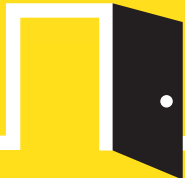


Simon Communities of Ireland

# Annual Report 2013



[www.simon.ie](http://www.simon.ie)

# About Simon Community

The **Simon Communities** in Ireland are a network of eight regionally based independent Simon Communities based in Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway, the Midlands, the Mid West, the North West and the South East that share common values and ethos in tackling all forms of homelessness throughout Ireland, supported by a National Office. The Simon Communities have been providing services in Ireland for over 40 years.

Whatever the issue, for as long as we are needed, Simon's door is always open.

For more information please log on to [www.simon.ie](http://www.simon.ie)

Services range from

- **Housing provision, tenancy sustainment & settlement services, housing advice & information services** helping people to make the move out of homelessness & working with households at risk;
- **Specialist health & treatment services** addressing some of the issues which may have contributed to homeless occurring or may be a consequence;
- **Emergency accommodation & support** providing people with a place of welcome, warmth & safety;
- **Soup runs & rough sleeper teams** who are often the first point of contact for people sleeping rough.



# Contents

	<b>page</b>
About Us	2
Message from our Chair	4
Message from the Head of National Office	6
Looking back at 2013	8
2013 Highlights	10
Campaigning and Policy	13
Key Campaigning Moments	14
National Fundraising Success	17
Best Practice and Training Co-ordinator	19
Financial Overview	20
How you can help	22

# A Message from our Chair Brendan Ryan



As the homelessness crisis continues, the Simon Communities experienced another challenging year in 2013 with rising demand and decreasing resources.


We struggled to do more with less, continuing to work with people experiencing homelessness and those at risk. We continue to look for ways to ensure that we deliver effectively and efficiently on our commitments to those who turn to Simon services around the country, our Communities, our funders and our supporters.

In 2013, over 6,000 people turned to the Simon Communities at a very vulnerable time in their lives, highlighting the need for the range of high quality services that we provide. In addition to a wide range of other services we provided accommodation and support to 1,182 people in emergency accommodation.

It is just not acceptable that we still have so many people trapped in emergency accommodation, sleeping rough on our streets and living on the edge. As well as providing necessary services we also campaign for the right policies and structures to tackle homelessness across Ireland. We continue working with our partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors to help achieve the Government's commitment of ending long term homelessness and the need to sleep rough by 2016 using housing led approaches.

We face these challenges with the support of my fellow members of the Board of the Simon Communities of Ireland; their guidance has been invaluable and I wish to thank them. I want to acknowledge the work of the staff and volunteers across the eight local Simon Communities; they are at the heart of everything we do. All of this would not be possible without the whole hearted support of the National Office team and I want to thank them for their commitment and work over the last year.

In the area of fundraising, we focused on national partnerships in 2013, with the full support of the Board. We are very grateful to all our funders who gave us incredible support throughout the year. These included the American Chamber of Commerce in



*I want to acknowledge the  
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Ireland, Ulster Bank, Tesco, Global Giving and the RIAI who have supported us through Simon Open Door.

We wish to also thank the Department of Environment Community and Local Government for their ongoing support through the *Scheme to Support National Organisations*.

The enormous role played by our 2,500 volunteers is indicative of the strength of support that the Simon Communities enjoy from the general public. And we say a massive thank you. With this support, we can continue to provide the best possible services and support for the people who turn to us for help.

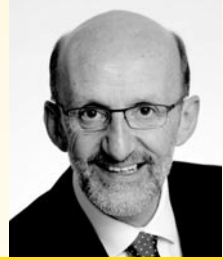
If the Government is serious about its commitment to a housing-led approach and achieving its 2016 goals, then it must urgently address the barriers preventing people from

accessing housing. In addition, Government must also support the prevention work which can halt the spiral into homelessness for people and families at risk. In the interim, with more and more people becoming homeless we must continue to provide services to meet this growing need. People who are homeless have the most urgent housing need and must be prioritised. They have nowhere else to turn. It will take political will, adequate resources and clear national direction. It is vital that the Government ensure that people have access to housing – and it must be the right kinds of housing in areas where other support services are also available so that we can tackle the issues that often cause or accompany homelessness. People cannot wait any longer and the Simon Communities cannot continue to do more with less. We must be supported to ensure that our door is always open to people, whatever the issue, for as long as we are needed.



Taoiseach Enda Kenny opens five-bed extension to Cork Simon Community's High-Support House at Parkview, Victoria Road.

# A Message from the Head of National Office Patrick Quinn



As the homelessness and housing crisis continues, the eight local Simon Communities are working with more than 6,000 individuals and families throughout the country who experience – or are at risk of – homelessness every year.


We are seeing the real pressure in terms of housing supply. There are nearly 90,000 households currently on the social housing waiting list. Rents continue to increase as the number of properties available, especially in urban areas, decreases. The failure of the Government to increase rent supplement levels is having very serious consequences causing homelessness and preventing people from leaving homelessness behind. We have seen increased pressure on our services in every part of the country.

The Simon Communities have responded to the challenges arising from the economic crisis and austerity by continuing to provide high quality services and meeting the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Our services include:

- Housing provision, tenancy sustainment and settlement services, housing advice and information services helping people to make the move out of homelessness and working with households at risk;
- Specialist health and treatment services addressing some of the issues which may have contributed to homeless occurring or may be a consequence;
- Emergency accommodation and homelessness support providing people with a place of welcome, warmth and safety;
- Soup runs and rough sleeper teams who are often the first point of contact for people sleeping rough.

Whatever the issue, for as long as we are needed, Simon's door is always open.

For people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, access to appropriate housing and support is absolutely vital. The Government has committed to ending long term homelessness by 2016 using a housing led approach. The achievement of this goal is dependent on the availability of suitable housing with support. Without a supply of housing, people remain trapped in emergency accommodation, unable to move on from homelessness.



*Whatever the issue, for as long  
as we are needed, Simon's door  
is always open.*

The current housing shortage is impeding progress on a housing-led approach and unless addressed urgently will result in the Government failing to achieve their 2016 target.

Housing alone will not end the long-term homelessness; it is a big part of the solution but it is not the only part. It is also vital that support services are provided for everyone who needs them. The issues that often cause or accompany homelessness must also be dealt with. These can include low income, debt burden, poor health and wellbeing, loneliness and isolation, problematic drug and/or alcohol use and unemployment. Support and prevention are also critical to achieving the 2016 goal.

We in Simon are doing what we can to address the crisis. We need immediate action on housing supply and there must be access to support services. Now is the time to address these issues and to support people to leave homelessness behind for good.



North West Simon Volunteers participate in Tesco Bag Pack, Sligo



Niamh Randall; Head of Policy and Communications SCI, Sam Tsemberis; Pathways Housing First, Peter Frederickson; Ministerial Advisor, Finland, Nicholas Pleace; University of York, Patrick Quinn; Head of National Office SCI and Dr Mark Bevan; University of York.



# Looking Back at 2013

The Simon Communities provide a range of services throughout Ireland tackling and ending homelessness, embracing a housing led approach. Services including:

- Housing provision, tenancy sustainment and settlement services, housing advice and information services helping people to make the move out of homelessness and working with households at risk,
- Specialist health and treatment services addressing some of the other issues that may be experienced which may have contributed to people becoming homeless in the first place or may be a consequence of their experience of homelessness,

- Emergency accommodation and support providing people with a place of welcome, warmth and safety,
- Soup runs and rough sleeper teams, who are often the first point of contact for people sleeping rough.

## Volunteers

Once again, volunteers played a significant role within the Simon Communities in 2013, with over 2,500 volunteers contributing their time in a variety of ways across the country; helping with planning and co-ordinating events and supporting and working alongside our service teams.

## Simon Week 2013

2013 was the 6<sup>th</sup> year of Simon Week and again it was a great success. This year we asked people to sign our petition, *Home for Good*, to prevent cuts to the homeless budget. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the amount of support we received for our *Home for Good* campaign with 11,000 people adding their voice to ours. By doing so, they helped ensure that the Government's homeless budget for 2014 was maintained at 2013 levels. Together we are making a difference – and can continue to do so. This has never been more important as things have continued to deteriorate during this period with a growing housing crisis resulting in a chronic shortage of housing and rapidly rising rents in the private rented sector. Cutbacks to funding for health services, education and training, as well as drug and alcohol services, all continued to



Limerick City Macra Night Out for Simon



contribute to the numbers of people becoming homeless, and to make it harder for people to move away from homelessness.

### **Roundtable Meeting of EU Ministers with Responsibility for Homelessness**

In 2013 we worked closely with the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning, our European FEANTSA colleagues and the Department for the Environment, Community and Local Government in preparing for the Roundtable Meeting of EU Ministers with Responsibility for Homelessness which took place under the auspices of Irish Presidency in February. This is the first time such a meeting took place and the outcome of the meeting was the agreement of six principles to inform homelessness policy across Europe.



Home For Good Event 2013

### **Best Practice**

*Simon Involvement and Action Group* (the national client led group) celebrated their 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May. Two issues of the newsletter *Simon Voices* were produced in 2013 which included interesting articles from the client perspective on moving on into independent living and the housing led approach.

### **Research**

*Which Way Home? The Experiences of the Simon Communities Introducing Housing Led Services: As a follow up to our Finding the Way Home research (2012) and in light of the Government's commitment to end long term homelessness by implementing a housing-led approach, the Simon Communities in Ireland commissioned a piece of research to explore the experiences of the Simon Communities introducing housing-led services. The research was undertaken by Mark Bevan with Nicholas Pleace of the Centre for Housing*

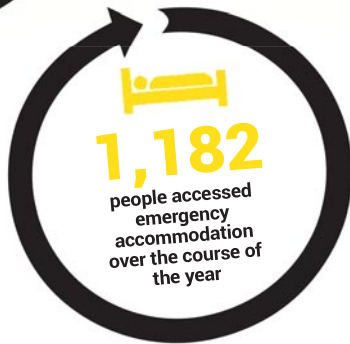
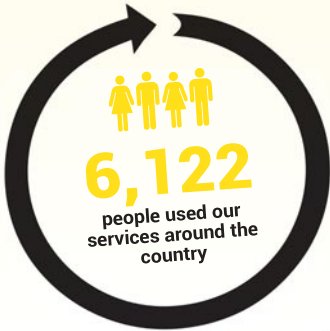


*2013 was the 6<sup>th</sup> year of Simon Week and again it was a great success.*

Policy in York University and was designed to help inform and critically assess the use of housing-led services as a response to homelessness at both a national and local level. The recommendations were focused on six thematic headings including:

- Resources.
- Adequate and affordable housing supply.
- Open ended support.
- Joint working.
- Actions internal to the Simon Communities.
- National and local structures.

# Highlights from the work of the local Simon Communities during 2013



During 2013 the **Simon Communities** worked with 6122 people. All communities are proactively using housing led approaches – supporting people to move into housing and providing support in housing.

The Simon Communities also work to prevent homelessness from occurring and re-occurring amongst vulnerable people and those at risk through Support to Live Independently (SLI), Settlement Services and Housing Advice and Information services.

There will always be a need for some emergency accommodation but this should only be used in an emergency; not as a long term solution. However, without sufficient 'move on' options, people are getting trapped in the cycle of homelessness for far longer than is ideal.

Urgent action is required to ensure there are sufficient numbers of housing options available so that people can move out of homelessness while getting the support they need. It is currently necessary to continue providing emergency responses to deal with the growing numbers of rough sleepers and people becoming homeless.



*Urgent action is required to ensure there are sufficient numbers of housing options available so that people can move out of homelessness while getting the support they need.*

## **A snapshot of the services provided by the Simon Communities in 2013**

### **■ Breaking the cycle of homelessness - supporting people to move and stay out of homelessness**

Housing and Settlement services and Support to Live Independently (SLI) services helped people to make the move out of homelessness.

- 1243 people were supported in housing all around the country in 2013.
- 426 people were supported in Simon Housing with 190 people in high support housing; 92 people in housing with daytime support and 144 people receiving visiting support.
- 492 people were supported in social housing with 84 people in high support housing and 410 people receiving visiting support.
- 325 people were supported in private rented housing with visiting support services.

### **Specialist Treatment and Support Services**

- 1828 people accessed Specialist Treatment and Support Services which included health care, drugs counselling, and community alcohol detoxification.

### **Education, Training and Employment Services**

- All of our Communities offer access and referral to education, training and employment services.
- 305 people accessed Education, Training and Employment Services provided directly by the Simon Communities.



Minister Jan O'Sullivan, TD with Patrick Quinn, Head of National Office and Niamh Randall, Head of Policy and Communications, SCI

### ■ Making contact and offering people a place of welcome, warmth and safety

Day Centres, Soup Runs and Rough Sleeper Teams provided by some of our Communities are often the first point of contact for people sleeping rough and those in housing difficulty.

- 1,182 people accessed emergency accommodation over the course of the year.
- 1,830 people availed of Daytime Support and Advice, Information and Referral services
- Rough sleeper teams in Cork and Dublin engaged in 6,165 contacts.

### ■ Supporting the Work of Our Communities

Our work was supported by thousands of amazing volunteers, donors and businesses

- Over 2,500 volunteers supported the work of their local Simon Community.
- 8 Simon shops around Ireland generated much needed income for Simon Community services. We thank everyone who supports our shops.
- Our work was supported by thousands of individual donors and many generous corporate supporters.

# Policy, Research and Campaigning

Homelessness rarely has one single cause; usually it is due to a number of factors. Primary causes relate to poverty, inequality and lack of affordable housing, often coupled with systems failures and individual circumstance. The Simon Communities deal with them all.

Housing alone will not end long-term homelessness; it is a big part of the solution but not the only part. There is strong evidence supporting the effectiveness of a 'housing led' approach in ending long term homelessness. This is an approach the Government says they will implement to achieve their goals to end long term homelessness and rough sleeping by 2016. In the past it was common to tackle homelessness using the 'staircase model' where people had to achieve a number of goals (e.g. becoming drug/alcohol free) over a period of time to become 'housing ready' before being housed. This approach is lengthy, can contribute to long-term homelessness and tie-up much needed emergency accommodation.



Sam Tsemberis Pathways to Housing at High Level Event 2013

Housing-led services aim to move people out of homelessness as quickly as possible and into permanent housing where tailored support services can be much more effective. The supports are tailored to each person's needs to address the issues that often cause or accompany homelessness including low income, debt burden, poor health and wellbeing, loneliness and isolation, problematic drug and/or alcohol use, poor education and long term unemployment. These tailored supports are critical in helping people to maintain their tenancies. Simon Communities all around the country are developing and implementing housing led approaches.

In addition to service delivery across 26 counties, the Simon Communities also seek to influence the approach of Government and key policy and decision makers with our policy, research and campaigning activities.

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*Simon Communities all around the country are developing and implementing housing led approaches.*

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The Simon Communities of Ireland are represented in all major national policy fora and at key stakeholder meetings including the *National Homeless Consultative Committee (NHCC)*, the *Data Subgroup of the NHCC* and regular *Bi Lateral Meetings* with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. We lobby key stakeholders involved in shaping national homeless policy and other policy areas which impact on the lives of people who are homeless e.g. health policy, drug and alcohol policy. We support these activities by making submissions where appropriate opportunities arise. In addition, each year we engage in purposeful research activity to support our policy activities and also to influence service delivery across the country.

We also participate in a range of partnerships and networks with other organisations that share our aims e.g. *MakeRoom Alliance* - together with St Vincent de Paul, Focus Ireland and Threshold; *Mental Health Reform, Community Platform*; the *Advocacy Initiative*; the *European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)*.



Micheal Martin TD and Dermot Kavanagh, Cork Simon

We are also active members of *FEANTSA - the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless* and from Oct 2011 to Oct 2013 the Simon Communities represented Ireland on the Administrative Council of *FEANTSA*. We are committed to evidence informed policy making and base our campaigning on the most reliable evidence available.

## Key Moments 2013:

There were a number of key policy, research and campaigning moments during 2013.

- **Key stakeholder meetings:** Over the course of 2013 meetings were attended with key stakeholders and decision makers including; Jan O'Sullivan, TD Minister of State for Housing & Planning and officials at the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government; the Homeless Oversight Group; Minister Alex White, TD, Minister of State at Department of Health with responsibility for Primary Care and the National Drug Strategy; the Health Service Executive Integrated Services Directorate – Social Inclusion & Mental Health. We attended all meetings of the National Homelessness Consultative Committee and the Cross Department Team on Homelessness. In addition, we attended the Department of Social Protection Pre-Budget Forum to influence Budget 2014.
- **Research:** Work continued on research funded through the Age and Opportunity *Get Vocal Programme* looking at the needs of older people who are homeless as they age, and are faced with the issues of serious ill health, death and dying. This research was finalised before the end of 2013.



- **Finding the Way Home: Housing led responses and the Homelessness Strategy in Ireland.** This piece of research was undertaken by Nicholas Pleace and Joanne Brereton from the Centre of Housing and Policy in University of York and explores the potential of implementation of a housing led approach in Ireland as a response to the Governments Homelessness Policy Statement (2013). This research was launched at an event in Limerick in May 2013 in conjunction with Mid West Simon Community. This event was opened by Minister for Housing and Planning, Jan O'Sullivan TD.
- **Which Way Home? The Experiences of the Simon Communities Introducing Housing Led Services.** Following on from *Finding the Way Home* we commissioned a piece of research to help inform and to critically assess the use of housing-led services as a response to homelessness at both a national and local level. This research was undertaken by Nicholas Pleace and Mark Bevan from the Centre of Housing and Policy in University of York. Preliminary findings of the research were presented at our High Level Event during Simon Week 2013.
- **Homeless Suite of Indicators:** We continued to compile our *Homeless Suite of Indicators* to help understand and track structural factors, including poverty, unemployment and housing issues, which influence homelessness in Ireland based on work by the Australian Institute for Research.
- **Roundtable Meeting of EU Ministers with Responsibility for Homelessness:** We worked closely with the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning, our European FEANTSA colleagues and the Department for the Environment, Community and Local

Government in preparing for this event which took place under the auspices of Irish Presidency in February 2013. This is the first time such a meeting took place and the outcome of the meeting was the agreement of six principles to inform homelessness policy across Europe.

- **FEANTSA:** The Simon Communities continued to represent Ireland on the Administrative Council of FEANTSA up to October 2013 and to be represented on the *FEANTSA Health Working Group*. We were re-elected to the Health Working Group for the group's new mandate 2013-2015.
- **Simon Week 2013:** In October 2013 our annual week of campaigning and awareness raising took place involving a wide range of activities and events at a national and local level. This year we asked people to sign our *Home for Good* petition to Government to demand that there was no cut to the homeless budget for 2014. This was a very successful campaign with over 11,000 people signing our petition online which we presented to Minister Jan O'Sullivan on World Homelessness Day, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013.
- **High Level Event: Housing Led Approaches – Lessons from home and abroad.** As part of Simon Week 2013 we organised our annual High Level Event where we had a number of international speakers including Sam Tsemberis, who founded Pathways Housing First in New York; Peter Fredrickson, Ministerial Advisor in Finland where housing led approaches have been very effective in addressing long term homelessness; Nicholas Pleace discussed housing led approaches in the UK and Europe and Mark Bevan presented the preliminary findings of the Simon



Communities Which Way Home research. This event was opened by Minister for Housing and Planning, Jan O'Sullivan TD with a good attendance from interest groups and key stakeholders.

- **Simon Week Political Briefing:** As part of Simon Week 2013 another successful political briefing event was held in Leinster House. Over 50 members of both houses of the Oireachtas attended and were updated on the work of the Simon Communities in their constituencies and the challenges facing people who are homeless and at risk of homelessness in the current budgetary context.
- **Submissions:** A number of submissions were made to Government Departments during 2013 including our *Pre-Budget Submission*, a *Submission to the DSP pre-budget forum* and a *Submission on Review of Rent Supplement*

*Limits.* We also supported a number of other organisations in the development of submission e.g. Mental Health Reform in their submission to the Dublin Regional Homelessness Executive focussing on mental health and homelessness.

- **Oireachtas Committee Meetings:** In advance of Budget 2014 we were invited before the Oireachtas Committee on Finance under the chairmanship of Ciaran Lynch, TD to present our pre budget submission.
- **MakeRoom:** We continued to work with our partners in the MakeRoom Alliance over the course of this year. We made a collective submission in 2013 to the NHCC/CDT on homeless data.

Visit our website [www.simon.ie](http://www.simon.ie) to view our range of publications & submissions.



South East Simon Charity Shop Opening

# National Fundraising Success

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who supported us in 2013 and continue to do so, particularly in this difficult financial climate.

The Simon Communities of Ireland are fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the ICTR Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising. The Simon Communities can only continue to make such a difference to the lives of those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness with the support of generous individuals and companies throughout Ireland. We are happy to answer any questions or queries you may have.

## Our Individual Supporters

Without our committed supporters we would not be in a position to continue providing vital services across the country. We would like to thank all our donors and volunteers who have helped in whatever way they could to support the work of Simon this year.

## Our Corporate Supporters

We very much rely on the assistance of corporate supporters and partners in a wide range of areas. The Simon Communities would like to sincerely thank each company that donated to us in 2013 as well as their employees who got involved in various activities. We hope this wonderful support can continue in the future as we work through the challenges we face today.

In particular, we would like to thank:

### **American Chamber of Commerce in Ireland (AMCHAM):**

The Simon Communities of Ireland were delighted to continue our charity partnership with AMCHAM throughout 2013. This charity partnership gave the Simon Communities in Ireland the opportunity to meet and communicate with Chamber members across the country.

### **Tesco Ireland:**

The Simon Communities of Ireland are now in their third year of working with Tesco Ireland. The Tesco Clubcard Initiative is ongoing and we rolled out a very successful national bag pack in 2013 across 81 stores with a view to making this an annual event. We look forward to further developing this relationship in the coming years.



Claregalway Festival 2013

**John Sisk & Son Ltd.**

SISK took on the *Simon Safety Challenge* for the month of December. The challenge proved to be very successful in their Victoria Quay site with fantastic levels of employee engagement. The Simon Community would like to thank each and every staff member who contributed to the safety challenge; working to improve their company's health and safety record and in turn supporting Simon and the people with whom we work.

**Ulster Bank:**

Throughout 2013 The Simon Communities of Ireland benefited from Ulster Bank's ATM Giving Scheme. Staff and Customers of Ulster Bank also supported the Simon Communities through their *One Week in June* initiative, raising much needed funds by hosting fundraising events in branches across the country.

**Simon Open Door in association with the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI):**

In May, the RIAI and the Simon Communities of Ireland completed the 2013 national *Simon Open Door* campaign. This campaign has been an annual event in both the RIAI and Simon Communities calendar for nine years.




Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh signing the Home for Good petition during Simon Week 2013

This successful campaign involves architects from RIAI donating time and expertise to the public for the benefit of the Simon Communities. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the architects and members of the public who signed up to the campaign this year.

**Global Giving**

Global Giving is a charity website that gives non-profits a chance to raise the funds needed to support their projects. The Simon Communities have benefited from donations made by the employees of Global Giving's corporate partners throughout 2013. Simon Communities of Ireland are thrilled to be part of this innovative online fundraising platform and would like to thank all Global Giving's corporate partners and employees for their continued support.

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*The Simon Communities would like to sincerely thank each company that donated to us in 2013 as well as their employees who got involved in various activities.*

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# Best Practice and Training Co-ordinator

The role of the Best Practice and Training Coordinator is to support the local Communities to deliver the best possible provision to people who use our services.

The core work includes developing and supporting opportunities for client involvement, policy development, developing and delivering training, organising and delivering seminars and workshops on practice issues, auditing services and researching and disseminating best practice initiatives.

2013 began with a focus on Client Participation with a national seminar for staff. There was the sharing of information from the local Communities on opportunities for involvement and also much discussion on developing further initiatives.

**Simon Involvement and Action Group** (the national client led group) celebrated their 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May. Two issues of the newsletter Simon Voices were produced in 2013 which included interesting articles from the client perspective on moving on into independent living and the housing led approach.

There was a focus on training in 2013. Training modules that were updated or developed included Motivational Work in Keyworking, Boundaries and Confidentiality, and Record Keeping. Refresher sessions were also delivered in the Outcomes Star and Keyworking.

Work took place with Dundalk Simon Community to produce a Human Rights Toolkit, building on their commitment to framing homelessness within a human rights perspective. The toolkit was developed to support organisations and their staff to use a human rights approach to become more competent advocates who respond effectively and confidently to the many violations experienced by people due to homelessness. The toolkit contains an introduction to the Human Rights framework and also general advice and practical tools to support staff and clients to become more competent advocates and self advocates.

The year ended by beginning the work with Galway Simon on developing their 3 year Client Involvement Strategy. It was important that the Strategy itself was developed with extensive client involvement. Clients (and staff) were consulted widely with consultation sessions and questionnaires, which were themselves drawn up by clients. Many ideas and suggestions were gathered, providing a wealth of information from which to produce the Strategy.

A new national group - **Best Practice in Service Delivery and Accommodation Sub Committee** was developed this year, with representatives from the 8 local Communities attending. The main aim of the group is to discuss relevant quality frameworks that can inform us as we evolve our practices in service delivery and housing provision and also enable us to measure our services. The meetings also provided the opportunity to share innovation, good practice and resources.

# Financial Overview

In 2013 the Simon Communities of Ireland generated an income of €1,018,088.

Donations from the general public and from our corporate partners accounted for the vast majority of our income (79.24%). It would be impossible for us to continue the work that we do without such generous support. Our statutory funding from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government under the *Scheme to Support National Organisations* remains essential as it supports a number of core activities delivered by the National Office namely National Volunteering, Best Practice and Training.

The Simon Communities of Ireland continue to tightly manage our operating costs and reduce our overheads where possible, and we strive to give the best possible value for money. We do not pay any salary top ups or pension top ups. We do not provide company cars, bonuses or any other perks or entitlements. In the last few years in an effort to keep costs down we have reduced staff numbers and costs and we review and revise day-to-day expenditure every year. The cost of the work of the Simon Communities of Ireland National Office in 2013 was €826,208.



Dermot Bannon launches Simon Open Door 2013

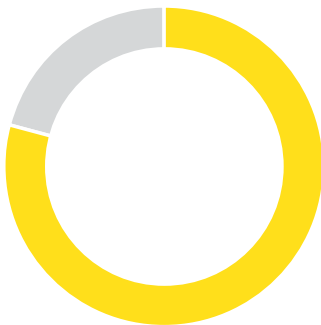
In 2013 we provided significant additional support to the network of eight Simon Communities around the country that continue to deliver a range of high quality services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They do so in the face of growing numbers of people turning to their services while at the same time experiencing reductions in their statutory funding. Access to housing is one of the biggest challenges in the current climate. We responded by transferring housing units, which had been sourced via the Capital Assistance Scheme, to several individual Communities to support them in the development of housing led services. We also committed cash resources to support several Communities in the development of new service initiatives including a Housing First service in the South East and a Deposit Guarantee Scheme in the Mid West. These transfers amounted to €1,165,116.

This created a deficit for the year on our income and expenditure account of €973,236 which was funded from reserves.

For more information please see our independently audited annual accounts, by JPA Brenson Lawlor, available on our website [www.simon.ie](http://www.simon.ie) (National Office)

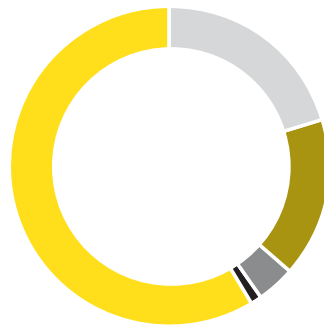
	<b>2013</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Fundraising	€806,735.00
Grants	€211,353.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,018,088.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Staffing	€405,145.00
Programmes	€324,284.00
Office	€77,184.00
Fundraising	€19,595.00
Support to Local Simons	€1,165,116.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,991,324.00</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>-€973,236.00</b>

Income 2013



■ Fundraising ■ Grants

Expenditure 2013



■ Staffing ■ Programmes ■ Office  
■ Fundraising ■ Support to local Simon Communities



# How You Can Help

The invaluable work the Simon Community does is only possible through the generosity of the public and our corporate supporters.

If you would like to help tackle homelessness in Ireland there are a number of ways that you can do so.

## **Donate Online**

Log on to [www.simon.ie](http://www.simon.ie)

## **Send us a donation by Post**

Donations can be sent to Simon Communities of Ireland, St Andrew's House, 28-30 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2. (Please do not send cash in the post).

## **Donate over the phone**

Using a Credit or Debit Card call our fundraising team on (01) 671 1606 with your card details and your transaction will be handled in strictest confidence.

## **Leave Simon a Legacy**

For further details on how to name the Simon Communities of Ireland as a beneficiary in your will contact the Fundraising Team on (01) 671 1606.


## **National Corporate Partnerships**

The Simon Communities of Ireland work with a number of corporate partners and there are many ways your company can help and get involved. You can contact us on (01) 671 1606 to discuss tailoring projects and initiatives to match your company's interests and objectives.


## **Tax Effective Giving**

If you are a PAYE or self-assessed tax payer and have donated €250 or more in the course of the tax year or in previous years, Simon can reclaim the tax paid on your donations. From 2013 onwards, Simon can claim for self-assessed tax payers who have made donations of €250 or more.

Donations from companies qualify the donor for tax relief.



*The invaluable work the Simon Community does is only possible through the generosity of the public and our corporate supporters.*









**Simon Communities of Ireland**

St Andrews House  
28-30 Exchequer Street  
Dublin 2

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Email: [info@simoncommunity.com](mailto:info@simoncommunity.com)

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