



DUBLIN CHRISTIAN MISSION

The newsletter for our supporters and dear readers



What's inside
this issue:

A word from
the Chairman

Update from
Chancery Place

2021 Local Hero
of the year

The importance
of corporate
governance

Family supports

Faith in action

An emotional
Farewell

A word from the Chairman

Aubrey McCarthy, Chairman (DCM)

Recently I was honoured to speak to the Trinity College Christian Union sharing all about what we do at DCM. I had to reflect on the last twelve months and assess the impact that DCM has had on the community. COVID has certainly impacted what we do in the areas of “in house” activities but thank God we were still able to serve the most vulnerable in our community through innovative means. We are serving approximately 225 hot meals each day with a goodie bag consisting of fruit, drink and sweets. Our new referral booth downstairs, for those seeking more than just a meal, is booked out daily. Here the team is lead by Jessica and they help individuals get prayer, housing, clothing etc etc. This is a real resource and every week there are amazing stories of “breakthrough”.

Our housing initiative at Chancery Place is totally full and the tenants constantly are helped to transition on to permanent housing. Anto and Leanne have also had to be very innovative in how they carry out their youth activities but thank God the autumn has been very mild so outdoor activities are very possible. I regularly eat my lunch in the Taste and See Cafe at Chancery and to see Barristers and Lawyers queue along with members of our community for their lunch and specialty coffees is fantastic to see. In trinity I mentioned that “One of our volunteers recently pointed out that DCM works with the people that we sing about on Sunday morning in Church”. The D.C.M. team listen to voices that are often unheard, and their job is to recognise potential where others see desperation. For DCM this involves investing as a means, not an end, in people, facilities and setting up an organisation daring to go where others have failed and government aid has fallen short.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed Christmas.



“

If you give a glass of water to the least in my name- Matthew 10:41- The smallest of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice.

Update from Chancery Place

Written by Leanne Fermoyle

Community Work

After a year filled with MANY restrictions we are extremely thankful to look back and reflect on a busy few months as we have gradually been able to restart all of our activities within the communities here in the city centre. We enjoyed a busy summer filled with day trips, outdoor events and community projects but it is so exciting to be back meeting inside Chancery Place once again!

We have had a lot of very excited kids and young people as we have settled back into our weekly routine with many of them waiting impatiently in the flats for us to come and pick them up! (This enthusiasm is clearly infectious and has led to new additions within most of our clubs!)

At the moment with the younger kids we have been thinking about the characteristics of God and particularly how “He knows and understands us” and that “He loves us no matter what” and it has been so encouraging to hear the kids shouting out these truths as they run towards the minivan to tell us what they remember from the previous week! With our teenagers we have been really enjoying going through the Nua Series from Scripture Union. We have been having amazing conversations and thinking about faith, science, how did we get here and what is our purpose in life.

Senior Citizens

Throughout Covid we were really conscious of the Senior Citizens that we are connected with, as for many it was a lonely time while they had to shield or be extra careful when in groups of people. However, with the help of some of the ladies in the community we were able to stay connected in creative ways such as outdoor bingo and outdoor exercise classes while the weather was warmer. This allowed individuals to still feel a sense of community while also being careful and became the highlight of many people’s week!



2021 Local Hero Award winner



An Interview with our volunteer board member Rachel Harper



Rachel Harper, (DCM Board member) has been nominated and won the 2021 County Wicklow Local Hero Award as part of the Volunteer Ireland Awards 2021.

Rachel has been nominated for her work with the Light House Homeless drop-in Centre and also with Ashfords based Tiglin. Rachel has been involved with both Charities for about a decade. She has been instrumental in mobilising the Greystones community in gathering supplies sent to the Light House every week during the period when the centre served three hundred hot meal parcels every day. In addition, Rachel has worked hard on finding the cooks to prepare the hot meals during the pandemic and has cooked herself when nobody was available. Moreover, during the pandemic, she has organised fundraisers, Ice cream van for the homeless and has got her entire school to donate brand new backpacks for the homeless. She has also donated school bags and Christmas toys for the children from the socially deprived areas of Dublin as part of this initiative.

Rachel Harper is a voluntary board member of DCM, an organisation that oversees the Light House Centre. As part of this work, Rachel brings her expertise from the educational sector to elevate the Youth Development Program that operates out of Chancery Place Community Centre (Opposite the Four Courts in Dublin). As a Board member, Rachel has implemented a new child policy and has made numerous contacts with other external organisations.

At this time, Rachel is working on bringing in a sports program for the youth, dance, art classes/projects & therapy and evidence-based positive psychology interventions based youth development program.

Morning Rachel, tell us about yourself and how you became a volunteer board member of DCM?

I started as part of DCM. During Covid, my school was closed. I decided to come and volunteer in the Light House when I was able. I enjoyed it and saw how vital the device was. I was shocked at the huge amount of people that we were coming. On some Sundays, we had about 359 people. I was helping out in the kitchen, and we were going through crazy amounts of food, so I got involved with the food donation boxes. The families and the church were gathering donations. We were bringing the donations multiple times per week. After this success, we put these boxes at multiple Locations in Greystones and bray. A GAA person was blown away by how much the different communities got together and their kindness.

As a result of my involvement, I got to know everyone. Eventually, I was asked to join the board because I felt so impressed with the charity and everything for the clients —especially the vulnerable during the covid pandemic.

What do you think of the DCM work, and what aspect of DCM work is your favourite?

As I got to know more about DCM, I learned there is more than the Light House. There is Chancery Place, Taste and See cafe. My experience in the school systems means that I am interested in coming alongside the kids as they are the future and helping with the activity hub.



2021 Local Hero Award winner

An Interview with our volunteer board member Rachel Harper

You recently won a Local Hero award for your volunteer work with the Light House & Chancery Place. What did this mean to you?

It was a privilege to be part of the vital work DCM was involved with during the problematic covid 19 times. When we see all of the challenges around us, it is hard not to want to help, putting things into perspective. I was impressed with everything the Light House was doing. It was great for our community in Greystones to come together when everyone was worried about everything that was going on around Ireland and the world.

All of us individuals can help, but we can make a huge difference when we get together. Without the community, we couldn't have been able to get 350 rucksack's and the Christmas dinner provided. The Greystones community provided all that.

It brought our community closer together in a time of worry. We got a lot from it ourselves. It was very rewarding for the kids and the community to feel the positive difference they could make. I encourage other communities to get behind community projects.

I can see that working with kids is a great passion of yours; from your experience - what do you see as a critical element in Youth Work. I have a heart for the children and feel that they are our future and our tomorrow.

Growing up nowadays is hard enough with typical day to day challenges that youth brings and then on top of that coming from disadvantaged backgrounds or growing up in difficult circumstances. I have been trying to support extra actives with Anto and Leanne for this age group. Keeping the children busy/active while building relationships with positive role models and building their confidence can make better life choices. I pray that through this journey, they will come to know God's love in a personnel way. Some of these precious children may then even become role models and leaders in their communities, carrying on the word or ethos of DCM.

Sharing the fantastic work of DCM is hugely encouraging for all to hear. It is important both for our supporters and for people who are hearing about the work for the first time. There is no doubt that we have witnessed God's hand over the Lighthouse and C.P and have seen many miracles over the last 18 months. This work is something we can further build on by continuing to share at churches, schools etc.

Our vision for the future is to build a busy activity hub that is a safe place and where they can come for a bit of activity and would like to start; dance, sports, art therapy, music, choir, et cetera



The Importance of Corporate Governance

Written by: Stuart Ferguson



I have been with the Mission since 2004. Firstly, on the Council then as Hon. Treasurer then as Treasurer/Trustee. As Treasurer we had good times and bad times. My first major project was Project Manager and Treasurer of the redevelopment of the Light House in Pearse Street. When I first got involved with the Light House, it was in such a state that the authorities were about to close us down. In 2012 after many sleepless nights, we opened the new redeveloped Light House.

I would like to thank all our Supporters, the Iris O'Brien Foundation, and the many Trusts who helped us out financially. I thank God for all his blessings showered upon us during this period.



Dublin Christian Mission Outreach

All charities in Ireland are now legally required to register with the Charities Regulator to receive their charity registration number - this is the number which identifies an organisation as a charity in the eyes of the law and the public, and the number which is legally required to appear on all printed materials, website, email signatures etc. We have just become a CLG which is a company limited by guarantee and which does not have a share capital. A CLG may have as few as a single member and no maximum number of members but the constitution of the CLG must specify the number of member(s) with which it is to be registered. However, the Charities Regulatory Authority and the Revenue Commissioners requires that there be at least 3 unrelated directors if the company is a charity. At present we have six directors. Our name will change slightly to "Dublin Christian Mission Outreach CLG" The CLG has a single-document constitution, incorporating a memorandum of association and articles of association. The memorandum of association must set out the objects of the CLG

The Mission maintains a non-denominational and evangelical position. They co-operate with any person or group as may be helpful for the carrying out of the work of God, except where such co-operation would involve the denial of any of our fundamental principles.



Family supports

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Our Christian counsellor in DCM is Brian Synnott. Brian is a seasoned counsellor that practises a model called Theotherapy that addresses the persons need Spiritually, Physically and Psychologically.

This Christ-centred approach has been a great fit for DCM as it enables us to have a wider and deeper reach to the people in the inner city flats as well as increase our skill levels in approaching homelessness and assisting people with their felt needs. Through the counselling skills training that Brian provides enables the whole DCM team to reach into the community in a more meaningful manner and offers significant help through Brian's professional counselling service.

Many have found significant freedom from their personal issues. For some, found in the depths of addiction have entered rehabilitation programmes, while others have been facilitated to slowly reduce their substance abuse and are living functional drug free lives again. Others have wonderfully come to faith in Christ and as a consequence every aspect of life is changing in their lives and families. The demand for the counselling was so significant that we decided to provide online seminars to the local and wider community. The current series on Zoom is entitled 'Dealing with Depression' and has an attendance of 50+ who are eager to receive help and wisdom based on the Bible.

Within DCM, Brian has also been very busy. He pastorally & professionally supports the management, staff and volunteers. In our Christian supported living home at Chancery Place, Brian personally walks alongside each resident as they journey towards healing and hope in every aspect of their lives



The greatest fruit and joy that has come from DCM's counselling ministry has been those who have found faith in Jesus Christ.

The following are a few comments from people that have utilised DCM's counselling service; "From my counselling with Brian, I was able to be released from guilt, shame and the grief of losing my mother 14 yrs ago, since then I have had a total sense of freedom. The support I have received from Brian has given me the confidence and faith to continue and stay on the right path in life. Counselling I received in The Light House gave me inner freedom and a outward looking perspective, in fact others have seen the change in me. I left Brian's sessions as if a huge weight had been lifted from my shoulders, the change has lasted as well!"

The Photo shows a D.C.M Youth Trip in Glenveigh National Park in Donegal.



An emotional farewell

Written by: Joe Murphy



All your support and prayers throughout my involvement with the Dublin Christian Mission are so deeply appreciated. I am humbled by your friendship, partnership and passions for missions.

Seven years ago, entering as the operations manager, the mission had ceased functioning for various reasons. We begin with a Saturday night meal for the homeless at The Light House, with an attendance of approximately 50 guests. I can remember many days during that initial period going into our facility on Chancery Place, a building empty of both people and activities. Yet confident a New Season was beginning for the Mission!

Fast forward seven years, The Light House became a five day a week cafe for the homeless serving meals, building friendships, providing referrals and resources, and sharing our faith, hope and love. More recently, serving over 120,000 hot meals during the Covid health crisis. At Chancery Place, youth and community work redeveloped through a variety of activities to five days a week, and a community cafe, food pantry and transitional housing were all established. Through our internship programme many individuals and teams have participated in serving with the Mission. Another critical component accomplished during this period and through your generosity is that the Mission regained financial stability.

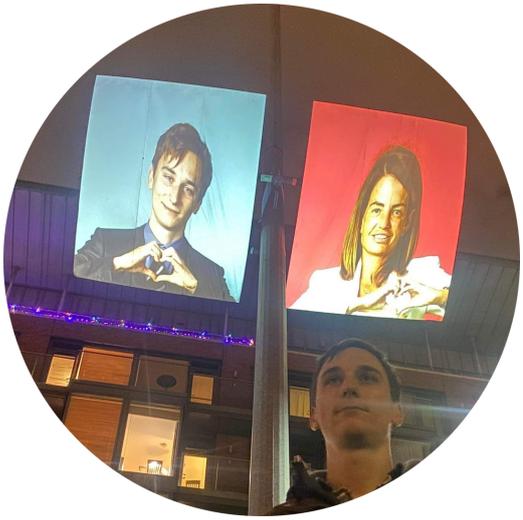
With all that said, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to partake and witness God rebuilding a city mission. With Irish heritage, it has been my privilege! I have recognised over the past year or so that again a New Season has begun with its own set of opportunities and challenges, concluding a good time to “pass on the baton”.

Especially to the staff, volunteers, service users, supporters and so many I have met along the journey, I treasure you all, and to God for doing only what He can do! As with most, this is a hard but significant Season to close with many fond and influential memories! Together in faith and community, we have witnessed the miraculous as we served and engaged in city mission life.

Having had the honour of representing DCM over these years, I remain committed to participating in a smooth transition and to finish this season well. May God bless you and keep you!

With my love and heartfelt thanks,
Joe Murphy





P.S. We are delighted for our long time volunteer Allen Bobinac to be chosen by Dublin's Lord Mayor as one of this years "Winter Lights" for his work with The Lighthouse Cafe.

BE PART OF THE VISION

Financial details:

Cheque: 5/6 Chancery Place, Dublin D07 A2Y7

Paypal (Debit card/Credit card) www.dcmlive.ie

Bank transfers and standing orders:

Bank: AIB BIC: AIBKIE2D

IBAN: IE68AIBK93122510307010

Account: 10307010 **Sort code:** 931225

Contact:

Email: office@dcmlive.ie

Telephone: 00353 (0)1 677 5548

Website: www.dcmlive.ie

DCM Privacy Policy is available on www.dcmlive.ie or can be requested through the office. You can unsubscribe at any time by email or post.

For cheque donations only: Please make payable to Dublin Christian Mission. Thank you for your support!

Amount: _____ Designation: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

- As needed
- Youth and Community Work
- The Light House