

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



www.volunteerfingal.ie



Company Number: 434396



Registered Charity Number: 20066574

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Fingal Volunteer Centre Annual Report

Company Name:	Fingal Volunteer Centre CLG
Company Number:	434396
Registered Charity Number:	20066574
CHY Number:	17730
Registered Office:	QES House, 8 Birch House, Rosemount Business Park, Dublin 11, D11 A9FP
Board of Directors 2024:	Shane Clarke (Chair) Olga Byrne (Secretary) Marie Catherine Ryan (Secretary & VC) Laura DeBenedetto Pat Hayes Anna Clarke Cara Murphy
Auditors:	Crowleys DFK Unlimited Company Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm 16/17 College Green Dublin 2 D02 V078
Bankers:	Allied Irish Bank St George's Square Balbriggan Dublin



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 organisations 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

2024 was a successful year for the Fingal Volunteer Centre. The Fingal Volunteer Centre operating model is a blended one that facilitates office and remote working. The Board appointed the acting Office Manager as the permanent manager during 2024. There were a number of successful events delivered, including the Volunteer Appreciation Evening and the Fingal Managing Volunteers Award event which were held in Malahide Grand hotel in December 2024. This event recognises the significant contributions of noteworthy Organisations and Volunteers within the Fingal area.

In 2024, the Board met regularly, the intention being to meet at least once every two months. New Directors were appointed, bringing both additional HR and Financial expertise to the Board. The Board discussed with management the delivery of core 2024 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 2024.

Shane Clarke
Board Chairperson



Manager's Statement

As we reflect on 2024, I am proud of the incredible work made by Fingal Volunteer Centre team in supporting a culture of volunteerism across our community.

During the year, we expanded our outreach throughout Fingal and reached new localities. We continued to focus on inclusion, accessibility, and innovation, working towards a community in Fingal where volunteering is open to all. Whether it is one-off roles or long-term commitments, in-person or remote opportunities, individual or group activities, we see everyday how diverse and impactful volunteering can be. The team worked tirelessly to match individuals with roles that suit their skills, availability, and passions while supporting organisations with tailored guidance and training.

I want to thank our dedicated team, volunteers, board members, organisations and community partners for their continued support and belief in the power of volunteering. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected Fingal by making a significant difference in the lives of individuals and the community. As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of promoting and supporting volunteering, and we look forward to even greater achievements in the future.

Aurore
Manager, Fingal Volunteer Centre



Meet the Fingal Volunteer Centre Team

The team at Fingal Volunteer Centre is dedicated to promoting and supporting volunteering across the county. In 2024, our team continued to work closely with individuals, community groups, and charities to ensure that volunteering remains accessible, inclusive, and rewarding for all.

Through one-to-one support, training, and outreach, the team helps match people with meaningful volunteer roles and supported organisations in building strong volunteer programmes. Our supports are rooted in collaboration, community spirit, and the belief that volunteering can make a real and lasting difference in people's lives—and in the wider Fingal community.



Our Team

Aurore Gregoire - Fingal Volunteer Centre Manager



As the Volunteer Centre Manager, I am responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of Fingal Volunteer Centre. My role involves implementing our strategic objectives to ensure that the Centre runs effectively and in line with the Board's vision and the governance standards. I am surrounded by a dedicated team with whom we regularly review our practices to foster a culture of innovation and reach for best practices.

I also work closely with local and national partners to create meaningful programmes that support volunteerism. It's a privilege to help strengthen our community through the power of volunteering.

Ruth Bannon - Outreach and Community Volunteer Officer



As the Community Volunteer Officer, I support Fingal-based organisations, including charities, Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and Fingal County Council, in coordinating their one-off events. I oversee the recruitment and training of volunteers through our national database. I deliver presentations to community groups and in hospitals, schools, and accommodation centres.

My role fosters a culture of volunteering, focusing on inclusivity and integration. I meet with both volunteer organisations and individuals, connecting volunteers with local opportunities that match their skills and interests, ensuring each placement supports both the volunteer and the community effectively.

Our Team

Megan McGrath- Volunteer Engagement and Outreach Officer



As the Outreach and Engagement Officer at Fingal Volunteer Centre, I support individuals in finding volunteer opportunities that suit their interests and availability.

A key part of my role involves running the Volunteer Centre Pop-Ups across all ten Fingal libraries. These events provide a welcoming space for one-to-one conversations with volunteers (prospective or current) and leaders in local organisations.

I also assist with the Community Volunteers programme, represent the Volunteer Centre at community events & networking sessions and support the promotion and application process for the Fingal Managing Volunteer Awards.

Nilofar Makhani - Placement Officer



As Placement Officer at Fingal Volunteer Centre, I support individuals in finding suitable volunteer opportunities by managing and tracking placements through I-VOL. I ensure volunteers are matched effectively and follow up to support a positive experience. I maintain accurate data, monitor placement trends, and contribute to the Centre's quality standards. I also work with/ I am supported by internal volunteers, coordinating their roles and ensuring a smooth experience within the Centre.

Additionally, I create and distribute newsletters to keep volunteers and organisations informed and engaged. I help organising events such as volunteer fairs, coffee mornings, and workshops, focusing on strengthening community involvement throughout Fingal.

Our Team

Julie Kinsella - Garda Vetting Liaison Officer & Office Administrator



As the Garda Vetting Officer and Administrator I am responsible for overseeing the Garda vetting process, ensuring compliance with the National Vetting Bureau (NVB) legislation and GDPR regulations. I manage the end-to-end processing of vetting applications, and ensure a seamless experience for organisations. Beyond Garda vetting, I also oversee the maintenance of the Fingal Volunteer Centre website, ensuring it remains up to date and user-friendly. I coordinate the FMVA project, recognising and celebrating excellence in volunteer management.

“

**Alone we can do so little; together we
can do so much!**

”

Our Volunteers

Placement and support volunteers

The Placement and support Team at Fingal Volunteer Centre plays a vital role in supporting individuals across the community to find suitable volunteer opportunities. Comprised of dedicated volunteers, including **Desmond Gbenga Aghahowa, Sepideh Zamani, Helena Collazo, and Sepideh Zamani**, the team focuses on connecting individuals with local organisations in need of their skills and time.

Key responsibilities include using Salesforce CRM to track, follow up, and engage with registered volunteers, while maintaining detailed and accurate records of all interactions. Volunteers also ensure that data is regularly updated and cleansed to maintain quality. The team reports on volunteer activities at the end of each shift and actively works to ensure that every placement is meaningful and aligned with the volunteer's interests and skills.

Through collaboration and effective communication, the Placement Team helps foster a culture of volunteering in Fingal, offering volunteers the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in volunteer management and CRM systems. This role is integral to the Centre's mission of strengthening communities through volunteer engagement.



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 2024

Ensure organisational development and sustainability through good governance and effective and efficient management.

Connect people with volunteering opportunities, increasing participation & diversity.

Build the capacity of Volunteer Involving Organisations to engage volunteers and enhance the quality of the volunteering experience.

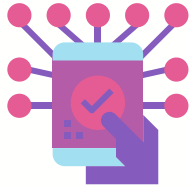
Increase the understanding and awareness of volunteering through recognising, celebrating, and communicating its benefits, value, and impact.

Work with others to strengthen and advance volunteering locally, regionally, and nationally.



Connecting Volunteers and Organisations

1007



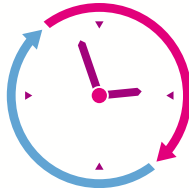
**Volunteer
Registrations**



44

**New Organisations
Registered**

16,770



**Hours gifted by
volunteers**



Promoting Volunteering across Fingal

To future Volunteers

Volunteer Expos in Baldoye and Dublin 15

Welcome to Volunteering Sessions in IPAS centres

Participation in Age Friendly Fingal events

Talks in events for people with additional needs

Several Radio Interviews on Phoenix FM



To existing Volunteers

5476 Volunteers received email communications

12 Newsletters to volunteers

14 Volunteer Centre Pop up events



Training & Organisations support

Connecting local business with local organisations



In 2024, Fingal Volunteer Centre helped link a local business with Down Syndrome Ireland's centre in Swords for a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) day. The company's team gave their time to improve the outdoor communal space, making it more enjoyable and accessible for service users and their families. They also made a generous financial contribution to support the centre's ongoing work. This collaboration is a great example of how businesses can have a real, lasting impact in their local community.

Supports available to Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIO's)

Library Pop up - the Volunteer Centre Pop-Ups started in Q4 2024 across all ten Fingal libraries and provide one to one support to leaders of organisations.

Coffee morning - offers informal support through a relaxed space either online or in person to connect, share experiences, and access guidance.



Delivering training to organisations' leaders

- Training sessions dedicated to Leaders in Fingal:
- * Fundamentals of Volunteer Engagement
 - * Volunteer Policy – The Fundamentals

Recognition

In celebration of International Volunteer Day on December 5th, 200+ certificates were awarded to volunteers in Fingal as part of an Volunteer Appreciation evening.



2 Organisations reached a new level in FMVA*

Avista achieved Level 1
Malahide Park Run achieved Level 2

Fingal Managing Volunteers Award (FMVA) is sponsored by Fingal County Council and aims to promote best practice in volunteer management within organisations in Fingal.



Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council



Volunteering & Mental Health

Wellbeing Survey

In collaboration with the other Dublin VCs, we conducted a survey to assess impact of Volunteering on Wellbeing. **500 respondents across Dublin**.

The results were shared in our newsletters in October 2024 during World Mental Health Day.

Sense of Purpose



97.2%

of volunteers say that volunteering is worthwhile, makes a difference



“ —

It's a breath of fresh air every time I volunteer.

— ”

Our commitment to Mental Health

Fingal Volunteer Centre was invited by the psychiatric wards at Mater Private and Blanchardstown Hospital to give a presentation about the importance and positive impact of volunteering on mental health. The talk focused on how engaging in volunteer work can help individuals develop a sense of purpose, build confidence, and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Staff and patients were encouraged to consider how volunteering, even in small ways, can contribute to personal growth and emotional well-being. The presentation also highlighted real-life examples of how volunteering has positively influenced the lives of people facing mental health challenges, reinforcing its value as a powerful tool for recovery and resilience.





Volunteering & Mental Health

Mental Health Ireland/ Thrive

Thrive is an international movement that supports communities through engagement and activities that build and nurture our mental health and wellbeing. It is shaped and led by you and your community and supported by Mental Health Ireland.



Fingal Volunteer Centre supported Mental Health Ireland and the Thrive initiative at the following events:

- Talked on the “5 ways of Wellbeing” - presentations on Give -about how you giving back i.e. volunteering can have such a positive impact on mental health
- Supported the “Hello, how are you champaign” - raising awareness about mental Ireland in Swords Pavilions
- Supported mental health fundraiser in Blanchardstown shopping centre in September 2024
- Provided support in recruiting and connecting volunteers for the Thrive Swords initiatives, as well as for the Swords Thrive Board of Trustees.
- Offered support through their forums and maintained regular communication with their team to ensure effective collaboration and alignment of goals.



Programmes

Fingal Community Volunteers

Community Volunteers started in 2021, the Community Volunteer programme continued to grow with 195 volunteers fully trained and still active to date.

*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. ThrIVE provides information, resources and training to help organisations break down the barriers faced by new arrivals in Ireland who want to volunteer.

*For more details see Appendix B



Garda Vetting

1325 Garda Vetting
requests processed



986 Disclosure
certificates sent

114 Affiliates
(organisations
registered with us)



In 2024, we upgraded our
Garda Vetting platform to
offer a smoother experience
to our affiliated organisations.



Volunteer Involving Organisations Testimonial

At OCD Ireland, we rely heavily on the support and dedication of volunteers to help us fulfil our mission. In 2024, we advertised a number of voluntary roles through i-Vol, including support group facilitators, website developers, communications officers, and designers. The process was incredibly smooth—once we submitted our listings, the Fingal Volunteer Centre team handled promotion through their website and newsletters.

The response we received to our roles / volunteering advertisements was outstanding. We were able to connect with skilled, committed individuals who are now playing a key role in helping us grow and strengthen our organisation. The volunteer centre team has been instrumental in allowing us to bring in specialised expertise and expand our impact in a meaningful way.

We're very grateful for the Fingal Volunteer Centre team support and look forward to continuing our work together as we develop new services and supports in the months ahead.

Ian O'Brien
OCD Ireland





Main Stakeholders

**Department of Community and
Rural Development**

Volunteers

Volunteer Involving Organisations

Fingal County Council

The General Public

Main Challenges

Office not suitable to welcome visitors

Lack of visibility regarding future funding of key programmes

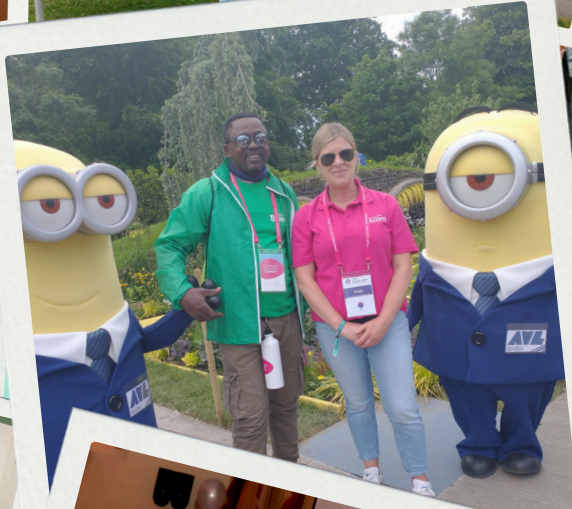
Recruit and retain board members

Cost of Living - pressure on costs across the sector

Liaising with new organisations active in the local community

Cost of Living - pressure on salaries to attract and retain staff





Volunteer Testimonial

My volunteer work with FVC has proven to be an exceptionally rewarding journey, offering a multitude of opportunities for personal and professional growth. Through my involvement, I've not only acquired valuable skills in Salesforce, teamwork, and communication but also had the pleasure of connecting with a diverse and inspiring group of individuals who share a common passion for technology & volunteering. The projects I've contributed to have provided practical experience and a deeper understanding of salesforce database support. This experience has broadened my perspective, enhanced my ability to collaborate effectively, and instilled in me a profound sense of fulfillment in contributing to a meaningful cause. I am truly grateful for the enriching experiences and the lasting connections I've made during my time volunteering with FVC.

Inspired by a friend's community service, I began volunteering. Her passion for helping others sparked my desire to contribute. Her selfless actions and positive impact created a sense of purpose. Beyond altruism, I saw volunteering as an invaluable opportunity for personal and professional growth, allowing me to develop skills in diverse environments. This dual benefit of contributing and enhancing my capabilities solidified my decision to volunteer.

Driven by my aspiration to volunteer, I explored the FVC website and discovered the Salesforce database support admin role, which aligned well with my skills and interests.

My application journey began in January 2024. Following a successful application, I had an interview in June 2024 with my lead, where the role's expectations were clearly outlined. My volunteer experience commenced in September 2024 with a couple of weeks of training, after which I began actively contributing.

Volunteering with FVC has been a truly enjoyable and enriching experience. I am eager to continue learning and support the community to the best of my capacity.

Regards,
Swetha Miryala
Placement and Support Volunteer



Volunteer Involving Organisations Testimonial

I am writing to acknowledge the invaluable support provided by the Fingal Volunteer Centre.

Throughout our collaboration, Fingal Volunteer Centre consistently offered exceptional guidance and assistance. Their dedication has been instrumental in the smooth integration and success of our new volunteers.

The Team is not only friendly and responsive but also deeply committed to the success of community projects. They offered valuable insights, assisted in identifying the appropriate target group, and provided guidance at every stage.

Thanks to the Fingal Volunteer Centre team's commitment and support, many volunteers have successfully settled into their roles and are making significant contributions.

I sincerely appreciate their assistance and would highly recommend their support to anyone embarking on a community project.

Wen Jin
Club Development Officer
Foróige



Future Plans

**Continue to promote the values of volunteerism
to foster a more connected community**

**Continue to support organisations delivering
community events across Fingal**

**Incorporate Sustainable Development Goals into
our work particularly focusing on equality and
environment**

**Make ourselves more visible and easy to reach for
the general public and leaders of organisations**



Financials

Fingal Volunteer Centre Company Limited

For the financial year ending 31 December 2024*

Income	€250,051
Expenditure	€238,132
Surplus for the financial year	€11,919
Total Comprehensive	€11,919

*Audit 2024 currently in progress



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**

**Contact us at:
info@volunteerfingal.ie
www.volunteerfingal.ie**

FINGAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS REPORT 2024

Fingal
Community
Volunteers



www.volunteerfingal.ie



Company Number: 434396



Registered Charity Number: 20066574



Fingal Community Volunteers



Introduction

Fingal Community Volunteers is a project managed by Fingal Volunteer Centre and is part of a 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. The project is funded by DRCD as part of a 3 years national Pilot (2021-2024).

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



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



Fingal
Community
Volunteers



VOLUNTEERING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Events Supported in 2024

Climate / Environment



Spring Clean-up at Howth Community Garden
Tree counting / Tree planting Analysis - Newbridge House
BioSphere festival - Baldoyle
Bloom - Phoenix Park
Eco Festival - Skerries



Festival / Family day out

St Patrick Day Parades - Balbriggan & Blanchardstown
Safer Together Festival - Blanchardstown
Flavour of Fingal - Donabate
Beach Festival - Balbriggan
Howth Maritime & Seafood Festival - Howth

Integration & Sporting



African Culture Day - Mulhuddart
All-Ireland Pipe Band Competition - Newbridge House Donabate
Waka-waka Africa - Mulhuddart
Mental Health Ireland Fundraising - Blanchardstown SC
UCI Cyclo-Cross World Cup - Sport Ireland Campus

Promotion of Volunteering



Spring Fingal Volunteer Expo - Baldoyle
School Summit - Sports Ireland Campus
Fingal Volunteer Expo Dublin 15 - Blanchardstown

Organisation Testimonial

I wanted to say thanks on behalf of Jo, Ryan, Louise, myself and all the team in Mental Health Ireland for your support with our fundraising and awareness raising weekend **Be There** in Blanchardstown Shopping Centre.

Your contribution made the weekend possible for us and the volunteers did a wonderful job in welcoming people and explaining the work that we do.

It was a very joyful weekend, and it was lovely to have so much community involvement and none of it would have been possible without the contribution of yourself and your volunteers.

The volunteers were a pleasure to work with and their enthusiasm was much appreciated. I have been asked to mention Thabang in particular, who kindly volunteered for both days. We hope that the volunteering was rewarding for everyone and we look forward to working with you again in the future.

Thank you!

Best regards,

Lisa

Dr Lisa Cuthbert

Mental Health Ireland CEO



Key Statistics at a glance

17

Events supported over **27** days

284

Shifts registered for

1423

Hours of volunteering to local
community events

97

Individual Community Volunteers
have volunteered at an event in **2024**

770

Over 770 hours by **52** volunteers living in
temporary accommodation*

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

44

Nationalities represented

62%

of Community Volunteers have
indicated a nationality other than
Irish



What our Volunteers are saying

“Volunteering has made a huge difference of my life . I noticed that I was the one who profited from volunteering in so many ways!”

“It has led to employment and when I retired I returned to volunteering”

“Volunteering has increased the application of my creativity.”

“It has brought me so much joy to help and support others in my community. Volunteering has equipped me with so many new skills and has given me an amazing sense of purpose.”

“I feel more connected with society. I believe what I have received from society, it's time for me to give the same back.”

“I was stuck at home and since I volunteer I have a reason to get dressed and get out. I meet great people and go to events I would not go otherwise.”



Expenditures



€4,600

Equipment/ PPE for Volunteers



€1,400

Snacks and Material for Volunteers



€120

Transport for Volunteers



€3,560

Storage



€38,200

Project management costs

Total spent: €47,880

*Amounts presented here are based on 2024 accounts before audit.





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**

**Contact us at:
info@volunteerfingal.ie
www.volunteerfingal.ie**

SUPPORT TO UKRAINIANS AND NEW COMMUNITIES

REPORT

2024



www.volunteerfingal.ie



Company Number: 434396



Registered Charity Number: 20066574

2024 Activities / Key numbers

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.

172 **i-VOL**
THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING DATABASE

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



5 

Welcome to volunteering information sessions

1 **THRIVE**
INVOLVING VOLUNTEERS

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



2024 Activities / Key numbers

120

Bus Tickets bought and given to facilitate volunteers coming to Community Volunteers events



3

Workshops to make cards for nursing home residents



Over 770h

of volunteering with Fingal Community Volunteers by 45 persons living in temporary accomodation*







Main Events Attended in 2024

Fingal Volunteer Centre is part of a network of entities working to support new arrivals in Ireland.

Events attended over the course of the year included:

Building Bridges Exhibition

Monthly Community Integration Forum Meetings

Launch of the Step-by-Step Guide to becoming an Anti-Racist Organisation - Organised by The Fingal County Council Integration Team

Welcoming New Communities - Organised by DRCD

Demystifying Integration- Organised by Balbriggan Integration Forum

Connections Expo- Organised by The Fingal County Council Integration Team

Corduff Community Centre Expo - Organised by Empower



Community Volunteer Stories

Sandram began his volunteering journey in 2022 shortly after arriving in Ireland as an asylum seeker. Looking for a way to stay engaged, meet people, and contribute to the community, he discovered volunteering as a meaningful path forward.

“There weren't many activities to do, and volunteering seemed like a good way to keep busy, get to know the place, and connect with others.”

He started with Tidy Towns in Blanchardstown, and later attended a volunteer expo at the Blanchardstown Library, where he connected with Fingal Volunteer Centre, COSA, and PACE. This marked the beginning of an enriching volunteer experience that expanded across several organisations.

“I volunteered with PACE for a year while also participating in activities with the Fingal Community Volunteers.”

When asked about what inspires him, Sandrom reflects on the sense of purpose and community:

“It's been amazing. I feel very much appreciated when I volunteer.”

Among the various roles, Sandrom says he's enjoyed almost all of them:

“Unless the weather is really bad, every experience has been great. You do your task and the appreciation from the community gives you a deep sense of satisfaction.”

He highlights the diversity of volunteering as one of its greatest strengths:

“There are so many activities – indoor, outdoor, daytime, evening – and you meet all kinds of people. Volunteering brings many layers of connection and happiness.”

Even when challenges arise, Sandrom maintains a positive outlook:

“Apart from the weather, I've had very few bad experiences. You just have to come with an open mind.”

Support from leadership has also played a key role in making his volunteer journey smooth and rewarding:

“We've been privileged to have good leaders. They're very supportive, and if we have any issues, we know we can talk to them. That support means a lot.”



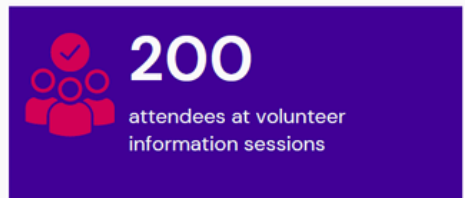
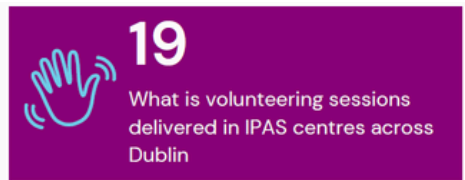
Sandram - Community Volunteer



Thrive (Involving Volunteers) is a joint project of the **four** Dublin Volunteer Centres.

During the year, the 4 teams, supported by a shared Thrive worker, worked with organisations across county Dublin to increase the capacity to involve displaced people.

Some outputs from the project are below



Organisation Testimonial

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of music , song and dance. It is responsible for organising an annual music festival called the Fleadh Cheoil. Running this festival depends on volunteers. We have been fortunate to have the support of The Fingal Volunteer centre over the last few years. The volunteers from International protection have filled various roles which include stewarding, parking attendants, catering, admissions , photography and other general duties. We have found that all volunteers over the years to have given generously of their time, following instruction well and engaging positively with all involved. We look forward to meeting new volunteers from various backgrounds going forward and are as always grateful for all their help.

Le meas,
Máire Ní Fhinneadha.
Dublin Fleadh 2024

 DUBLIN FLEADH



Volunteer Story

Country: Ukraine

Volunteer role: Volunteer chess coach

Her volunteer story:

I now work consistently on Mondays for 1 hour in the evening from 5 to 6 at the Ashbourne library. Sometimes on Tuesdays from 3 to 4 pm. The chess club was created in June 2022 with the support of local volunteers at the request of Ukrainian parents.

At first there were only children from Ukraine were part of the chess club, but then local children also joined. A children's team was created to participate in team tournaments. There is also a mixed team that takes part in the Leinster team championship. With the support of our regular sponsors, I have organized many tournaments, and children also participate in national competitions and win. Yes, our club has a Leinster champion, an Irish champion, and a Dublin champion among children. Currently, the club has about 20 children of different nationalities.

Svitlana Kelbas



Volunteer Story

Dear Ruth!

May this Christmas be filled with joy, peace and happiness for you and your family.

May your strength be renewed and your enthusiasm for volunteer work continue to grow, as your energy inspires and motivates us to share our lives and experiences in the call to volunteer for solidarity, for peace, to make other people in the community feel well, welcomed, respected, important and loved.

Thank you for all your support and dedication!



Expenditures



€10,000

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



€500

Transport to and from events for volunteers

€350



Material for activities

€33,050

Project management costs



**Total spent:
€43,900**

*Amounts presented here are based on 2024 accounts before audit.





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,
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