



Newsletter
Summer 2013

ALONE

there when you need us

ALONE was one of the charities honoured to be invited to Garden Party hosted by President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins

Campaigning

ALONE calls for greater vigilance to combat increasing elder abuse and neglect in Ireland

ALONE has called for members of the public and the Government to be extra vigilant regarding the 10% rise of elder abuse incidents in Ireland since 2009.

Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE commented "Elder abuse can

take many forms - physical, emotional or financial and is extremely distressing as is usually carried out by individuals who are known to the victim. There must be leadership from government, HSE and older people themselves to ensure that public policy remains focused on the needs of older adults, adults with dementia and adults in danger of abuse. It's vital that there's a concerted effort to protect the rights of those in need and to report incidents of suspected elder abuse" He concluded, "Many of the risk factors associated with elder abuse and neglect will increase in Irish

society over the coming decades given the rapidly aging population. It is projected that by 2026, the number of over 65s will increase to 909,000. This is a hidden crime as it can be perpetrated by those charged to protect older people.

ALONE campaigns on issues affecting 1 in 10 older people in need. If you would like more information re combating elder abuse or know of any older person in need, please contact ALONE on (01) 679 1032 (www.alone.ie)

visit
www.alone.ie
for more
information

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Community Response Service

ALONE's Community Response Service provides crisis support when needed most

Christina was referred to ALONE Community Response Service by Focus Ireland. Christina had moved to the West of Ireland after the loss of her husband but due to a combination of events, Christina found herself back in Dublin, homeless and living in emergency

B&B accommodation. Unsurprisingly, Christina found this extremely difficult and stressful.

In March, ALONE's Community Response Team arranged emergency accommodation for her for 3 months. This gave Christina's settlement worker time to apply for suitable housing which ALONE advocated and supported. Christina was delighted to obtain a house with her own front door and it also meant that she was reunited with her dog, Gypsy, who she dearly missed as he was not allowed in the B&B.

Christina has now secured permanent accommodation in Balbriggan and is housed by Fingal County Council. Christina is delighted with her new home, the support she received from ALONE and is looking forward to her new life with her little dog.



Housing

ALONE is fighting the cuts to Housing adaptation grant and housing aid for older people

expensive hospital beds, residential care homes or homeless services. The grants save the State money in the long run.

ALONE is greatly concerned about the €20m cut to the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability and the fact that the Housing Aid for Older People Grant for 2013 seems to have been removed completely. ALONE is particularly concerned about any cuts or reduction to services that would affect all older people with no regard for their circumstances or level of personal need.

Recent cuts to the Housing Adaptation Grant have led us to some distressing and severe cases of older people's homes in extreme disrepair – some instances are as shocking as those unearthed by ALONE over 35 years ago. In recent 2 week period we received double the amount of calls we'd usually receive in the depths of winter which is usually our busiest time. 6 of these have been cases of very serious housing issues.

ALONE is fighting the cuts to Housing adaptation grant and housing aid for older people

ALONE comes in contact with people surviving in very poor housing conditions daily and many need adaptations so they allow our older people to live with dignity and independence in their own homes as they age. It is vital that housing grants and supports to allow people to age in their own homes remain in place as this is a cost-effective way of keeping people out of

Please Support ALONE Today



ALONE provides assistance to older people in need with a Permanent Housing Provision. Older people in need of support can contact ALONE on (01) 679 1032



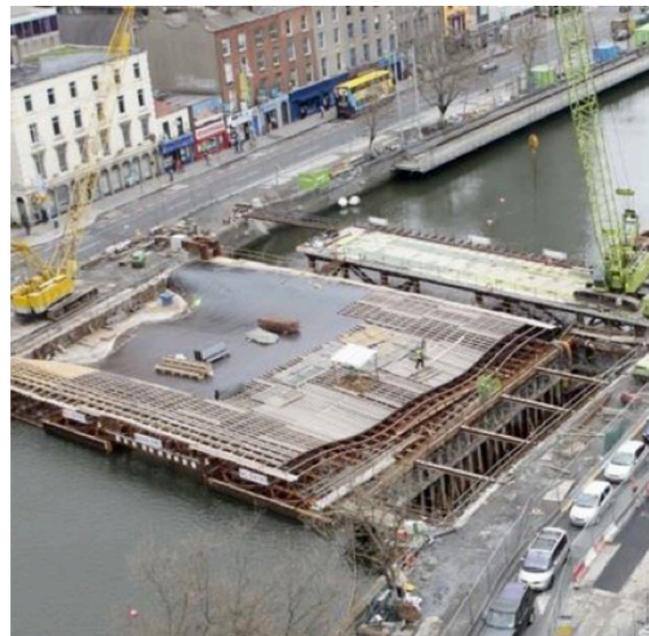
ALONE News

ALONE founder Willie Bermingham in the running for name of Dublin's newest bridge

Over 10,000 names were submitted to Dublin City Council and we're thrilled that Willie, who set up ALONE for older and isolated people in 1977, is in the final five. We're asking you to support our campaign to honour Willie's memory, and the ongoing work of ALONE, by getting in touch with your local councilor or by sharing this story (see our ALONE website / Facebook page) on your Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

This would be a such a wonderful tribute to Willie Bermingham as well as an excellent opportunity to promote our charity and help our work with older people further.

As most of you have already heard our founder, Dublin fireman Willie Bermingham, is one of the 5 shortlisted nominees for the new bridge over the River Liffey at Marlborough Street.



ALONE provides assistance to older people in need of support with our Emergency Response Service. Older people in need of support can contact ALONE on (01) 679 1032

Befriending

ALONE – helping 1 in 10 older people in need

Thanks to Brendan Courtney for launching our very special photo exhibition to celebrate the Bealtaine festival. The 'Being' exhibition is a

series of portraits of older people who use ALONE services. These portraits, taken by award-winning photographer Jason Clarke, celebrates older people and expresses a variety of emotions. Some of the images portray mischief, friendship or contentment, while others show isolation or loneliness. Each photo captures the personality and individual story, forming part of a truly emotive and powerful exhibition.



Flora Women's Mini Marathon 2013

We would like to thank all the wonderful ladies that took part in this year's mini marathon on behalf of ALONE. 15 students from Colaiste Pobail Setanta took part and raised an amazing €1,127 for ALONE. Well done to all and we hope you can step out for ALONE again next year!

Ulster Bank Volunteer Day 2013

7 staff members from Ulster Bank stepped away from the office, rolled up their sleeves and did a fantastic day's work at our housing complex in Willie Bermingham Place recently. The team were busy gardening, painting and tidying up all the outdoor areas. Our staff and residents were delighted with all their hard work and really appreciate their efforts.

Volunteer



Are you interested in volunteering with ALONE? If you would like to donate some of your time, or if you have a particular skill that you feel would be of benefit to the organisation, then please contact us on 01-6791032.

Enquire



If you or an older person you know needs our help and would like to enquire about our Befriending, Community Support or Housing Services, please call us on 01-6791032.

ALONE provides assistance to older people in need of support through its Befriending Service. Older people in need of support can contact ALONE on (01) 679 1032

