or fundraising events. Many thanks, also, to all our volunteers, trustees, and members for their valuable contributions throughout the year.

We appreciate the support of: HSE Social Inclusion in CHO 9; North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force; Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth; Gilead Science; GlaxoSmithKline; the HSE National Lottery Fund; Tusla, Child & Family Agency; Dublin City Council; the North East Inner City Initiative; CDYSB; acet UK and ACET NI; Chiva; Cairde; Google; Hayden Brown; Pricewaterhouse Coopers; Vox; Rialto Community Drugs Team; the GUIDE Clinic; the Mater Misericordiae Clinic; Beaumont Hospital; HIV Ireland; Positive Now; Sexual Health Centre Cork; Sexual Health West; GOSHH Limerick; European AIDS Treatment Group; the Drugs/HIV Helpline; Acts of Compassion Projects; Recovery Academy Ireland; Talbot Centre; Depaul; Dublin City Interfaith Forum; Discovery Gospel Choir; Praise Tabernacle Church; Trinity Church Network; Redeemed Christian Church of God; Mercy Christian Fellowship; Connections Church Dublin; Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church plus all the other churches that we have had the opportunity to collaborate & work with.

“I am so grateful for ACET and what you do – I’d be lost without you. I don’t know who else I’d turn to.”



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



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