

Threshold news

Spring 2014 — A newsletter for Threshold supporters

Moving families out of homelessness



In 2013, Threshold was successful in moving more than 100 families out of homelessness.

Homelessness impacts particularly harshly on families with children. Their education is disrupted, their family support networks break down, and there is a huge mental and emotional strain for those affected.

This is Brendan's story...

Brendan arrived at Threshold's door last year desperately seeking help. He had been living in a flat in Dublin with his two young children, but their home had become unbearable — the heating didn't work, it was damp. Brendan was unemployed, and couldn't save for a deposit

for a new home. Yet he felt strongly that he could not stay any longer in these conditions, especially with his two young children.

Brendan made the most difficult decision of his life. He moved into a homeless service, and moved his children into their grandmother's home... in the hope that they would be back together in a new home as soon as possible.

With Threshold's advice and support, Brendan was able to secure a deposit and we helped him to find a suitable home for his family. Six months ago Brendan moved into a new home with his children, and they are looking forward to a brighter future together.

Your donations are making an impact every day for the people Threshold helps.

Every day 2 families are saved from homelessness

Threshold is helping people to solve a range of housing problems from poor standards to illegal evictions, with 4 out of 5 cases being resolved.

Douglas Newman Good supporting Threshold

Threshold is delighted to have Douglas Newman Good on board as a corporate supporter. Staff at DNG gave their time to volunteer at some of our Christmas collections — thanks Melanie and team! (pictured right)

Donations to Threshold can now be made at any DNG branch nationwide. As well as raising much needed funds for Threshold, DNG is increasing awareness of Threshold's work across the country.



If your company is interested in working with Threshold, please contact Cora Ó Liatháin

e: Cora.OLiathain@threshold.ie

t: 01-635 3607

Get involved in 2014 and make a difference

Flora Women's Mini Marathon

Will you run, jog or walk the Flora Women's Mini Marathon with Threshold on June 2nd? Entries are now open. Contact us today for your Threshold sponsorship pack.

Volunteer with Threshold!

We're always looking for volunteers to help out at Threshold collections. If you have a few hours to spare in the Spring and Summer months, please get in touch with us today.

LoCall 1890 43 44 45 or
email fundraising@threshold.ie



Your Legacy

When you leave a gift in your will to Threshold, you can make a vital difference.

Family and friends always come first, but by also remembering Threshold in your will, you can help us to create a better future for people at risk of homelessness.

One desperate renter tells what it's like to live in a substandard apartment...



Three years ago, my wife and I rented an apartment. Like most people, we were delighted at the thought of settling into our new home. When we viewed it first, sunlight poured through the windows; fresh paint gleamed on the walls; and the electricity functioned perfectly at the flick of a switch. A few weeks later, our nightmare began.

First, we noticed a small patch of damp appearing through the fresh paint on the kitchen wall. Within days, it had spread so it covered almost one-third of the entire surface. We called our landlord and he dismissed it as a temporary problem that would disappear when the weather improved. It didn't.

Next, the electrical fittings began to play up. We called our landlord immediately, and asked him to fix this issue. He didn't. Now, it has gotten so bad that one room in the house is without any electricity at all.

Earlier this year, our five-year-old got a nasty cough. Within days, his brother and sisters had picked it up. The doctor said it was because of constant exposure to damp. In the past month, they've all been sick again — and, again, it's because of the damp.

Why, you may ask, have we not moved out? The simple answer — we have no choice. The apartment where we live now is all that we can afford. Four years

'Now, it has gotten so bad that one room in the house is without any electricity at all ...'

ago, I lost my job to the recession. When I found myself unemployed, we became dependent on Rent Supplement to cover our rent.

Recently, we decided to give Threshold a call. The housing advisor told us that our landlord is in breach of the Minimum Standards Regulations. Threshold is now helping us to ensure our landlord faces up to his responsibilities.

We know we're not alone: last year, Threshold helped nearly 2,000 people in a similar situation. However, for the time being, we're stuck. Unless demand for rented properties suddenly drops, or the Government increases Rent Supplement levels, we have no other choice but to call this shoddy apartment home.

With your support, Threshold's housing advisors help thousands of families with similar housing problems. Thank you so much on their behalf.

