

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**Companies Registration
Office Number: 434396
Charity Registration
Number: 20066574**



www.volunteerfingal.ie

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Our Vision

"A vibrant Fingal; where every person feels connected to their community through active participation in voluntary activities."

Our Mission

"To promote the value of volunteering and increase the range and quality of volunteering in Fingal."



About us

Fingal Volunteer Centre is an independent organisation, which is part of a volunteer network that consists of 29 Volunteer Centres. Fingal Volunteer Centre is an affiliate of Volunteer Ireland.

Our Core Values

Connectivity: Volunteering is a positive movement within society which enables people to connect with others and their communities.

Equality/Inclusion: We believe all people should be valued and respected equally. We are also committed to identifying and removing barriers that prevent inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Community Ownership: We believe that healthy communities can respond to their own social needs and issues and volunteering is one mechanism that assists these causes.

Sustainability: We champion durable solutions and commitment.

Purpose

The intent of this annual report is to provide public disclosure of our organisation's operating and financial activities over the past year.

Our annual report is an opportunity to connect with the wider community and demonstrate the impact volunteering can have. It illustrates what we have accomplished over the past year and our plans for the year ahead. It allow us to show our stakeholders the impact their funding has had and will continue to have in the Fingal area.

Chairperson's Statement

2023 was the first full year of operation post the Covid 19 epidemic. The Fingal Volunteer Centre operating model has evolved to a blended one that facilitates office and remote working. There was a significant turnover in personnel, mid-2023 with 75% staff churn, and this partially impacted on the ability to deliver the full work programme. The Board appointed an acting Office Manager and 2 new personnel in July. Notwithstanding, a successful volunteer award event was held in Swords in December 2023. It recognised a significant number of noteworthy Organisations and their Volunteers.

In 2023, the Board met on six occasions. One new Director was appointed, while two resigned. The Board discussed with Management the delivery of core 2023 activity programmes, reviewed the ongoing financial position and ensured that its policies were being applied and updated accordingly in line with the Charities code and best practice.

The Board with Management reviewed the implementation of the Fingal Volunteer Centre Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and noted the progress made. New processes were developed and deployed to aid the efficient operation of the centre.

Fingal Volunteer Centre CLG has and continues to enjoy the support of the Department of Rural and Community Development and Fingal County Council, we thank them for this. The Board recognises the dedication and support of the staff at the Fingal Volunteer Centre who gave generous commitment to the delivery of the programmes throughout 2023.

Shane Clarke
Chairman



Trustees 2023



Shane Clarke
Joanne Moody
Gwendoline McGowan
John Hayes
John O'Toole
Olga Byrne

Staff



Daiga Martins Borges
Chiara Tamborini
Julie Cahill
Megan McGrath
Nilofar Makhani
Ruth Bannon
Aurore Gregoire

Volunteers



Eddie Doyle
Olga Byrne
Desmond Gbenga Aghahowa
Nilofar Makhani
Smeet Kasar
Helena Collazo
Sepideh Zamani

Governance Standards

The Company is limited by guarantee and governed by a Board of Directors. As it is a non-profit organisation there are no shareholders and any profits are reinvested in the company. Although Fingal Volunteer Centre is an independent company, it is also part of the network of 29 Volunteer Centres and an affiliate of Volunteer Ireland.

We publish an Annual Report and produce audited accounts each year.

We are registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRN 434396)

Objectives for the Year 2023

Increase Access to Volunteering by Offering a Support Service to the Public and Volunteering Involving Organisations (VIOs).

Increase the Quality of Volunteering.

Increase Awareness of Volunteering by Marketing and Promoting Volunteering.

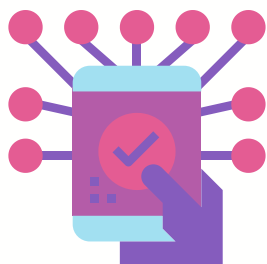
Ensure the Organisation is Sustainable through Good Governance and Management.



Connecting Volunteers and Organisations

1059

**New Volunteers
Registered**

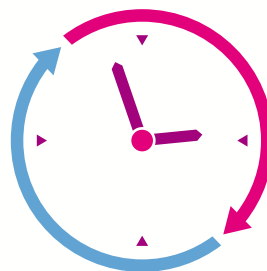


38

**New Organisations
Registered**

22,293

**Hours gifted by volunteers
were recorded**



Promoting Volunteering across Fingal

To future Volunteers

- ✓ Volunteer Expos in Baldoyle and Dublin 15
- ✓ Several Radio Interviews on Phoenix FM
- ✓ Participation in Age Friendly Fingal events
- ✓ Presentation for people with additional needs
- ✓ Welcome to Volunteering Sessions in IPAS centres



To existing Volunteers

5397 Volunteers in our mailing list

12 Newsletters to Volunteers



Training & Organisations support



**Fingal
Managing
Volunteers
Award**

Gradam i
mBainistíocht
Oibríthe
Deonach
Fhine Gail

Fingal Managing Volunteers Award 3 Organisations reached a new level

Malahide Park Run achieved Level 1

Children 4 World Children achieved Level 3

Balbriggan Integration Forum achieved Level 3



Co-organised the Dublin Managers of Volunteers Conference

Organised jointly by the 4 Dublin Volunteer Centres, the Conference enhanced volunteering through the promotion of best practice in volunteer management.



Delivering training to organisations' leaders

Training sessions dedicated to Leaders in Fingal:

- * Fundamentals of Volunteer Engagement
- * Volunteer Policy – The Fundamentals

Recognition



Thrive Balbriggan won the 2023 Volunteer Award in the Medium Group Category at the annual Volunteer Ireland Awards.



In celebration of International Volunteer Day, on December 5th, 160 certificates were awarded to volunteers in Fingal. The awards ceremony took place on December 14th.



Garda Vetting

1431 Garda Vetting
requests processed

1072 Completed
disclosure certs sent

115 Affiliates
(organisations
registered with us)



**During the year we
investigated an upgraded
platform for 2024 to benefit
the centre and the affiliate
organisations**

Programmes

Fingal Community Volunteers

Community Volunteers started in 2021, the Community Volunteer programme continued to grow with 131 new volunteers joining in 2023.

*For more details see Appendix A



THRIVE is a joint project of the four Dublin Volunteer Centres, working together with volunteer-involving organisations across County Dublin. We are providing information, resources and training to help organisations break down the barriers faced by displaced people who want to volunteer.

*For more details see Appendix B



Stakeholders

Department of Community and Rural Development

Volunteers

Volunteer Involving Organisations

Fingal County Council

Main Challenges

**Team size vs demand in such a large
and high populated area.**

**Lack of public transports across Fingal,
limiting many volunteers to very local opportunities.**

High turnover of leaders and volunteers in VIOs.

Lack of visibility regarding future funding for ongoing programmes.



Volunteer Testimonial

What I have learnt most from your experience of volunteering?

Personally, I have learned to be more thoughtful, empathetic, and how best to connect people with opportunities which has and still is very fulfilling.

What advice or suggestions I would give others who want to start volunteering?

Just go for it! There are a ton of volunteering opportunities been offered so my advice is to find something that resonates with you as an individual and enjoy the process!

My favourite part of volunteering for me is the feeling of being part of something bigger! It is almost inexplicable. However, I truly love being able to connect with different persons which is what I love.

I decided to volunteer so I can give back to my community in my own little way. Anyhow I can make the world a better place I am always up for such and through being a volunteer, I am able to achieve this.

Would I recommend volunteering to others? Most definitely I will and have already done so. The important thing is to find out a cause you are passionate about and then follow through with it.

Desmond Aghahowa – *Fingal Volunteer Centre Volunteer*

Future Plans / Key Priorities for 2024

Delivery of objectives against the agreed workplan and the national volunteering strategy 2021-2025.

Increase visibility across Fingal - Participate in community events to promote our work.

Continue to deliver on current programmes, keep promoting and growing them.

Improve current and develop new partnerships.

Continue working with VIOs to facilitate access to volunteering from under-represented groups.



Financials

Fingal Volunteer Centre Company Limited

For the financial year ending 31 December 2023 (€)

Income	231,640
Expenditure	(205,411)
Surplus for the financial year	26,229
Total Comprehensive income	26,229

*Audit currently in progress

FINGAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS REPORT 2023

Fingal
Community
Volunteers



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Fingal Community Volunteers



Introduction

The Fingal Community Volunteers is a project managed by Fingal Volunteer Centre and is part of a wider national Community Volunteers campaign. The mission of the Community Volunteers is to support community and non-profit events throughout the county as well as providing a coordinated response in the case of a civil emergency.

In Fingal, this programme succeeded to the Event Volunteers programme, running since 2013, supporting community and non-profit events and acting as a stepping-stone for many new volunteers before moving to a more permanent volunteering position with a VIO.

131 new volunteers were onboarded into our community volunteers programme during the year with 104 individuals volunteers participating in at least 1 event during the year



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



Fingal
Community
Volunteers



VOLUNTEERING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Type of Events Supported



Climate / Environment

Tree planting - Ukrainian Inclusion - Newbridge House
Tree planting - St Patrick Day - Newbridge House
Baldoye BioSphere festival - Baldoye



Festival / Family day out

Safer Together Festival - Blanchardstown
Flavour of Fingal - Donabate
Howth Maritime & Seafood Festival - Howth
Swords Festival of Fire - Swords



Integration & Sporting

PTSB Sanctuary Run Course Marshal - Sport Ireland Campus
Dublin Simon Home Run - Phoenix Park
UCI Cyclo-Cross World Cup - Sport Ireland Campus



Promotion of Volunteering

Spring Fingal Volunteer Expo - Baldoye
School Summit - Sports Ireland Campus
Fingal Volunteer Expo Dublin 15 - Blanchardstown
International Volunteer Day Celebration - Swords



Key Statistics at a glance

14 Events supported over **18** days

173 Shifts registered for

877 Hours of volunteering to local community events

104 Individual Community Volunteers have volunteered at an event in **2023**

131 131 new Community Volunteers registrations in 2023, bringing the number of CV across Fingal since 2021 to 284

400 Over 400 hours by **52** volunteers living in temporary accommodation*

(*) Based on address provided by volunteers and recognised as an IPAS centre by FVC staff

42 Nationalities represented

60% of Community Volunteers have indicated a nationality other than Irish

Community Volunteer Stories

What I have learnt from my experience of volunteering as a Community Volunteer is that I like volunteer work and get great personal satisfaction from it while hopefully helping others in some small way. The advice or suggestions I would give others who want to start volunteering is to join and to give it a go – sign up for one or two events and see how you feel after doing them. My favourite part of being a Community Volunteer is just stepping outside of my comfort zone, engaging with new people, and participating in events I would otherwise not do. Feeling I can help people and contribute to something very worthwhile. I wanted to become a Community Volunteer to help in any way I could and gain new experiences. I felt it would be a productive, rewarding way to use some of my spare time too (which it is!). Would I recommend volunteering as a Community Volunteer to others? Yes, absolutely!

Jacqueline



UKRAINE/DISPLACED PERSONS FUNDING REPORT 2023



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About the Ukrainian/Displaced Persons Supports

Through the Ukraine / Displaced Person fund, Fingal Volunteer Centre has supported people newly arrived in Fingal and/or living in emergency/temporary accommodation in Fingal with a variety of events and volunteer opportunities.

91 i-VOL
THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING DATABASE

**New volunteers living in IPAS
centre have signed up to I-VOL***

i 3 In-person
group information
sessions

1
THRIVE
INVOLVING VOLUNTEERS

**Development officer shared by the
4 Dublin Volunteer Centres to work
with displaced people across the
Dublin region**

Over 400h

**of volunteering with Fingal
Community Volunteers by 52
person living in temporary
accommodation***

(*) Based on address provided by volunteers and recognised as an IPAS centre by FVC staff



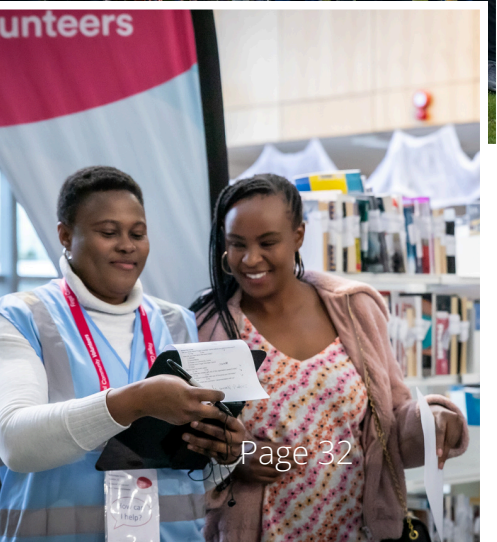
THRIVE is a joint project of the four Dublin Volunteer Centres.
Working together with Volunteer Involving Organisations across County
Dublin,

we are providing information, resources and training to help organisations
break down the barriers faced by displaced people who want to volunteer.

During the year, the FVC team, supported by the Thrive worker, worked with
organisations to increase the capacity to involve displaced people.

Some outputs from the project are below





Organisation Testimonial

The most important contribution to our organisation is through our community gardens, which we operate in Dublin City and Fingal. In both programmes, the number of volunteers has increased exponentially through the participation of IPAs's. As a result, the number of people that we are reaching has shot up.

They have also helped us strengthen our focus on social inclusion, as so many of the IPAs indicate that among the reasons they have for participating in our programmes is their wish to feel more part of the community. They have also reinforced the multiculturalism in our programme, which we celebrate with regular food parties, where IPAs and people in Direct Provision cook the food from their home countries, and share it with all participants.

Our programmes aim to provide an urban green space where people of all backgrounds feel welcome, and part of the community. See [here](#).

We have people with disabilities, with mental health issues, and from different countries, all mingling and enjoying nature together. And all learning about living more sustainably.

The sharing of knowledge and experience, and the sense of belonging, are key factors in our success as an organisation.

Would we recommend involving internationally protected persons volunteers to another organisation? Absolutely!

Hans from Global Action plan



Volunteer Testimonial

What I have learnt most from my experience of volunteering is I have learnt new things about my community engagement ,I learnt about teamwork and trying new skills which has really been helpful to my personal growth .

What advice or suggestions I would give fellow internationally protected persons who are considering starting their volunteering journey is Look for organisations that matches your values and interest. It's good to be a part of the growth of any community you find yourself in.

My favourite part of volunteering was re-painting the Blanch Village bridge, meeting & interacting with new people,feeling a sense of purpose & also planting.

I wanted to Volunteer because I want to make a tangible difference in my community and also learn and develop new skills especially teamwork.

Would I recommend volunteering to other internationally protected persons? I have already recommended volunteering to 2 person so YES I would definitely recommend volunteering to more people.

Esther



Expenditures



€10,000

**Displaced people project and salary contribution
for development officer shared accross the 4
Dublin Centres**



€400

**Equipment for events - Transport,
Gloves...**



€22,700

**Project management costs &
FVC Staff salary**



**Total spent:
€33,100**



Fingal Volunteer Centre

Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Fhine Ghall



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

**QES House, 8c, Birch House,
Rosemount Business Park,
Dublin 11,
D11 A9FP**

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