



# Protestant Aid

Care and Compassion in action since 1836

## NEWSLETTER 2010

*Help is given across the board, regardless of religious or ethnic background*

## *Economic crisis highlights problems for those in trouble*

**A startling 80% rise in the number of applications to Protestant Aid for emergency grants through the clergy network is the clearest indicator yet of just how serious the present economic situation is for the average man in the street.**

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***“...pressures on charities like Protestant Aid are expected to remain (and indeed increase) in the years ahead”***

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Hardly a day goes by but we read about the financial hardships experienced by people at all levels of society, job losses, business closures, growing emigration to greener pastures, the threat of pay cuts and tax increases, and a general feeling

of despair that the end is not really in sight. The knock-on effects of the banking debacle are certainly well documented.

Allied to the very high unemployment figures, the budgets have impacted severely on people's net earnings and further cuts being inevitable, will result in even more reductions in peoples' take-home pay. Whereas there may be evidence of 'green shoots' on the world economic stage, it is expected that Ireland's recovery will be slower than most of its EU partners and pressures on charities like Protestant Aid are expected to remain (and indeed increase) in the years ahead.

Figures compiled by the 'Insolvency Journal' showed a 33% increase in the number of companies that went out of business by the end of last year, with Dublin alone accounting for almost 40% of that total. Agriculture has also been hit hard, with over 8,600 farmers now in receipt of farmers' welfare (known as

Farm Assist), with more on the waiting list, making a total of almost 10,500.

From PA's viewpoint, the most noteworthy element is the increase in the number of businesses closing, resulting in job losses. These relate to human beings who were earning wages and contributing to the national economy, but regrettably cannot now do so.

These people may have been doing quite well and never before required financial assistance. If they had bought a house, they had a mortgage, but suddenly the bottom has dropped out of their world, they are experiencing pressures from all quarters and they have no answers. They are often passed from one organisation to another but those bodies are inundated with requests and so they join a long waiting list.

The pressures at times such as these are enormous and can be quite frightening. Organisations such as PA and St. Vincent de Paul, while they have limited resources, at least show they care, and will answer calls for help.



## SUPPORT FOR FAMILY OF SERIOUSLY ILL CHILD

PA was able to make a significant contribution towards paying off overdue utility bills of a family whose income was severely affected by the continuous hospitalisation of their terminally-ill child.

The hospital visits with the child involves considerable travelling to and from Dublin and overnight stays, and as the young boy's condition gradually deteriorates, he is susceptible to infections and his medication increases.

To add to their problems, the father was recently made redundant, adding more pressure on the family and PA was pleased to be able to provide the financial support when it was needed.

[www.protestantaid.org](http://www.protestantaid.org)

# Chairman's Statement



At the AGM earlier this year, the Chairman Arthur Vincent (left) explained that against expectations, he was delighted to report that subscriptions and donations income had

increased during the previous year.

A reduction in giving to Protestant Aid had been anticipated, given the state of the economy, the two budgets during the year, and their expected impact on net income, yet this source yielded an increase from €306,972 to €336,722.



There were a number of significant once-off donations including one generous

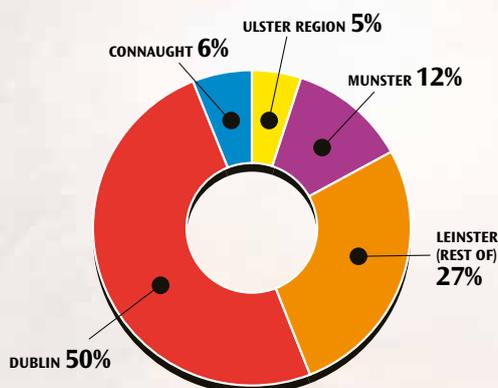
contribution from an anonymous source and the marvellous €23,000 raised by Bishop Michael Burrows' unique musical fund-raiser.

At the same time, support from parishes was exceptionally strong too, with income from that source increasing by some 40%.

So, despite a significant reduction in Investment Income, but with such buoyant income from its subscriber base, PA was able to continue assisting those in dire financial distress throughout the Republic of Ireland. Indeed, PA was still able to distribute almost €1 for every Euro donated.



ALL GRANTS BY REGION - 2009



During the year, PA was also able to respond positively to the huge increase in applications for assistance with school fees at the Protestant-managed schools, where an increase of almost 25% in the number of cases received was experienced. And as a result of the extremely long cold spell over the Christmas period, an additional 50% in fuel grants was distributed.

## HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS FOR CANCER SUFFERER

PA was asked to provide financial assistance for a woman who had undergone surgery for cancer and who had other medical issues but whose circumstances were further exacerbated by marriage breakdown.



Apart from her cancer, she also suffered from a number of medical conditions

which keep her in constant pain, as a result of which she was unable to find employment. Her only source of income was Illness Benefit and to make matters worse, her debts had mounted since her husband left her.

To alleviate her distress and depression, Protestant Aid was able to help her purchase much-needed household essentials.

# Special Thanks...

.....to the **Department of Community, Equality & Gaeltacht Affairs**

...which has been a significant contributor to Protestant Aid's funds since 1994 and last year increased its annual contribution to €220,000.

Such donations are most welcome indeed, and we are grateful to the

Minister and the Department for their continuing involvement. The grant is, as always, distributed without any deductions for overheads.

**and an extra special 'Thank You'...**

..... goes to Miss M.E. Franklin of Greystones, County Wicklow who, at 102 years of age, is our oldest subscriber!

## SCHOOL COSTS SUPPORT FOR SINGLE MOTHER

PA was pleased to contribute to costs associated with school expenses for a young single mother who had had major surgery while looking after two nieces in addition to her own daughter.

She had been denied the Back to School Allowance on the grounds that she was in receipt of the Guardian's Allowance for looking after her sister's two children yet the cost of schoolbooks, uniforms and a book rental scheme were crippling her financially.

# Joint Initiative Appeal Success



Such was the level of response to the appeal that Protestant Aid has already been able to help cases brought to its attention by individual Rectors.

**Funds from this source are still available for those in need of financial assistance, who should contact their Rector directly for more information on applying for this much-needed support.**

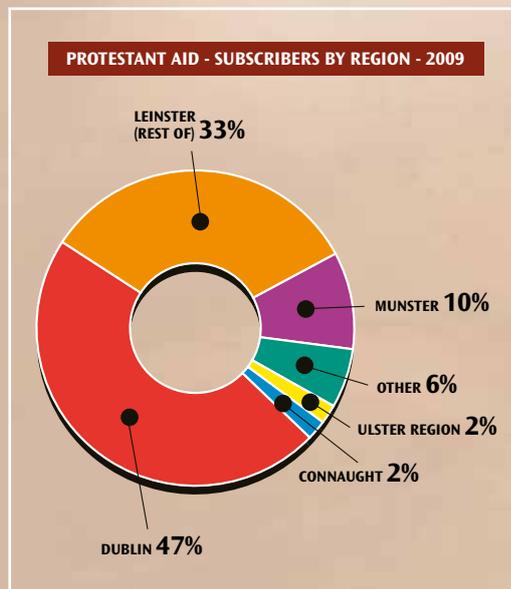
*"The response," said Protestant Aid Chairman Arthur Vincent, "has been most encouraging and I hope it will continue to make its way to the Protestant Aid offices from where it can be put to the best possible use."*



She went back to work after recovering from surgery but can only do a few hours a day and is on a Disability Allowance. For someone so young, she had been placed in a very difficult and challenging position and PA gladly stepped in to offer some financial support.

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland, in response to the ever-growing need for financial assistance for members of the Church of Ireland community, launched an initiative in conjunction with Protestant Aid earlier this year.

In the knowledge that 2010 would be a most challenging year economically, the Archbishops and Bishops approached Protestant Aid to spearhead a major fund-raising and awareness campaign. Together, they appealed to all parishioners to give whatever they could towards relieving the hardships of those within the Church of Ireland community who were experiencing tough times.



## TRAVEL COSTS FOR RURAL FAMILY

PA was in a position to step in and make a contribution to the travel and subsistence costs of a young mother and father visiting their son - diagnosed with an extremely rare breathing syndrome - in a major Dublin hospital.

Travelling from the country to the capital is taxing enough but this was made even worse by the unreliability of an old car which regularly broke down. The couple's young son needed to remain in hospital for 24-hour supervision and monitoring of his condition which placed added pressure on the scarce family resources.

In the circumstances, PA was pleased to be able to ease the parents' burden as they visited their seriously-ill child.

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# Subscribers' Generosity

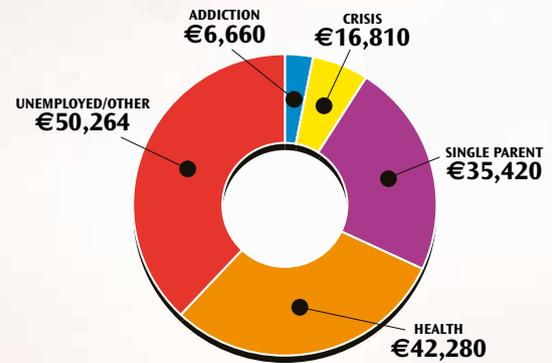
Protestant Aid is able to distribute every euro that it receives because loyal subscribers generously contribute valuable funds and remain a constant source of income by cheque or standing order year after year. They are a vital part of our work and our motivation to help those less fortunate than ourselves.



Protestant Aid can also reclaim the personal tax element of subscriptions of over €250 from PAYE taxpayers. There are, in addition,

tax advantages for self-employed persons and corporate donors, while those giving a gift of assets can do so without the imposition of Capital Gains Tax.

GENERAL GRANTS BY VALUE AND NEED - 2009



## Legacies

Legacies have always been a vital source of income and are wisely invested for subsequent use. Over the recent past, they have become an increasingly important contribution to our funds and are an invaluable resource, entrusted to us by those who have left provision in their wills for the continuity of our work.

Subscribers are, therefore, asked to consider Protestant Aid and its work when making out their Will.



## How you can help

To maintain its level of support for those less fortunate in our society. Protestant Aid is reliant on the generosity of the public. Any contribution, no matter how small, is vital and welcome.

*You can help by way of either:*

- a once-off payment, or
- a regular annual subscription, or
- a legacy of cash or property in your Will.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW

### DONATIONS

*(Please tick relevant box)*

I would like to make a contribution of

€

and have enclosed a cheque/Postal Order to this effect.

I would like to make a regular subscription - please contact me to arrange a Standing Order.

I would like to make a Bequest - please contact me to make the necessary arrangements.

**Please return completed form to: PROTESTANT AID, 74 UPPER LEESON STREET, DUBLIN 4.**