

2016

Newsletter

Protestant Aid
CARE AND COMPASSION IN ACTION SINCE 1836



Downwardly Mobile!

The decline in living standards is hurting many families

Across Ireland, austerity is the new 'norm' for an increasing number of families and while we often regard it as a cliché, all available statistics in Ireland and internationally confirm that the rich really are getting richer. In Ireland, more than one-third of all income is held by the top 10% of earners, according to the ESRI.

The nature of employment has also changed significantly over the years, in that jobs that were regarded as 'safe' are now more precarious, a trait that is spreading to the professional sectors, resulting in stark lifestyle changes following unemployment or business losses.

Recently, a study was released on the income required for a basic standard of living, covering a basket of more than 2000 goods and services vital to a household's minimum needs. The study found that the basic cost of living has risen 7.7% since 2010, including 3% in the past year. Hardly surprising when one considers recent increases in rental, childcare and back-to-school costs.

"Without your help, I simply would not have been able to manage"

Unfortunately, these statistics are not anecdotal. At the time of writing, the number of General Grant applications that we have received is already up by 17% on the same period last year and up a massive 36% over the same period in 2014. We receive many cries for help representing situations across numerous scenarios, ill-health, unemployment or business failure, marriage breakdown or simply, poverty - yes, that word is a reality for many people. The above quote is representative of so many situations where we have been able to help only because of your generosity.

YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN

Financial assistance for over 1000 families each year makes a real difference to thousands of lives as they attempt to overcome the challenges they encounter. You make this happen - without this loyal support, it would not be possible. We know that there are many reasons for poverty but whatever they are, there can be only one response.

You can now donate online - please check out our new website at www.protestantaid.org - and make a difference in somebody's life today. Thank you so much.

100% OF YOUR HELP GETS TO WHERE IT IS NEEDED!

Donations to many charities across Ireland have plummeted in recent years following press reports of big salaries, expenses and waste in several high-profile charitable organisations.

Anger over six-figure pay deals for charities

Charitable giving hits all time low

Charities suffer as anger rises

At Protestant Aid, we want to reassure you that 100% of your donations are used to alleviate financial distress, without any deductions for administrative or other costs.

"We have had continued strong support and I'm pleased our donors are aware that their generosity is not diluted in any way - 100% of the help given gets to where it is needed."

Geoff Scargill, Charitable Services Officer

HELP US TO HELP THEM

Illness causes financial stress

Problem:

Ken worked hard in his small business but illness struck and being self-employed meant his benefits were limited. When his meagre savings began to deplete, he was worried about the future - six months out of work meant that his utility bills were mounting and a source of great concern. Ken spent much of his time trying to shield his young family from anxiety but in the end it was all landing on his shoulders.

Protestant Aid's Response:

Ken confided in his Rector who felt that Protestant Aid could help. Having examined details of the situation, we were in a position to pay Ken's utility bills and provide some funds to help until he got back on his feet. Ken is back working now and thankfully his good health has returned.

HELP US TO HELP THEM

Pensioner worries over heating repairs

Problem:

An unexpected problem with her heating system left pensioner Alice with a real worry. Through careful management of her small pension, she was able to manage but this unforeseen bill caused her many sleepless nights. Alice had no savings and as a widow living on her own, she felt vulnerable as she attempted to address this financial trauma.

Protestant Aid's Response:

Our Network Visitor went to see Alice to understand the scale of the issue. On the recommendation of our Visitor, we covered the cost of the heating repairs and awarded Alice a small but regular heating annuity to help cover these costs when they are most needed. This is Care & Compassion in Action!

PA Network Visitors

WHAT A TEAM!

We are delighted to welcome our new Network Visitor, Elizabeth Temple (Mountcharles) to a strong team that already includes Mildred Gilmore (Ballisodare), Jennifer Shaw (Ennis) and Phyllis Grothier (Bagnelstown).



Elizabeth Temple



Mildred Gilmore



Jennifer Shaw



Phyllis Grothier

Each member of the team works on a voluntary basis and generously gives of their time and talents. In an age where volunteerism is becoming an increasingly precious currency, our Network Visitors provide an inspiring example of kindness that is very much appreciated by many people. Their empathy, sensitivity, diplomacy and confidentiality are important skills that support the work of Protestant Aid as we endeavour to assist in our communities.

CEO Retires



We are saying farewell to Robin George who has been our Chief Executive for over twenty-seven years. The role has been busy and varied, having included

responsibility for the administrative and finance functions of the charities within the PA Group.

During Robin's tenure, the number of employees grew from twelve to over one hundred and fifty as the work of the charities within the PA Group increased and developed. We wish him and his wife Shirley many happy years of well-earned retirement.

Exciting times at St. John's House

Hard hats were donned in Dublin 4 last April as the first sods were turned on an exciting new development at St John's House. Archbishop Michael Jackson took shovel in hand, along with representatives of St John's House, St Mary's Home of Pembroke Park and the Molyneux Home (formerly on Leeson Park) to officially start work on the new state-of-the-art nursing home to be built on the site on Merrion Road.

The new development will comprise the complete upgrading of the front portion of the existing St John's House building, and the construction of 54 new bedrooms at the rear. Each new room will have en-suite facilities and the new development will provide communal spaces including sitting rooms, dining rooms, quiet rooms, hairdressing salon and more.

The new facility is being undertaken by a partnership between St John's House, St Mary's Home and the Molyneux Home under the umbrella of Protestant Aid. Earlier this year, the trustees of St Mary's Home announced their plans to merge with St. John's House and to relocate the residents to the new facility on completion of the project.



Speaking at the ceremony, Protestant Aid chairman Arthur Vincent, said that all the conditions were now in place to ensure the best quality of care for residents and that it would be a facility of which we could be proud.

Before turning the first sod, Archbishop Jackson praised all involved in Protestant Aid and thanked everyone who provided their time, energy and professional expertise to develop the project, saying,

"To be able to offer something which gives dignity, security and happiness to people is tremendously exciting."

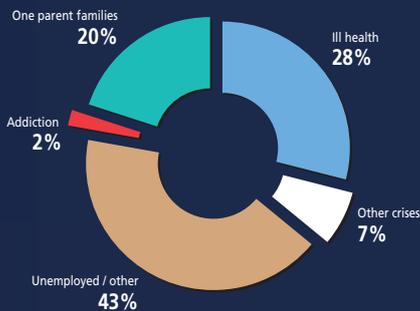
Chairman's Comment



Despite the fact that the economy grew way above European average, the demands for PA assistance were above those in the previous year -

general grants, for instance, were up from 948 to 975, while our Charitable Services expenditure rose from €742,000 to €805,000.

GENERAL GRANTS BY NEED / VALUE

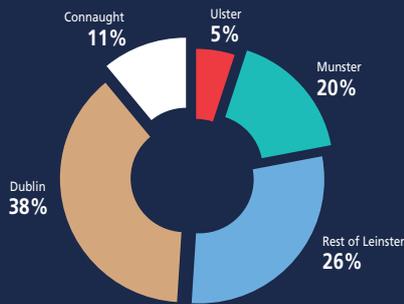


That meant our Charitable Services area was extremely busy while our IT support was enhanced to allow us deal more efficiently with requests and give our supporters the opportunity to donate online if they wished to do so.



PA Chairman Arthur Vincent, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Dr Michael Webb (on behalf of St Mary's Home), Cedric Christie (on behalf of the Molyneux Home) and Ivor Moloney (on behalf of St John's House) turning the first sods of the new nursing home at St John's House.

ALL GRANTS BY REGION



In addition to our own loyal donors, we again received grants of €150,000 and €30,000 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

Again, we distributed well in excess of one Euro for every Euro we received in donations.

On the St John's House planned new development, exciting times are ahead and we expect to see the project completed by the end of 2017.

Brabazon Trust caters for over 100 residents of whom 50 are in the full Nursing Home area. New potential residents are coming into us at a much more advanced age and further care has to be provided in this area to suit their requirements.

Properties of Strand Trust in Pembroke Gardens and Seafort Crescent continue to be upgraded as we continually have requests for accommodation.

My sincere thanks to all the Board members and members of the various committees for their support over the last year and for their ongoing commitment, and especially to Robin George, who retires after 27 years dedicated service as Chief Executive.

Arthur Vincent, Chairman

(Extract from Chairman's AGM address - March 2016)

THANK YOU

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your contribution to my son's school expenses.

It is very much appreciated and as he is beginning this important year you have taken away so much of the anxiety and worry of paying for his books.

I can now concentrate on being supportive to him in the best way I can during what has been a difficult year.

He is coping well looking forward to his life - because of your help, I can look forward too.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your General Grant cheque that my Rector kindly brought to me this morning.

The cost of my utility bills has been a source of constant stress since my illness, especially my electricity bill which has increased dramatically due to heating costs. This, on top of increased travelling costs due to medical appointments and treatment, sent me into a panic.

The relief I feel today is immense, as I am now on top of these debts and can move forward with my treatment. The future is looking a lot brighter.

Thank you so much.

New CEO Appointed



The Chairman Arthur Vincent and the Board of Protestant Aid are pleased to announce the appointment of David Webb as Chief Executive in

succession to Robin George. A member of Kiltarnan Parish, David (41) is a qualified Solicitor and partner in the law firm

Whitney Moore. Educated at St. Andrew's College and UCD, he also holds a Higher Diploma in Business & Information Technology from UCD.

He takes up his position in October and will assume responsibility for the various charitable activities of Protestant Aid, the sheltered housing at Brabazon Trust and St John's House and the €10 million redevelopment at St John's House.

The New PA Website

A NEW WAY OF GIVING

Our new-look website has been well received and presents a very contemporary look with improved navigation - check it out at www.protestantaid.org



A new feature of the website that has already been widely used is the facility to donate online. This [Donate Today](#) eliminates the need for cheques, envelopes and postage and the entire process is seamless and easy. Please consider donating today in the knowledge that 100% of your gift is used to help those in need, with no deductions for administrative costs. Thank you for your help.

Subscribers' Generosity



Protestant Aid is able to distribute every euro it receives and that is thanks to the on-going generosity of loyal subscribers who consistently contribute every year by cheque, standing order or online.

The personal tax element of subscriptions over €250 from taxpayers can be reclaimed by Protestant Aid while those giving a gift of assets can do so without the imposition of Capital Gains Tax.

Special Thanks

The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government has been a consistent supporter of PA's work over the years - in fact, since the mid-90s - and 2015 was no exception.

The Department again provided an annual grant of €150,000 as well as an additional €30,000 amount for those with urgent needs, and as with all donations to PA, this was distributed without any deductions for overheads. PA is most grateful for this generous addition to its funds.

Legacies

Legacies have become an increasingly important contribution to PA's funds in recent years and are an invaluable resource because they can be invested wisely for use in the future.

They are entrusted to PA by those who have left provision in their wills for the continuity of PA's work, so current subscribers are 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: _____ Email: _____

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 enclose 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 D04 K2N6.**