



# Volunteer Centre

Ionad Deonach Na Fhine Ghall

FINGAL



## Fingal Volunteer Centre

**Annual Report 2008**



# + Welcome

“How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment:  
we can start now, start slowly changing the world!  
How lovely that everyone, great and small,  
can make a contribution toward introducing justice straight away.”

- Anne Frank

We are surrounded by stories of people we know and people we don't who have done seemingly simple everyday things, but which have changed the lives of others. Every day a silent army goes about its business, changing lives. Mary helps out at a homework club, John is helping a small community organisation set up its website, Gladys fosters stray dogs until a home can be found for them, Derek runs conversational English classes, and Piotr is re-building a garden space for a local family support service: the list is endless and the possibilities boundless. Fingal Volunteer Centre has had

the privilege of being involved in this process, and in 2008 we saw ever increasing numbers of people come forward wanting to help.

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2008. Volunteering has seen an increased popularity over the last 12 months that presents opportunities and challenges for the voluntary sector. Fingal Volunteer Centre is here to support both volunteers and organisations take advantage of this.

*Paul Harkin, Manager & Glynis Dunne, Development Worker.*



## Volunteer-Involving Organisations

**Around half  
of the  
vacancies  
registered  
found  
volunteers**

As a relatively new organisation, particularly in certain parts of the County, 2008 was about building relationships with the community. It was important for FVC to get its name and brand out there, to inform the community of the services we provide and get an understanding of the needs and possibilities in the community sector. It was also a year for building the number, variety and geographical spread of organisations and vacancies on the database. With such a large, spread out County, it is important that we try to have a range of vacancies in a range of areas – always a challenge! To help us in this aim, we attended various community meetings and events, we held our own information evenings and made contact with various organisations.

In 2008, **61** new organisations registered with the Centre and **190** new vacancies were registered. This was well above

our targets of 50 and 100 respectively. Importantly, **99** volunteering opportunities in 2008 found volunteers.

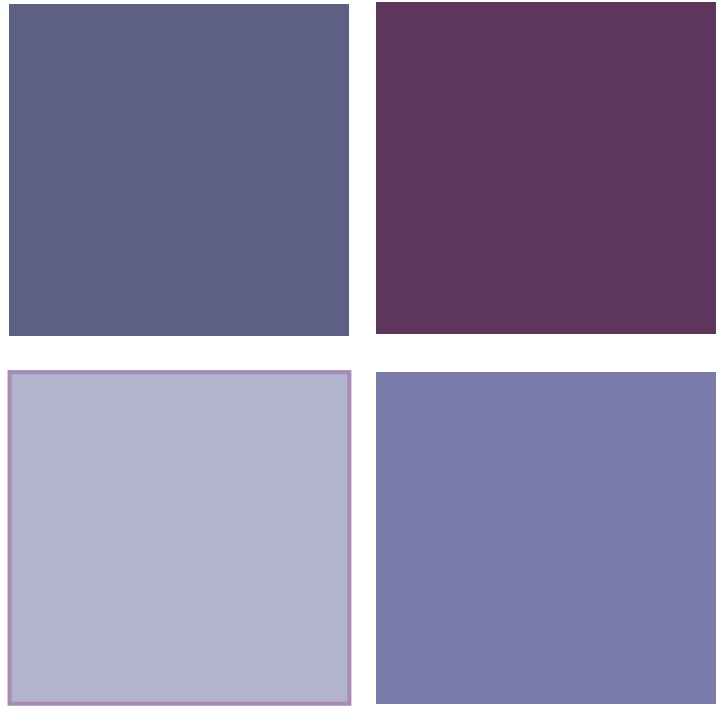
Our free Garda Vetting service was also launched in 2008. This is an important service for small community groups working with children and vulnerable adults.

We also participated in the National Day of Volunteering – Give It A Swirl Day in September and supported a local council organise a village clear-up, that went off very successfully. We expect 2009 to be a bigger event.

Another important role for the Fingal Volunteer Centre is the provision of advice, guidance and training on volunteer recruitment and management matters. While the Centre has provided this service on request, we have also supported VCI in developing training modules on Volunteer Management. These will be rolled out in 2009.

*I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.*

George Bernard Shaw



# So you think you want volunteers?

## **The Community Organisation:**

L'Arche is a faith-based community service for adults with a disability. They believe that their service users should experience a real family and community experience and to that end have two houses in Baldoyle where adults with disabilities live full-time with volunteers who spend a year living in the community. We have worked with L'Arche to find a number of volunteers to assist with such things as cleaning, maintenance and even assisted with finding painters to help spruce up the house recently.

## **The Volunteer:**

Saoirse came to us in 2008 because she felt that she wanted to give something back to the community. Saoirse has interest and experience in computers, web design and event management. After some thought and discussion we approached Saoirse about assisting a community group to develop a website that could act as both a promotional tool for the group and allow the group members to keep in touch. That website is now up and running and Saoirse has moved onto assisting another group with their brand and web design.



## and the Volunteers?

In 2008, **470** volunteers registered with the service, meaning that our targets for the year were greatly surpassed. These volunteers come with a wide variety of skills and interests and have varying expectations from their volunteering. This has presented both challenges and opportunities for volunteer involving organisations. For example, rising unemployment saw increasing numbers of people use volunteering as a way to improve their employability. This has had impacts for organisations in the length of time volunteers are available to volunteer and their expectations of the volunteering role. Increasing numbers of younger volunteers seek much more structured volunteering opportunities with training and supervision provided.

2009's Volunteer Management Training should go some way to helping organisations take advantage of these new situations.

**99**

the number of  
volunteers placed in  
2008

**9,287**

the number of  
hours worked by  
volunteers in 2008

When someone new registers with the service they receive an email outlining how the service works and inviting them to make an appointment with us if they want. All volunteers will receive a call from Glynis or myself to see how they are progressing. Once they find an opportunity we will try to keep in touch with them while they go through the application process, becoming more actively involved if necessary.

For many organisations, the time between applying and starting can take a couple of months due to applications, interviews, references, garda vetting and induction training.

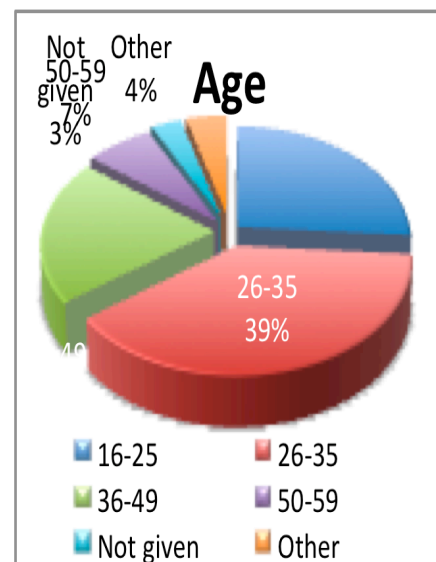
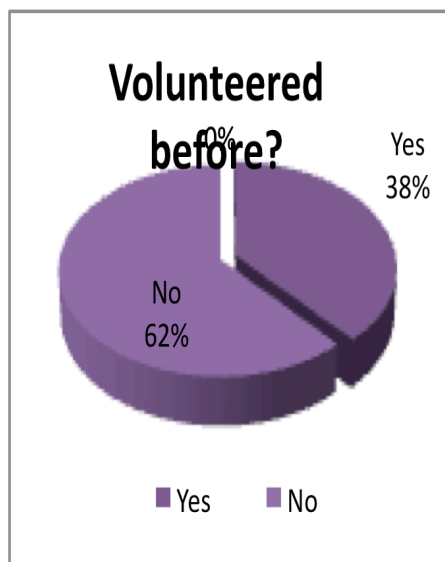
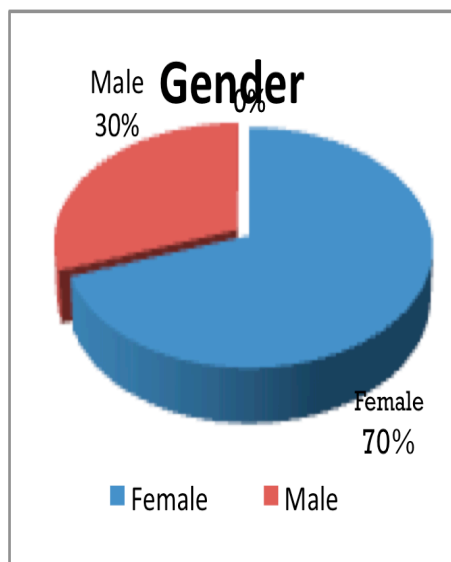
We will be engaging our own FVC volunteers during 2009 to review all volunteers to update our database on the outcomes in their cases.

## top Volunteering reasons:

Give something back (102); Make a difference (70); Want to do something in my community (60); Free time (47); Gain or improve skills (43); Work experience (38); Interested in issue (30); Meet new people (25)



# The Statistics!



## Volunteer Recruitment

Method	
Supported Project	2
Passing by	3
Word of mouth	5
Through work	5
Leaflets/Fliers	9
Outreach	11
School/College	12
Media	34
Referred by other agency	39
Family/Friend	57
Internet	293

## Volunteer Nationality

Irish	314
Nigerian	40
Other	39
Spanish	13
English	10
Polish	8
French	6
Other Asian Nations	5
Other African Nations	4
Chinese	3
American	3
Latvian	3
Congolese	3
Other American	2
Hungary	2
Lithuanian	2
German	1

## Volunteer Interests

Not sure	51
Youth/Children	46
Animals	43
Social Work	35
Health/Disability	31
Older people	30
Education/Literacy	27
Office	25
Arts/Culture/Media	25
Environment	20
Practical Work	19
Befriending	15
Childcare	15
Shop/Retail	15
Computers	13
Sports/Recreation	13
Information Giver	9
Phone Line Help	9
Fundraising	6



# Company Details

Fingal Volunteer Centre is an independent and free matching service to encourage more people to become more involved in volunteering across the county. We provide information and advice to people interested in volunteering and to organisations looking for volunteers.

## Legal Status

Fingal Volunteer Centre Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, registered in Dublin, Ireland, with a registered office at Dillon House, 106 Coolmine Industrial Estate, Clonsilla. Dublin 15.

Registered Number: 434396; Charity Number: CHY 17730

## Management Committee & Staff

Our Management Committee for 2008 consisted of: Terry McCabe (Director & Company Secretary); Noreen Colgan (Director); Amanda McLoughlin (Chair); Valerie McAllorum Byrne ; Pauline Mangan; Linda Desmond; Ann Neville.

Many thanks to Laetitia Deletang, Development Worker until July 2008, who did so much in getting Fingal Volunteer Centre of the ground.

## Funders & Supporters

Fingal Volunteer Centre was funded in 2008 by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Fingal County Council; and supported in its work by Volunteer Centres Ireland; Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Fingal Leader Partnership, Citizen's Information Board and Age Action Ireland.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have assisted the Centre in 2008.

## Budget Summary

DCRGA	96,397.00
FCC Community Department	22,749.00
TOTAL	119,146.00
2008 Expenditure	104,712.64
Returned to DCRGA	14,433.36

We were under budget this year due to an underspend in salaries.



# Contacting us



## Fingal Volunteer Centre

Manager: Paul Harkin

Development Worker: Glynis Dunne

BLANCHARDSTOWN: Dillon House, Unit 106 Coolmine Industrial Estate, Clonsilla, Dublin 15

SWORDS: 2 Forest Mews, Forest Road, Swords

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