

# Report on the Programme of Services of Dublin Lions Club

Website: [www.dublinlionsclub.ie](http://www.dublinlionsclub.ie)

**4<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

Dublin Lions Club was formed in late 1955 and was the first Lions club in Ireland. Dublin was followed in quick succession by Belfast and Cork, with both cities seeing the formation of Lions Clubs.

Today there are Lions Clubs in all parts of Ireland, with some 140 Clubs providing service across the island.

## **Programme of Services of Dublin Lions Club**

We have an active programme of Service which falls under three headings:

1. The regular programme of Services, of which Eric's Party on January 18<sup>th</sup> is one of our largest events.
2. Support for the Homeless, where we work with Focus, Simon, Threshold and the Salvation Army.
3. The Alcohol Awareness Programme, which is a practical initiative for schools to address the issue of alcohol in Irish society.

Each of the three areas is discussed in the following paragraphs.

## **The Regular Programme of Services**

Dublin Lions each year arrange a programme of evening entertainment for the less well off in our society.

This Programme includes:

**Eric's Party** – When we host some 450 homeless to a party in January. This event is one of the more high profile services undertaken by Dublin Lions and we partner in this service with the Guards from Store St. and Fire Service from Tara Street.

**Trabolgan**- Dublin Lions join with the other Lions Clubs in Ireland to arrange a weeks holiday for 1,000 senior citizens in June each year. This project was originally centred on Mosney and was initiated to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dublin Lions

**Lions Food Appeal:** Again we join with other Lions Clubs in this nationwide Food Collection for the less well off in our society The Food Appeal is held over two Weekends in December. Each year we are responsible for the collection and distribution of in excess of €50,000 in food to Dublin's less well off, while nationally many million euro of Food is distributed by Lions.

**St Josephs Hospital, Clonsilla:** We arrange two services to St Josephs including a Christmas Party. St Josephs is a long term hospital; for mentally and physically handicapped women.

**High Park/ Sean Mc Dermott St. Convent:** We arrange services of music and song with light refreshments for the ladies in both locations each year.

**St Mary's, Merrion.** In 2007 we arranged three evening entertainments for the blind ladies in Merrion including the Christmas Party when we arranged a Santa to present a gift to patients and staff.

**Royal Hospital:** Dublin Lions pay a Christmas visit to the patients of the Royal Hospital including a gift bearing Santa-in fact two Santa's to ensure that we do not overly interfere with the timetable of the hospital.

## **Homeless projects**

For some time we have looked at the issue of Homelessness as an area that we wished to play some role in helping to address a major issue in Irish society. We decided that the best route was to work in partnership with existing agencies.

In discussion with Threshold a gap was identified in the support available for individuals moving from hostel accommodation to their own accommodation. While Social Welfare will provide on-going financial support there was no funding available for these individuals to buy essentials such as blankets, kitchen utensils, etc.

In agreement with Threshold and also with Simon and Focus it was decided that Dublin Lions Club would fund a Lions Starter Kit for each of the Agencies. We have distributed €5,000 annually each to the three agencies, Threshold, Simon and Focus to meet the cost of this kit.

.Each organisation will provide 100 New Home Kits in cardboard boxes with our Crest. The kit will consist of bed linen, kettle, toaster, crockery and groceries.

We are also working with the Salvation Army in both York house and also Leffroy house to assist clients to develop skills which will assist in making the transition to being employed.

## Alcohol Awareness Programme

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Dublin Lions Club it was decided to develop a programme focused on educating young people regarding the use and mis-use of alcohol while also foster leadership among young people. We partnered with Tacade, a specialist educational charity in the area of life skills.

There are three major benefits attaching to the programme:

- This initiative puts a spotlight on alcohol for young people
- Peer Education builds a spirit of leadership and social responsibility.
- Lions are working to change how Ireland as a society uses alcohol.

We have now successfully completed the second year of the Programme and have launched the third year of the Programme with participation from other Lions Clubs within Dublin.–Portmarnock, Howth Sutton and Castleknock., and active interest in other Lions clubs around the country.

The Alcohol Awareness Programme is a Peer Education initiative, which is targeted at Transition Year and is designed to train the Transition Year students to deliver classes on Alcohol Awareness to 1<sup>st</sup> year students.

The Programme has 4 key steps:

**1/ Training the Teachers-** This consists of a 1-day workshop to familiarise teachers with the material, followed by 2 evening workshops.

**2/ Training the Peer Educators** - Transition Year pupils are invited to become Peer Leaders and are trained over 8/10 sessions.

**3/ Training younger pupils about Alcohol-** The Peer Leaders train 1<sup>st</sup> year using the materials they have prepared. A teacher will always be present.

**4/ Celebration-**The final part is recognition of the Peer Educators.

As part of the review of the Programme we surveyed Teachers, Peer Educators and Pupils. The following are some of the comments by teachers:

*“The idea of learning from peers was the main benefit. It is very effective for students to be taught by their peers.*

*‘Students learned to respect alcohol; the consequences of lack of respect towards alcohol and that they have choices around alcohol.’*

*‘Many teachers also learned that peer education is very effective’.*

Comments by Peer Educators included:

*"I loved it. I think I may become a teacher if this is what its like!"*

*"I learned a lot during my training and enjoyed working with the 1<sup>st</sup> years. They would now think twice about drinking."*

*"I loved being involved in it. It is great to give something back to the school and was very rewarding to see how much the 1<sup>st</sup> years got out of it.."*

Comments by first Years included:

*"I have learned that it's not cool to drink and it's dangerous."*

*"It means way more when older students tell us. They know what its like. I think we should have more classes like this, it's easier to learn stuff."*

### **Schedule of Schools 2007/8 Programme**

The following is the list of schools that have participated in some part of the Programme for 2007/8. Some schools are now in the third year of the programme. Two of the schools have completed the teacher training but have decided to defer implementation until September 2008

**Our Lady's School, Terenure  
St Louis High School  
Synge Street CBS  
Presentation, Warrenmount  
James St. CBS  
St Conleths College  
St. Mary's College  
Belvedere College  
Larkin College  
Portmarnock Community School  
Castleknock Community College  
Holy Faith, Clontarf  
St Mary's, Holy Faith, Glasnevin,**

Under the Leadership of Pat Connolly, The District Governor of the Lions Clubs of Ireland, it has been decided to actively promote this initiative through out the country with all Lions Clubs being encouraged to roll out the programme to their local schools.

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