

US\$27,000 Grant from the UPS Foundation

ALONE MARKS TOMORROW'S NATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF DONATION OF USD\$27,000 GRANT FROM THE UPS FOUNDATION

Tom Dunne, broadcaster and ALONE Ambassador, thanks the volunteers of the charity for their outstanding work and commitment

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Dublin, September 30th 2010

Marking National Volunteer Day tomorrow, charity ALONE announces the generous donation of a USD\$27,000 grant (approximately €20,000) from The UPS Foundation, the charitable arm of UPS. The grant has been used to purchase a vital minibus for ALONE, which will be used to transport older persons to social events, hospital appointments, and other necessary activities to help the organisation increase its levels of service to the vulnerable older persons it assists within the community. The purchase of the vehicle coincides with National Volunteer Day which takes place tomorrow, October 1st, a key date in the ALONE diary, as the charity celebrates the support and contribution of the 100 plus volunteers who help the organisation carry out it's crucial work on a daily basis.

A recurring issue for ALONE and the vulnerable older persons it works with has been access to appropriate transportation. This donation, and the vehicle purchased with it, will have a significant impact on how ALONE can best provide the supports necessary for the community it serves. ALONE will make the vehicle available to those in need to transport them to important appointments, to assist those with mobility issues in carrying out their daily activities, and to also transport older persons to frequent social events and evenings which the charity organises.

ALONE has a small and dedicated staff, and is dependent on the input and contribution of the volunteers who work with vulnerable older persons. Volunteerism is the lifeblood of the organisation, and ALONE will be celebrating the work of its volunteers with a special "Volunteers Social" event on Friday October 1st to mark National Volunteer Day. The charity's volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds, and cover a broad spectrum of ages, interests and abilities. Volunteers work can be specific, such as painting, gardening, or plumbing, as these may be the skills which the volunteer is already in possession of. Most volunteers would be involved in the vital befriending service which the charity provides for older people who are living in isolation or are vulnerable. This service provides a crucial social outlet for the older person, and assists in building self-esteem and confidence.

Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE commented “We simply could not continue as an organisation if it wasn’t for our volunteers, and the generosity of companies such as UPS, and other companies and individuals. We are deeply committed to the community we serve, and it is the participation and selflessness of the volunteers who work with us on the frontline, not behind the scenes, which helps us to maintain a highly professional level of service for older persons in need. I find their work, approach and attitude inspiring, and I extend our most grateful thanks to all volunteers for their contributions. It’s also appropriate that on National Volunteer Day, we thank The UPS Foundation for their extremely generous donation.”

“We are extremely proud to extend our support to ALONE to help them continue the fantastic work they do in assisting vulnerable older persons within the community,” said Roger Mays, HR Manager, UPS UK & Ireland. “Through both the UPS Foundation, and our commitment to volunteerism, UPS is committed to supporting impactful programmes that make a meaningful difference in our communities, giving employees the opportunity to give back to the communities where they live and work.”

Established in 1951 and based in Atlanta, Georgia, The UPS Foundation identifies specific areas where its backing clearly impacts social issues. In support of this strategic approach, The UPS Foundation has identified the following focus areas for giving: non-profit effectiveness, economic and global literacy, encouraging diversity, community safety, and environmental sustainability. In 2009, The UPS Foundation distributed nearly \$43.6 million worldwide through grants that benefit organisations such as ALONE, and provide support for building stronger communities.

“On behalf of ALONE, and the older people who benefit from the service they provide, I want to sincerely thank all of ALONE’s volunteers for the outstanding work they do, and the extraordinary commitment they display. They’re a real inspiration, and I encourage more people to become involved in volunteering, which is extremely rewarding,” said Tom Dunne, ALONE ambassador.

ALONE this year marks the 20th anniversary of the death of its founder, Willie Bermingham. ALONE can be contacted on (01) 679 1032 with any queries on the services it provides, or for advice or assistance for vulnerable older persons. All calls and communication are in the strictest confidence.

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