

SUMMER DINNER DANCE

Our Summer Dinner Dance took place in the Red Cow on Saturday, September 6th. The theme of this year's Summer Dinner Dance was 'Vintage' and there was lots of vintage style on display. It was a wonderful night of singing and dancing with over 140 volunteers and older people in attendance. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped out and made it such a wonderful night.

SUMMER SUPPORTERS

This summer we had 5 interns from America and Canada supporting us across all our services.

Read some thoughts from Natalie below, a 22 year old intern from Montreal.

My experience at ALONE has been one of a kind. It has taught me patience, compassion but above all it has taught me to see clearer. You spend so much of your time complaining about the little things until you realize that there are so many older people out there who are totally alone and living in the worst possible conditions.

ALONE is a wonderful organisation who recognises this and acts on it. It has been a pleasure to be a part of the team and work with such caring people everyday. Working abroad and meeting many new people has been challenging in numerous ways, but it is definitely a learning experience that I will never forget and am grateful to have lived through. Thank you to the ALONE team.

BEST WILL IN THE WORLD WEEK

Legacies are a very important source of income to ALONE and accounted for over 50% of total voluntary income received last year. This year we will be taking part in Best Will in the World Week which runs from 20th-24th October. During this week, participating solicitors will be offering a Will consultation for €50. If you plan on leaving a gift to ALONE in your Will, you can be assured that you will be making a lasting difference to older people in the community for many years to come.

You can find more information plus a list of participating solicitors at www.mylegacy.ie.



SCHOOL TALKS

ALONE are delighted to launch the School Talk Programme again this year. The talk is available to secondary schools from September – May 2015.

This year we will also launch our new School pack which is aimed at CSPE students undertaking an Action Project.

Please contact the fundraising office for more information or to request a pack/invite a speaker to your school.



CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING DAYS

Our sincere thanks to volunteers from Aegon, AOL, KBC FM, New Ireland, Novartis and Volunteer Ireland who have contributed to several successful volunteer days for ALONE. Volunteers got involved in everything from providing entertainment and afternoon tea for our residents to painting, gardening and general maintenance work in our houses.

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NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2014

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ALONE is an independent charity that works with older people who are homeless, socially isolated, living in poverty or in crisis. We provide Supportive Housing, Befriending, Community Response and Campaigning Services to hundreds of people every week.

ALONE receives funding to provide at least 5 more homes

On April 25th ALONE launched a nationwide 'Home Truths' Housing Campaign in response to the current housing crisis facing older people. We called on all candidates in the May 2014 local elections to commit to releasing unused properties and land to ALONE and other social housing providers, so that we could provide homes to the most vulnerable older people in our society.

Through effective lobbying we raised the profile of this housing issue and successfully secured funding of over €765,000 from the government. This new funding will go directly towards providing at least 5 new homes for some of the most vulnerable older people in Dublin City before Christmas.

There are 4,765 older people currently in need of a proper home in Ireland. For older people, the ability to find suitable and affordable accommodation can often be more difficult due to the lack of single person accommodation, rising rents and cuts to grants for essential home maintenance. In recent months we have noticed a huge increase in the number of older people coming to us with a housing need. 40% of all calls that ALONE receive are directly related to housing.

ALONE will continue to be the voice for older people and campaign for more housing with supports for vulnerable older people.



ALONE welcomes 7 new residents

ALONE has re-homed 7 older people since May. We hope that each new resident is settling in well to their new home. The demand for ALONE housing is increasing and sadly for every older person we give a home to, we must turn 24 away, some of whom are living in shocking housing conditions. To meet this growing need, ALONE plan to double the number of homes we provide to 200 in the next four years. We have the experience and proven track record in providing low cost, high quality and supportive housing for the most vulnerable older people in our communities.

In order to achieve this goal we need to raise a staggering €4million.

We need your support to help us provide warm, comfortable and supportive homes for older people.

Please contact Suzanne on 01 6791032 for more information or log on to www.alone.ie



You can help us support the vulnerable older people facing homelessness in any one of the following ways:

- If you are an older person, tell us your story
- Help us campaign by telling your friends about ALONE's work
- Make a financial donation towards our ALONE Key to Dignity Housing Development Campaign
- Hold a fundraising event in your workplace, community or school
- Sponsor the cost of one of the many items on our housing shopping list (see website for more details)
- Donate goods or skills relevant to our housing project

ALONE ANNUAL SUMMER HOLIDAY

The annual ALONE Summer Holiday took place in May with 46 older people and 17 volunteers travelling to Wexford. Guests were welcomed by the Talbot Hotel for the five days. The holiday included a tour of the Kennedy Homestead and Arboretum and the Dunbrody Famine Ship. As usual the holiday was blessed with great weather over the week.

Ann attended the holiday for the first time this year. She said 'I have nothing to say but good. We were very well looked after with all our bags taken care of and wonderful food. The sun was beaming, it was just fantastic. I would definitely go again next year and recommend it to other older people.'



INCREASE IN NUMBER OF OLDER PEOPLE FACING EVICTION

An increasing issue facing our Community Response team is the eviction of older people from their homes. This is a growing and worrying problem throughout Dublin City and as a result older people are turning to ALONE for help and advice.

John was living in the same house for 20 years until his landlord sold the house. John is on disability benefit as he has breathing issues and a slipped disk in his back. He is unable to get private rented accommodation and is currently living in unsuitable emergency accommodation.

Alice has physical health issues. She was living in private rented accommodation until the house was repossessed by the bank leaving her homeless. Alice has moved into short term (12 week) emergency accommodation as she can't get private rented accommodation.

John and Alice are just two of the many older people who have been affected by eviction and have found themselves in unsuitable living conditions. The lack of suitable housing available to older people is being put under further strain by the growing number of evictions across the city.

Chief Executive Officer of ALONE Sean Moynihan said,

"We're doing everything we can. We want to be able to help every older person in need, but without a change in policy the task is too big for us and other independent housing providers."

ALONE urges those in fear of being evicted or who have already been evicted to contact us for support and advice.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT & NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

This Autumn we are launching our 2013 Annual Report. In the past year calls for our services have increased steadily. In 2013 our staff dealt with 28 new emergency cases per month (336 throughout the year), and our volunteers gave up 15,000 hours of their time into every aspect of the organisation.

We have also developed a new Strategic Plan for 2014-2017. Over the next four years we aim to adapt all of our services to meet the changing needs and growing demand from the older people we serve. We are leading the development of quality, low-cost, high-value, effective and compassionate services which are run by supported and valued staff and volunteers.

Sean Moynihan, CEO,

"My respect and thanks goes to our staff and volunteers and our many generous supporters for their hard work, inspiration and loyal support. Our efforts together do make a difference and in this, I believe, we can find hope for the future."

If you would like a copy of our Annual Report call us at 01 6791032

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