

6th older person housed in 4months

Thursday April 25th: ALONE are delighted to announce an innovative partnership with Habitat for Humanity Ireland which aims to reduce costs and share expertise at a time of diminishing resources within the charity sector. This partnership, involved an ALONE house being refurbished with Habitat Ireland's 'A Brush With Kindness' programme. To help us launch this partnership we were delighted to have Mary Kennedy drop by for a cup of tea with our newest resident, Patrick. ALONE provides permanent housing for over 100 older people who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness.

There were over 20 applications from older people for this home, which is the 6th housing allocation by ALONE in 4 months. Project costs for the refurbishment of the house were kept to a minimum, as volunteers supported the work and donations of goods and professional labour were accepted. The refurbished house is a large, one bedroom age friendly ALONE bungalow in north inner city Dublin. A red brick, artisan cottage, it has been completely renovated to high standard, complying with energy efficiency requirements and insulated to the highest specification. . Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE commented, "It's terrific to work with Habitat Ireland on this project, which we hope will be the first of many.

The new resident Patrick, has had serious health issues, and is on a continuous supply of oxygen and uses a wheelchair. His previous rented accommodation was in very poor condition, our staff noted extreme damp and mould in the rented accommodation. He himself noted that his 'clothes in the wardrobe have developed mould'."

Sean continued, "We're committed to continuing to tackle the risk of homelessness for a number of older people. We had 20 applications for this home, and note an ongoing need to provide quality housing for some older people. We work with the 1 in 10 older people in the community who are in need of assistance, and housing continues to be an issue for us. The bulk of calls to us in 2012 related to housing issues, these calls represented double the amount of any other issue. This partnership with Habitat Ireland has shown that we're eager to establish relationships with other organisations to tackle key issues affecting older people in need."

Karen Kennedy, Executive Director of Habitat Ireland commented, "We are delighted to work with ALONE on this project. It is a practical example of how organisations can come together to share knowledge and resources at a time of shrinking budgets. Habitat Ireland utilises our expertise in construction and project management to complete the work which enables ALONE to focus their resources on delivering other vital services."

"We are extremely grateful to our volunteers and donors who generously donated their time, money, goods or skills towards the project. We hope this is the first of many projects with ALONE so we can sustain the value of the partnership for many years to come," Ms Kennedy continued. This year Habitat Ireland is celebrating the tenth anniversary of their foundation in Ireland.

ALONE recently announced a huge 25% surge in demand for its services during 2012 following an increase of 50% in demand in 2011. We receive no state funding for day-to-day services. ALONE has over 130 Garda-vetted volunteers working with the charity. Our Befriending Service ensures weekly visits for over 300 older people who would otherwise be isolated and lonely. ALONE Housing provides maintained homes for life, with dedicated staff support, for over 100 older people who would otherwise face homelessness. Our Community Response Service carries out over 30 emergency interventions every month for older people in crisis.