



Daughters of Charity
Community Services



Daughters of Charity Community Services

8-9 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1.



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Foreword

Welcome to our booklet on the services of the Daughters of Charity Community Services.

We are a non-profit organisation working for social justice and poverty eradication with local communities in Dublin's north inner city. Since our foundation in 1976 the Daughters of Charity Community Service has been greatly influenced in its approach by the *community partnership model* (as pioneered by the Centre for the Study of Social Policy, Washington).

This approach to partnership working is centred on the belief that the safety and development of children, young people and vulnerable adults depends on strong families; and in turn, strong families depend on good connections with other families, local organisations, and community institutions.

The community partnership model is underpinned by a set of guiding principles against which we, as an organisation, benchmark our educational / social care services and our inter-agency work, as follows:

- ✓ Children should stay with their own families whenever possible.
- ✓ Families are stronger when all members, including parents and caregivers, are safe from abuse and encouraged to reach their individual potential.
- ✓ There is no substitute for strong families to ensure that children and youth grow up to be capable adults.
- ✓ Children, young people and vulnerable adults do best through a strengths-based approach, which emphasises personal capabilities, resilience and resourcefulness.
- ✓ Children, young people and vulnerable adults do best when families, friends, residents and organizations work together as partners.

- ✓ Families do best when they live in supportive neighbourhoods and communities.
- ✓ Services and supports need to be available earlier, before crises occur and must be closely linked to the communities in which families live.
- ✓ Efforts to promote the safeguarding and development of individuals, especially those most in need and socially vulnerable, must be closely linked to broader community initiatives and priorities.
- ✓ All families should receive high-quality services with no disparities among racial, ethnic, religious, or socioeconomic groups.
- ✓ Government alone cannot ensure the safeguarding and development of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Strong families, concerned neighbourhoods, responsive local organisations and vibrant community institutions also play a vital role.
- ✓ Each community must shape the strategies and network of services based on its own resources, needs and cultures.

Our Partners...

To help realise this vision of our work, the Daughters of Charity Community Services is privileged to include among our many partners in Dublin's north inner city:

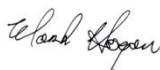
- Area Networks and community fora.
- Primary and second level schools.
- Education welfare officers and home school community liaison workers.
- Centres of non-formal education (adult and youth).

- Community development projects.
- Youth work services.
- Family support services.
- Community care social work teams.
- Community counselling services.
- Senior citizens services.
- Probation officers, Gardai Siochana and youth justice projects.
- Public health nurses and local health centres.
- Drugs treatment and support services.
- Local employment services and local employers.

We hope you, too, share our community partnership vision of strong individuals living in strong families who, in turn, are supported by other strong families, active local organisations and living community institutions.

Want to know more? We hope you find our booklet on the work of the Daughters of Charity Community Services, including contact and referral information, both interesting and informative.

Thank you,



Mark Hogan,
Director of Services,
Daughters of Charity Community Services.

Acknowledgments

This booklet has been designed by Elizabeth Watson, Social Worker, Central Service Support Team with input from the Director of Services and the DoCCS Service Managers, and with administration support from Clare Murphy. Our sincere thanks to everyone involved for their positive contribution.



Front Hall No. 9 Henrietta Street

Overview of Organisation

The Daughters of Charity Community Services is a non-profit organisation which provides a range of educational and social care services to children, young people and adults living in disadvantaged communities in Dublin's north inner city and beyond. As a community-based organisation, the Daughter of Charity Community Services values the importance of multi-agency work with statutory, community and voluntary organisations in its catchment area who share common objectives based on social inclusion and poverty reduction.

The **VISION** of the Daughters of Charity Community Services is of a society where each person can exercise his / her rights and responsibilities to fully participate in education, work, family and community life. We believe that this requires a model of partnership in which both the causes and effects of poverty and social exclusion are successfully addressed.

The **MISSION** of the Daughters of Charity Community Services is, through its work, to strengthen our community and to encourage individuals and families, particularly those most marginalised, to achieve their full potential.

We aim to do this through our **COMMITMENT** to:

- Provide accessible opportunities for learning and personal growth.
- Respect the dignity and uniqueness of each person who engages with us.
- Offer a supportive and caring environment.
- Achieve excellence in the quality of our services.
- Work in partnership to remove obstacles to full participation.
- Influence changes in social policy for the people we work with.
- Foster an organisation that behaves in a way consistent with our shared vision and mission.

Our **dedicated service responses** include:

- 🔑 Early years education and childcare.
- 🔑 High support education (school) to children at risk.
- 🔑 Training and education (Community Training Centre) of early school leavers and other socially vulnerable young people.
- 🔑 Older person's social care.
- 🔑 Adults returning to learning through community adult education.
- 🔑 Childcare, educational and family support to residents in local disadvantaged communities.

The Daughters of Charity Community Services operates **six services**:

St Mary's Nursery: an early year's childhood intervention and education service for 52 children aged between 3 months and 7 years which assists children in reaching their developmental milestones.

Henrietta Street School: a high support school under the Department of Education and Skills for 20 at-risk children aged between 11 -16 years.

St Vincent's Community Training Centre: providing training, educational and personal development services for 60 early school leavers and vulnerable young people aged between 16 – 21 years.

Henrietta Adult and Community Education Service: providing further educational opportunities for 180 adult learners.

Henrietta Senior Citizens Service: providing nutritional, social, health and pastoral supports to 90 older persons

Taca Clann Community Project: providing childcare, after schools and family support services on an outreach basis to local disadvantaged communities.

Central Service Support Team

About Us:

The members of the Central Services Support Team work individually and together to offer support and guidance to the participants of our services and to the local community.

Service Provided:

Social Work support offers:

A person centred, interdisciplinary and multiagency approach.

Support and Information: for matters such as housing, social welfare entitlements, benefits, court matters (family law/criminal), support services.

Crisis Intervention: in relation to homelessness, addiction, crime, crisis pregnancy, domestic violence, illness, loss, bereavement, mental health.

Referral to Other Services or Agencies: such as child care services, adolescent services, addiction services, counselling, homeless services, disability services, support agencies & health services.

Advocacy and Liaison: empowering and supporting the service user to have their voice heard.

Education & Employment Guidance offers:

Career Assessment: deciding on a suitable job or career.

Support and Information: on jobs, careers, education and training.

Career Guidance: exploring interests, skills, strengths and matching to suitable employment or training.

Career Coaching: help in setting and achieving realistic career goals, developing career paths or progression plans.

Counselling support offers:

A Safe Space: to talk about personal issues, to feel really listened to in a respectful and non-judgemental manner.

Support: with managing stress, anxiety, loss or bereavement. Helping service users deal with relationship problems, and expressing difficult feelings in a non-threatening supportive environment.

Personal Development: building self-esteem, self-confidence and assertiveness.

Encouragement: exploring all options, finding realistic solutions and empowering service users to make positive changes in their life.

How to access the service:

Self or professional referrals may be made directly to each service as appropriate. Services operate by appointment system. The service is free of charge.

Contact Details: Daughters of Charity Community Services,
Central Services Support Team,
2nd Floor, 9 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1.

Social Worker

Direct Line: (01) 8874108.

Education & Employment Guidance /
Counsellor

Direct Line: (01) 8874102.

St. Mary's Nursery

About Us:

St Mary's Nursery, founded in 1921, provides a service based on the principles of early years care, intervention and education. The children have an age appropriate, regular routine, where they are given opportunities for new experiences through play, language development, mixing with other children, and table top activities. Throughout the year, we bring the children on outings such as the farm, zoo, and play centres.

We also actively encourage parental involvement by inviting all the parents to take part in the "Parent's Rota." Each parent is given the opportunity to spend time with their child's group and to participate in the daily activities of the nursery. Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's development with nursery staff.

Service Provided:

The Nursery is open from 9am-4pm Monday to Thursday and Friday 9am-2pm; however, the hours of attendance vary with each age group. The service provides for 5 different age groups of children as follows:

1. Baby Group (9.00am - 2.00pm)

On a daily basis, the children are helped to develop their skills in crawling, walking, clapping hands, and interacting with other children and adults.

2. Wobbler Group (9.00am - 2.00pm).

At this developmental stage, the children's concentration skills tend to be relatively short, so activities are designed to reflect this by focusing on their hand - eye co-ordination, fine motor skills, and turn-taking.

3. Toddler Group (9.00am - 4.00pm)

As the child's concentration span increases, activities become more complex such as table top activities. Colours, shapes, weather and days of the week are also introduced. Children are encouraged to be independent with their personal hygiene and toileting skills.

4. Pre-school Group (9.00am - 12.30pm)

The children have circle time involving stories, songs, shapes, colours, and days of the week, all of which help to prepare the child for the transition to primary school.

5. After-school Group (1.30pm - 4.00pm)

Children coming after school have generally attended the Nursery service and are very familiar with the routine. Other referrals are also accepted. As this is a short session, children do not carry out homework assignments.

All children attending our service are offered freshly prepared hot meals and various snacks throughout the day.

How to access the service:

Access to our service is by referrals under the HSE Public Health Nurse at your local Health Centre or the Childhood Education & Training Support Scheme (CETS).

We also accept referrals from Social Workers, Speech Therapists, Psychologists, and Child and Family Services, and from local primary schools for the after-school group, within our catchment area.

There is a reduced cost for each childcare placement dependent on the group, or placement i.e. if it is a full/part time placement or under the Childhood Education & Training Support or Community Childcare Subvention Schemes.

Contact Details:

St. Mary's Nursery,
Daughters of Charity Community Services,
8-9 Henrietta St. Dublin 1.

Main Line: (01) 8874100.

Direct line: (01) 8874116.

E-mail: nursery@doccs.ie

What our Parents say...

“How well my son is doing in St Mary’s Nursery! He is 30 months old and he started the Nursery on 1st September 2011. Since he began going to the Nursery, I have seen a big change in him. His appetite has improved so much. He is coming on a lot better with his speech mainly due to the fact that a HSE Speech Therapist visits the Nursery every week.

Since he started going to the Nursery, he really enjoys colouring and is doing a lot of colouring at home. I have also seen a big change in the way he gets on with other children. I couldn’t be happier with the way he is coming on in the Nursery, thanks to his two teachers. He does love going to the Nursery every day and he loves seeing his teachers.”

(Nursery parent)



“St Mary’s Nursery is the absolutely perfect place for children of any age. Fully trained qualified staff provides the best childcare, with great equipment and a positive environment. They always look after the children, pay attention to them and report to parents any abnormal behaviour. They also recommend how to solve any issues with behaviour.

Children not only have loads of fun, but also learn very good behaviour, playing together, working as a team, reading, tidying up, and even cooking!

This is very helpful now and for the future. Every day they have an exciting new experience. They never get bored and always want to come back again the next day. The staff use a lot of art activities to develop the child’s ability. We have known St Mary’s Nursery for three years and since this time we are very happy that our children attend there. They fulfil their mission very well.”

(Nursery parent)



Garden, Nursery & CTC Building

Henrietta Street School

About Us:

We aim to offer a nurturing learning environment where children can realise their unique potential and where individual programmes ensure that children experience regular success so as to facilitate their self-development and progression to further education / training.

The children come from an area with a severe socio-economic disadvantage. They have had learning and behavioural difficulties and / or their family situations place them at risk of serious marginalisation.

Principles / Approach

- ✓ We believe that every child has the capacity to learn and to form positive relationships.
- ✓ We believe that every child is entitled to:
 - Explore and develop his / her talents;
 - A caring, consistent approach from staff;
 - A clean, comfortable, bright school environment;
 - Have fun.
- ✓ The way in which we work is consistent and flexible and fosters respectful relationships.

Service Provided:

With a current student-teacher ratio of 5 : 1 and the support of part-time teachers, it is feasible to operate individualised learning programmes with a strong emphasis on literacy and social mathematics. Emphasis is placed on the social development of the students through the creation of a school community where all children are treated with respect by staff and fellow students. The school also promotes effective communications and positive relationships with parents and carers of the children.

The school provides for certification through the Junior Certificate and the Junior Certificate Schools Programme.

How to access the service:

Referrals are received from primary and second level schools, social workers, National Education Welfare Officers, Garda J.L.Os, parents and other agencies to the school social worker. All subsequent enquiries pertaining to the child prior to admission are dealt with by the school social worker.

Children aged between 11-16 years are accommodated. Referrals of children younger than 10 years of age are not accepted.

Due to a waiting list operating, referrals made after mid-April, while accepted, will generally not be considered for admission to the school in September of that year.

If the child is unlikely to be admitted to the school within a reasonable timeframe, the school social worker will inform the referral agency/parent of this fact.

When a child is offered a place in the school, s/he and parent(s)/guardian(s) must attend a follow-up meeting at which various school policies are explained and a start date agreed.

Contact Details:

Henrietta Street School
8 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1.

School Social Worker
Direct Line: (01) 8874110

Telephone: (01) 8874127

Facsimile: (01) 8747040

Email: school@doccs.ie

What Our Students Say...

“You always feel welcome and teachers can have a laugh with you. There are good activities organised for us such as the gym, trips and out the back on the all-weather pitch. Computer time is good too. I really enjoy choosing books from the accelerated Reader Library in the office. The cooking is amazing!”

(Student)



“I like the school because I get more work done. The reason why I get more work done is because there are less students in the school, so the teachers have more time to work with you.”

(Student)



“Henrietta is a great school. You go on lots of trips and the teachers are kind. It’s easy to do your work because you get lots of help. The food is lovely. Everything about the school is good because they are very understanding.”

(Student)



“I like this school because you get lots of respect from all the staff members. They help us all work towards our Junior Cert. We get brought on trips every week for good behaviour and do many activities around the school.”

(Student)



Henrietta Street School

St. Vincent's Community Training Centre

About Us:

St. Vincent's Community Training Centre (CTC), founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1975, is a community based training service for early school leavers. Over the years, the service has developed a range of training courses that provide a supportive learning environment for up to 60 young people. This range of training opportunities is designed to enable our young people to progress through different stages of development over an extended period of time and to take up further education, training, apprenticeship or employment.

Learners between the ages of 16 and 21 years can continue their education and training, with St. Vincent's CTC, which offers a mix of courses and activities. The courses are planned around the young people's individual needs and personal learning goals. Training and education are delivered in small working groups where learners will receive greater support and individual attention. Learners receive a FAS weekly training allowance based on age.

For learners who require a childcare facility, a limited number of places are available in St. Mary's Nursery.

Our commitment is:

- ✓ We accept people as they are.
- ✓ We are fair to each person and respect each person's difference.
- ✓ We create a safe, caring and peaceful place to learn.
- ✓ We establish trusting relationships.
- ✓ We recognise and admire what is good.
- ✓ We deal with people in a fair way.
- ✓ We work with the whole person by working with families, carers, and young people of the same age and background.

Our Approach is:

Person-centred, holistic, needs-based and flexible.

Service Provided:

All courses are certified with nationally recognised certification i.e. FETAC Common Awards System:

- Information Technology
- Catering
- Art
- Health Care
- Health & Beauty
- Office Skills
- Life Skills
- Youth Health Promotion
- Property Maintenance
- Literacy & Numeracy
- Junior Cert/Leaving Cert (limited subjects)

Trainee Council

The Trainee Council provides an opportunity for trainees to express their views and opinions and contribute to the development of the CTC service.

How to access the service:

Self-referrals are accepted along with referrals by statutory agencies. All referrals are made directly to the manager.

Contact Details:

St. Vincent's Community Training Centre,
9, Henrietta Street, Dublin 1.

Telephone: (01) 8874100

Facsimile: (01) 8723486

E-mail: ctc@doccs.ie

What Our Young People Say...

“When I started in the CTC, it was a big change for me from being in mainstream school and moving to a more practical-based training centre. I was a bit hyper and uneasy with the change, but after a while I settled into the centre. I was very comfortable and found it easy going with the staff and the other trainees. I learnt a lot of life skills during my time in the CTC.

I also got a number of work placements as part of my training in two local butchers, and I learned the routine of being on time to the placements and getting to know the community that they dealt with. It was great to work with other people when I was on the work experience.

When I was in St. Vincent’s CTC, I achieved certificates in food and cookery, food and nutrition and work experience and this was just some of the certificates. When I left the training centre, I applied for a part-time job in a food company, which I got. I have now been told that I will be offered a full time position in March which I will take up. I would like to thank my instructor and all the staff in St. Vincent’s CTC for all their help and support. I left the centre in the summer. I also learned the most important thing is to have RESPECT”.

(Trainee)

* * * * *

“I completed an Office Skills course in St. Vincent’s CTC. During my time in the CTC, I received FETAC Level 3 Certification in the following subjects: Office Procedures, Computer Literacy, Personal and Interpersonal Skills. I also received certificates for Safety Awareness, Telephone Skills, Word Processing, File Management, Spreadsheets, Internet, Database, Job Seeking and Work Experience.

I sat exams in two Leaving Cert subjects (English and Maths) and did very well. My results were a C3 in English and a B2 in Maths. I met with the Education and Employment Officer to figure out my next step in life. He helped me get work experience in youth work which I enjoyed very much, and also helped me get a place in a Youthreach Training Centre where I am currently studying for my Leaving Cert Applied. I am getting on extremely well with my assignments and my tasks. Afterwards, I am planning to go to The Liberties College to study Youth and Community Work.

I live nearby, which was handy for me to go to St. Vincent’s CTC as it was just a five minute walk away. I matured a lot while doing my course. I achieved a lot over my two years at St. Vincent’s CTC and met great people. I am very thankful to my instructor for her support in my personal life choices and to all the staff for their ongoing support.”

(Trainee)

About Us:

Henrietta Adult & Community Education Service (HACE) aims to support adults in their learning journey by providing community-based education in a way that encourages adults to discover their own learning needs and to realise their own learning goals.

HACE is staffed by a full time Co-ordinator, part time Administrator and part time Support worker. There are approximately 15 volunteer workers and 20 part time tutors also, all of whom are dedicated to providing a warm friendly learner - centred service. On average approximately 250 adults access the HACE service every year.

Service Provided:

Classes are run mainly in the evenings from Monday to Thursday for approximately 30 weeks annually. Classes vary from term to term based on demand. A great variety of courses are provided, including FETAC accredited course, lifeskill courses, personal development courses and Back to Education programmes. Examples of some of the classes provided include:

- Child Development and Play FETAC Level 3 Module
- Early Childhood Education and Play FETAC Level 5
- Crochet
- Computers for Beginners
- Creative Drama
- Stress Reduction Skills
- Flower Arranging
- Cooking on a Budget
- ESOL
- DIY
- Sewing for Beginners
- Hand Knitting

- Art
- English Spelling
- Yoga
- Home Furnishing
- Personal Development
- Spanish For Your Holidays
- Conversational Irish
- Spanish
- Cooking Everyday Meals

HACE also runs an annual Summer School and volunteer's day out

Access to the Service:

Registration for courses takes place in September and January in 9 Henrietta Street. Priority is given to those returning to education in the local area.

Contact Details:

HACE Co-ordinator,
9, Henrietta Street, Dublin 1.

Mobile: 086 2406938

Telephone: (01) 8874100

Direct Line: (01) 8874129/8874114.

Facsimile: (01) 8723486.

E-mail: hace@doccs.ie

What Our Participants Say....

“I first came to HACE three or four years ago. I have now completed a number of courses at HACE during my time here so far - Calligraphy, Creative Writing, Drama and Stress Reduction to name but a few. I have also participated in workshops on topics of various interest like Poetry, Crafts and I attended historical walks and certificate nights and other celebrations. On these Certificate nights, the students get to showcase their work and achievements which I think is very important and is appreciated by all. The staff and tutors are very friendly, helpful and always on hand to give advice and answer questions on learning and course options.

In the last year, I became a HACE volunteer. I have received so much from HACE, I felt I wanted to give something back. For the past couple of months, I have been dealing with a very difficult home situation and through HACE I was able to avail of the wonderful services of the counsellor and social worker. What makes HACE different from all the other centres I have attended is difficult to say precisely. It definitely has something extra, the X-Factor or the HACE Factor!! I think it works well due to a combination of factors. People really want to study at HACE. As a volunteer, someone takes a course at HACE and then enthusiastically tells a friend. People feel really at home in HACE and no student ever feels inferior, no matter what level of education they might hold. People just feel comfortable here. Like I said previously, it must be the ‘HACE Factor’!!”

(Adult Learner and Volunteer)



“I first started attending courses at HACE three years ago. I have done Yoga, Spanish, Dressmaking and Sewing. The thing I enjoy most about HACE is the mixture of people and the great atmosphere. The staff are superb, always going above and beyond what is asked of them. The Certificate night is always a fantastic occasion, with great craic, food and refreshments.

I have met some really lovely people here at HACE and it is a fantastic place to do a course. The tutors are so laid back and good humoured. There’s never any tension or stress, and these are all fantastic attributes to have as a tutor. I love the conversation, the laughs and jokes and the story telling at coffee breaks. During this difficult time with a downturn in the economy, people are down and a lot less motivated. I think HACE gives people the lift they need and hopefully the service will be able to continue this great work, obviously depending on funding. I love coming here. I’ve learned so much. A big thanks to everyone at HACE.”

(HACE Participant)

Henrietta Senior Citizens Service

About Us:

Each older person living in the area has a right to a service that is welcoming and homely. We are committed to providing a service that is caring and respectful of the dignity of service user. We aim at all times to create a warm atmosphere where spiritual values, social interaction, enjoyment, trust and friendship are nurtured. We strive to provide a service that is professional in every way.

Service Provided:

Henrietta Senior Citizens Service provides nutrition and food supports, social and educational, pastoral support and outreach activities. There is a three-course lunch provided in the centre from Monday to Friday at 11.45 at a cost of €4. There is also a meals-on-wheels service for those who cannot attend the centre. Menus are subject to change and vary on a weekly basis.

There is transport available each day to pick up and drop home our service users.

Social activities are provided for those who can call to the centre. These include:

- Bingo, Art, Sing-along, Gentle Exercise, DVDs, Music

How to access this service:

Any adult over 65 years of age can get in touch with the service manager to register with the service and to access any one or more of the activities above. We also accept referrals from public health nurses, social workers and medical health professionals.

Contact Details: Henrietta Senior Citizens Service,
Daughters of Charity Community Services,
9 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1.
Main Line: 01-8874101
Email: hscs@doccs.ie

What Our Senior Citizens Say.....

“Well, I don’t know what I’d do if I didn’t have the centre to come up to. I’d probably get a bit melancholic. After my last child left, I was alone and I have health issues, so I would be very isolated if I didn’t attend the centre. I enjoy the company; otherwise I’d be sitting in a little room at home by myself. It’s all go here. I’ve never been so busy socially. There’s always something happening here. I enjoy sitting out in the garden on a nice summer day with our big hats on to protect us from the sun. The first thing my family ask when they ring me in the evening is did you go to the centre today. My family are happy knowing I’m not sitting here alone every day. They would worry about me falling at home, but these worries are gone because I’m in the centre. The centre has probably saved my life in more ways than one. I am very grateful to the staff of the centre for the work they do there.”

(Participant)

* * * * *

“I live locally and I have been receiving my meals on wheels from Henrietta Street for a number of years. Loss of sight brought these good people to me. How can I tell you about my dinners? They are scrumptious. The steak and pork chops are melt-in-the-mouth stuff. Obviously, they have their own special way of cooking. My favourite must be the casserole. I also love my fishy day. It is a different meal every day and usually with two or three vegetables. Where would you get it? Here in Henrietta Street is the answer. The staff members are good, and very kind. I have some sight restored today. The nicest and best happening in my life is getting meals-on-wheels. God bless the good work. Thank you.”

(Participant)

About Us:

Taca Clann is Irish for ‘family support’. Our project was established in 2001 (initially as the Good Neighbours Close to Town Action Group) to address issues associated with poverty and social exclusion in the Dominick Street/Dorset Street catchments area of the north central inner city of Dublin.

Using a community development approach, we aim to address issues of concern to local communities experiencing poverty and social exclusion. We advocate on behalf of tenants for improvements in services e.g. housing, health, childcare and education. We aim to empower residents to play a role in the decisions affecting their communities. Taca Clann also aims to facilitate the delivery of local services that enhance and make a difference to the quality of residents’ lives. We work in partnership with a range of organizations from both the community and statutory sectors.

Service Provided:

- Information, advice and advocacy on topics such as housing issues, social welfare entitlements, money management, health issues.
- An afterschool / homework club
- Accessing and supporting courses for parents
- Co-coordinating Summer Projects

Contact Details:

Community Service Advocacy Worker,
Taca Clann Community Project.
Daughters of Charity Community Services,
9 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: (01) 8874111 Fax: 8723486.

Email: tacaclann@doccs.ie

What our participants say ...

I love my job, working with pre-schoolers, watching them grow and develop and knowing that I have an input to helping them. Four years ago we were in a financial crisis as we had very little funding. As a community crèche, we like to keep fees affordable for the parents. I contacted our local Community Worker in Taca Clann who with others in the area came together to form a committee to save the facility for the local area. Now we are receiving funding from national initiatives for child care and the future of the crèche has been secured. This was largely due to the efforts of Taca Clann who we all call our very own Angel.

(Community Crèche Worker)



Three years ago we started going to a group to do our homework and then have some fun. Its great and we all look forward to the days that our club is on. One Christmas we put on a play and all our family came to see us. It was great fun and we all sang and danced on stage. They made a DVD about us and as a reward we were brought to the pantomime to see Jedward and they were great.

(Afterschool Participant)



This Christmas we went out to Dublin Airport and we got a tour around the airport to places we would not normally get into. Before we left we were brought into one of the aeroplanes and we were shown everywhere. We were brought up to the Cockpit where the pilot drives the plane. It was brilliant.

(Afterschool Participant)



In the summer when we have no school, the leaders all organise a Summer Project. It's magic. This year we went to Clara Lara and to Trick Tricksters Magic Castle, and we went swimming. Every day we had something fun to do. I can't wait to find out what we are doing this summer. Our local Community worker always helps us get to the best places.

(Afterschool Participant)

Our Funding Agencies and Supporters

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