



ACET News

Christmas 2024

Welcome to our December newsletter!

We would love you to take some time to read the brief details of some of our work, in this shortened edition.

Here you will find a link to a recent episode of the Poz Vibes podcast. In this episode, there was a somewhat side comment by our trustee Tony MacCarthaigh that struck me as an excellent summary of much of our work. He was responding to a description by our Quilt Group Coordinator, Terrie Colman Black, of some of the activities of the group in its earliest days. Surrounded by much loss and grief, Terrie described how for some gatherings “we would do nothing”. Tony’s quick response was that “**sometimes doing nothing is doing something.**”

This brief quip grabbed my attention. It is not that our projects are idle or absent of activity or impact.

Quite the opposite! Rather, it is that **sometimes the most impactful moments take place, paradoxically, when we drop our attempts to make a difference and focus on the power and significance of being together** — being together in places of mutuality, patience, trust, and hope.

As the year draws to a close we are grateful to all our donors and supporters. Please consider donating to our projects this Christmas. We know that with your support our team can continue to facilitate the sort of spaces of nothing and everything where lives are transformed.

With warmest Christmas wishes, the ACET team:

Richard, Terrie, Vivienne, Luky, Hansi, Chip, Olivia, Aishling and Lynn

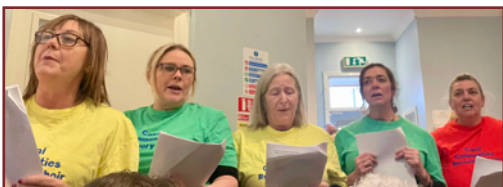


Thirty Years of Crying and Laughing: Friends Remembering Friends ceremony 2024

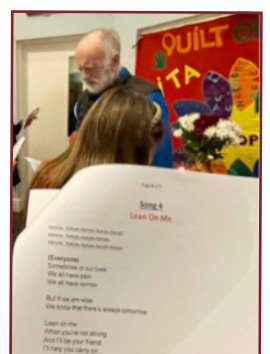
At the end of every November, ACET’s quilt group and the Rialto Community Drug Team host a time of reflection, honouring and remembering those in the community who have died. With songs, poems, prayers, and candles, people are allowed space to speak about their loved ones, giving and receiving support from the community around them.

This year the quilt group, who celebrated 30 years together, unveiled their latest creation, *Footprints in the Sky*, which is a memorial to all those from the group who have passed away, each of them and the memories celebrated in a burst of colour.

The ceremony always finishes with a blessing and the singing of “Lean on Me”, which sums up what community is all about.



Left: The Recovery Choir performing at Friends Remembering Friends.



Hampers 2024: Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed toward our hamper appeal! This important part of the close of the year would not be possible without you. We are especially grateful for the support of **Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church, Connections Church Dublin, Trinity Church**, and many other individuals.



In early December, we take time with all of the clients as we deliver the hampers, checking in with them before the Christmas season.

With supermarket prices increasing, we are seeing the need for basic supplies for many of our clients, and the hampers certainly help ease the burden at this time of year. Any surplus funds we receive will be used for food or vouchers throughout the rest of the winter.



Recommended Listening:



Quilt group founder, Terrie Colman Black and ACET trustee and community activist Tony MacCarthaigh were interviewed by Robbie Lawlor and Veda Lady on the **Poz Vibes** podcast, celebrating 30 years of quilting in the community (The Quilt Group, 22/11/2024).



On the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice's podcast series, **Divine Election: A Christian Guide to Irish Politics**, Richard Carson talks about the importance of place in the

Christian story and how loving your neighbour means loving your neighbourhood. (Place, 23/11/2024).



Praxis podcast **Mission Disco** features Richard Carson and Dave Gardner talking about engaging with and serving communities in Dublin city centre (Urban Mission episode, 18/10/2024).

Recommended Reading:



"The inner place of shelter and grief, in communities that were devastated by HIV and drug related deaths, comes onto the streets, its wisdom crying out in hope for a new beginning..."

Richard Carson's World AIDS Day article in Vox Magazine explores the impact of centuries of neglect for some communities while others look away; he encourages us to "take some time to face the things that separate us from our neighbour, across unreal lines we have constructed or inherited".

The Vox article can be read on vox.ie and the podcasts found wherever you get your podcasts.



The Praxis Gathering at the "Home" memorial on Buckingham Street, Dublin.
Photo: Chip Harper

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ACET (AIDS Care Education & Training) Ireland CLG
50 Lower Gardiner Street
Dublin 1
Registered Charity No 20027810 & CHY 10732

Tel: 01 878 7700
Email: dublin@acet.ie

www.acet.ie
www.facebook.com/ACETIreland
www.instagram.com/acetiireland

Bank details:
Bank of Ireland O'Connell St.
BIC: BOFIE2D
IBAN: IE82 BOFI 9000 3360 9597 90

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