

**ymca**   
ireland

**2012  
Annual Review**

# WELCOME



"It seems incredible that this is my third contribution to a YMCA Ireland Annual Report as chairperson! In many ways I still feel I am only getting to know the 'movement'. I took up this position after participating in the Young Trustee Programme,

which provided many unique learning opportunities and proved to be an invaluable induction to the governance of the organisation. This programme, together with the Young Leaders Programme in ROI and the International Leaders Programme are tangible evidence of the commitment of the YMCA to fostering the development of a new generation of leaders. I am delighted a new cohort is being recruited to the Young Trustee Programme and that their experience will culminate in their participation in the European YMCA's Youth Festival next summer in Prague.

The themes of youth participation, youth leadership and youth volunteering are also evident in many of our local YMCAs. I have had the privilege to see this being actively implemented in Londonderry, Lurgan and Lisburn during the year and I am delighted with the openness shown by local associations to the full participation of young people. It was also encouraging that youth participation was the theme of the Spring Forum in Cork and that young people from Cork YMCA's Ground Floor project made such an impression. In a similar manner, I have been impressed by the priority afforded to youth participation at both European and World Alliance levels. It is to be hoped that these new models and initiatives can contribute to the renewal of the leadership base of local YMCAs, with a new generation of leaders taking the 'movement' forward. The past year has also been significant for the movement as it adopted a shared

strategy at its 2011 AGM. Based on a structure devised by the World Alliance, the strategy looks to increase our mission clarity, support the development of relevant programmes and look to sustainability and development in the future. A strong emphasis in the strategy is on the encouragement of collaborative working between YMCA associations. It is encouraging to see new expressions of collaboration and joint working in both parts of the island and I believe that this represents the best way of maximising the opportunities for our end users.

I am delighted that the year has seen the ongoing renewal and revisioning of some of our "signature programmes" such as STEP which has sought to respond in new ways to the needs of early school leavers in the Republic. Similarly, another long established programme, PAKT, has had an extensive external evaluation carried out and a number of very exciting changes are being implemented. Finally, it is great to note Greenhill's continuing growth with increased occupancy and greatly enhanced programmes due to the new facilities.

As a local Board member I am keen that we make the most of our shared YMCA community. We have much to learn from each other and in these difficult and challenging times, our "success" as an organisation will, I believe, depend as much on how we use our internal resources and expertise, as it will on accessing external resources.

I also want our young people to be enriched by being exposed to the diversity that is our international YMCA community; to learn from our Zambian partners in Lusaka and learn from shared programmes in our Irish YMCAs.

Please read this Annual Report and catch a vision of what we can collectively achieve with and for our young people on this island through the YMCA movement."

## JULIE MORRISON

Chair

# TREASURER'S REPORT



We are pleased to report the Accounts for 2011/2012 show continued financial stability for the National Council in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

This is against a backdrop of government financial cutbacks in the Republic and increased compliance costs throughout the island. The financial accounts of the National Council of YMCAs Ltd and the Republic of Ireland Trust have been audited by Lowry Grant Ltd and show modest increases in our unrestricted reserves.

The total income within NI amounted to £898,878 with expenditure of £897,596, while our Republic of Ireland (RoI) operation had an income of €1,777,449 and an expenditure of €1,743,023.

We are pleased to report the capital investment in the Greenhill Residential Centre has attracted additional visitors and these helped meet its business plan targets. We anticipate some reduction in resources for community relations work in Northern Ireland in the coming year as the Peace 3 Programme is completed but hope to embed this aspect of our work into our mainstream services.

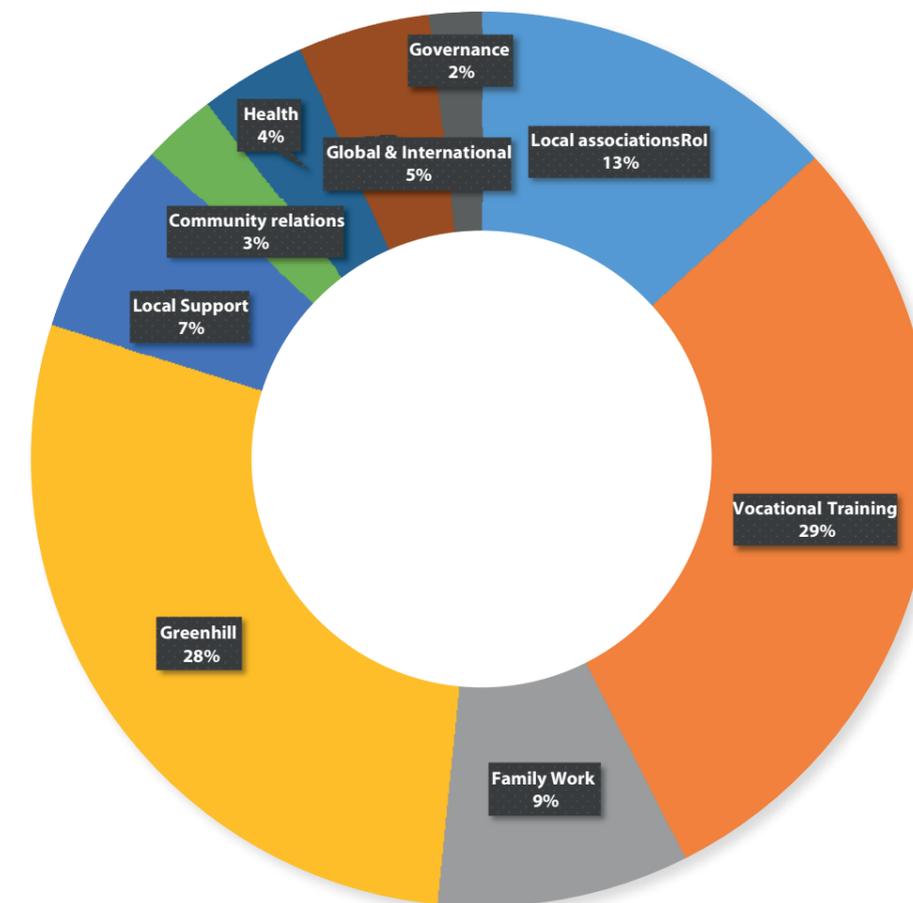
In the Republic, the organisation has continued to absorb government austerity cuts by tight budgeting and reduction of certain programmes. We were disappointed that complete withdrawal of HSE funding meant that Milford PAKT ceased to operate in spite of meeting real community needs. Further reductions are expected over the next three years but it is hoped through staff cooperation and flexibility to maintain our present programme portfolio. This will be aided by more collaborative working between national and local YMCA projects which may produce further efficiencies.

Our thanks go to our extensive range of funders. We are particularly grateful to our core funders Department of Children and Youth Affairs (RoI) and Youth Council for Northern Ireland for their continued support. A summary of accounts and full list of funders are included on the attached sheet. I would further like to acknowledge the work of the administration teams North and South, Noelle, Mary and Jackie for their excellent work over the year. Full sets of accounts are available at our National Office and on our website.

## RICHARD SPRATT

Treasurer

## YMCA Expenditure 2011-2012



## STEP

YMCA STEP is a pre-vocational training programme for 17-25 year olds, who have left school early and are long term unemployed. The programme helps young people on the margins of the labour force, often hindered by weak interpersonal skills, poor qualifications, a lack of confidence and consequent poor motivation. It aims at re-engaging young people through experiential learning processes which are based on youth work methodologies. It seeks to meet the needs of learners through creating individualised learning plans and developing them in a holistic manner. It offers accreditation in ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) and FETAC along with non-accredited soft skills training. The year has seen the YMCA receive FETAC validation for the delivery of a number of Level 3 Awards. Applications are also pending for a number of Level 4 and 5 Awards.

Many of the learners on the programme experience significant levels of disadvantage and staff also monitor access from those with a disability, ex-offenders, lone parents, members of the travelling community, homeless, young people in care and young people who are refugees/asylum seekers.

The year saw an extensive consultation process being completed with our stakeholders including young people, local and national management groups and staff about the strategic direction of STEP. This confirmed that there was a need for the programme to move from a 23 to a 39 week programme. The feedback was that this change would help trainees to consolidate personal learning, complete a full level 4 FETAC award and maximise the potential for progression onto Level 5 PLC courses. The need to assist early school leavers to access substantial training as a way of tackling long term unemployment is consistently highlighted

by independent commentators in this area. In order to move towards the new FETAC Award staff had to develop a number of new modules in areas such as Customer Service, Functional Maths, Intercultural Studies and Career Planning. Six working groups completed the adaptations for the new programme by making changes to existing sessions plans and assignment briefs and developing new ones where gaps existed. Going forward it is a very exciting time in STEP and all are looking forward to seeing how the new programme will benefit our learners.

One of the most exciting developments for the trainees during the year was the opportunity to link with young people involved in the Lusaka Street Children project in Zambia. While the Skype based links allowed the groups to explore their differences, they also helped to highlight the common issues facing young people many thousands of miles apart and the similarities of their long term goals.



### Case Study

*Dan had left school early after completing his Junior Certificate due to a family tragedy. For a number of years after leaving school he drifted, with no clear sense of direction or purpose. At 21 Dan applied and was accepted onto the YMCA's STEP programme. Through STEP he was able to access a number of services which helped him deal with issues that had caused him to drop out of school early. Dan played a very positive role within the group. He began to get involved in leisure activities and he began to feel fitter and healthier than at any time in his life. As part of his course he did a placement in a youth work setting which he thoroughly enjoyed. He went on to complete his FETAC and ECDL modules and then began to consider pursuing a career in social/youth work. He applied and was accepted onto a social studies course in UCC. In tandem with the course, he completed the YMCA Leaders in Training Course and as part of this he began to volunteer in a YMCA PAKT club. This past summer he attended an International Youth Leaders training event hosted by the German YMCA which was one of the best experiences of his life to date. He is now volunteering with his local YMCA with the view to setting up a youth led "youth-space" for his community.*

## YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Connections Project began in June 2011 with the aim of further developing cooperation among local YMCAs in NI and encouraging youth participation. A key aspect was to provide opportunities for young people from various projects to engage with one another and by so doing, think about the future of the YMCA and how leadership might be renewed.

Moving from an initial fact-finding phase with local YMCAs, the project has built on the need to foster cooperation at various levels within each YMCA, i.e. from young people and volunteers through to staff and board members. With this in mind, Connections has endeavoured to run events that encourage meeting and learning together and allowing space for further informal networks to grow.

In April a series of training events were held, aimed at equipping volunteers and staff in how to deal with challenging behaviour with young people. The focus of the training was on creating space for the learners to reflect on their own approaches to diffusing situations and the importance of creating healthy environments and cultures for young people. In May young people and volunteers from both Londonderry and Larne YMCAs met together in Belfast YMCA for an evening of dance tasters and discussion. A warm up of "body pump" was followed by some intense "hip hop" tuition provided by Ajendance! This was a challenging evening for both groups but one highlight of the evening

was the opportunity to look at further ideas for connecting young people from across the movement. In August North Down YMCA hosted a gathering where the experience of young leaders in their local centres during the year was used as a basis of reflection and learning.

For the coming year the Connections project hopes to be the driving force behind a new intake of "young trustees" onto a programme which includes training, local project and committee involvement as well as international experiences with a view to equipping young people to become agents of change in their local YMCAs.

In the Cork area the main approach to encouraging the growth of a new generation of leaders involved the delivery of a FETAC accredited Leaders in Training Course to ten young people from Cork City and County YMCAs. This practical course involved the participants looking at various issues including Good Practice in Youth Work, Relating to Young People, Group-work and Organising Youth Work activities. An encouraging dimension to the course was the way in which these young leaders were placed in an existing YMCA programme where they were able to apply the learning from the course. In June, young people, staff and management volunteers from local YMCAs in Co. Cork came together as part of the Spring Forum to review the experiences of young people within the YMCA and

to review the various initiatives that had been developed over recent years. One of the highlights was the presentation from young people involved in Cork YMCA's Groundfloor project. This innovative music based project demonstrated what young people can achieve when they are given support and resources. Arising from the Forum, roadshows involving the Groundfloor young people will take place in a number of local YMCAs in County Cork in the coming weeks with a view to seeing if youth friendly "youth spaces" can be set up elsewhere. Over recent years, YMCA Ireland has encouraged the exposure of young leaders to the international YMCA movement both as a way of inducting them to the values of an international organisation but also as a way of developing leadership skills. A group of young people have been participating in the International Leadership Programme which has been co-ordinated by the English YMCA on behalf of the Four Nations. This has involved the group taking part in a residential in Greenhill YMCA and participating in the Assembly of the European Alliance of YMCAs in Prague. A further group of young leaders from W Dublin, Cork City and County YMCAs participated in an International Young Leaders Training event in Germany with participants from Germany, Czech Republic, Sweden, Netherlands, Spain, Iceland and the UK.



# HEALTH PROMOTION

Health continues to be seen as a major concern for many young people who use YMCA programmes. Within the YMCA, health covers a wide range of issues, with the organisation taking a holistic approach. This means that while attention might be given to helping the young person deal or cope with the presenting issue, support is given to developing the skills necessary to prevent the problem re-emerging in the future. Health is a complex area of work and is often connected to wider issues of self-esteem, family support, poverty and lifestyle. We have found non formal education with its emphasis on relationship building and support, to be effective in helping young people examine their own personal issues and to work toward positive change. An important dimension of this work is ensuring that young people are connected to other specialist support or referral services where necessary.

A strong focus of the Youth Health project is to assist young people involved in YMCA programmes to deal positively with substance misuse issues in their own lives. While adopting a non-judgemental approach, staff provide young people, through structured activities, opportunities to reflect on the reasons behind their behaviours, the physical and social consequences of their lifestyles and the impact their choices might be having on their friends and families. An important part of this approach is to explore the Wheel of Change model as a way of helping young people to understand their current position and where they might want to move to in the future. Through offering individual action planning, young people are supported in their move towards a solution that they have identified and own.

Alongside the delivery of health sessions in YMCA programmes such as STEP, the project has also developed a suite of training materials which can be

used in a variety of settings with young people as part of the YMCA's Heart & Soul module. Training and support has been made available to other staff to allow them to deliver this module effectively. Another important aspect of the Health Promotion project's work over the past year has been ensuring that the organisation's policies and procedures for dealing with youth health and welfare policies are updated to best practice standards. This has included reviewing policies in the area of Substance Misuse, Managing suicide and self-harm and Lone Working. The Health Promotion Project is also involved in supporting and managing the Cobh Community Drugs Initiative which aims at supporting young people who have been referred to the project, access appropriate rehab and other services. Alongside working with individual young people it also offers supports to parents/guardians.



## Case Study

*Pat was referred to the YMCA Community Drugs Project, with his permission by a family member in 2007, before he was due to be released from prison. All aspects of his life including his job, health and relationships had been seriously impacted by long term drugs and alcohol misuse. Pat wanted to change and this was his motivation in contacting the project. As a result of being in prison he was now drug free and wanted support to turn his life around. The YMCA worker met with him prior to his release and helped him in finding appropriate support meetings. Pat found integrating back into his local community difficult and over the course of the next few years he relapsed a number of times though he remained in weekly contact. Through the project he was able to access other specialist counselling services. Even though he found it difficult to rebuild his life, eventually he was able to attend and complete a two year course in UCC in Informal Guidance. Pat is now living in his local community with his partner and daughter.*

# GREENHILL

Greenhill YMCA is a 180 bed outdoor education and residential centre in Newcastle Co Down. The main focus of its work is providing a range of opportunities which encourage the personal and social development of participants from a wide spectrum of youth organisations, schools and community groups. Greenhill YMCA promotes the concept of 'learning through adventure', encouraging young people to make personal choices about the level of their participation and having stepped out of their comfort zones, supporting them to reflect and consider their learning.

Greenhill YMCA has seen significant improvements to its facilities over the past few years - new en-suite accommodation; all existing accommodation upgraded; conference rooms added; new outdoor facilities e.g. climbing tower, ropes courses and a new multi-sports area completed in 2012. However the main focus this year has been on enhancing the visitor experience and improving the capacity of volunteers and staff to support young people to learn and develop from their visit to Greenhill. As part of this process several training initiatives were introduced to complement the regular trainings in health and safety. All staff and volunteers have now undergone customer care training and achieved the World Host Award. In addition all programme delivery staff have undergone accredited youth work training. Improved feedback systems have been established allowing visiting

groups to more effectively review their experience and ensure that learning from their experience impacts on future delivery. In 2012 Greenhill YMCA was also one of the early adopters of the Sport NI scheme to encourage outdoor providers to implement 'AdventureMark' as an appropriate adventure activity accreditation scheme. 'Adventuremark' allows providers to demonstrate to their customers or users that the provider's arrangements for managing the potential risks of adventure activities have been inspected and found to meet the necessary standards of good practice in the adventure industry.

Greenhill YMCA continues to operate a range of programmes and initiatives alongside and complementary to residential youth work. These include:

- Summer Adventure Camp - provision of five-day camps for local young people aged 6 to 15 years, including arts and crafts, global youth work, outdoor education
- Assistant Leader Training - a program to encourage local young people to leadership. This provides the opportunity for intensive training and volunteering during the summer, with ongoing less frequent development opportunities throughout the year.

- Community partnerships - Greenhill YMCA has developed a strong relationship with the Kairos project which works with marginalised young people and adults. The two organisations are currently working together on both volunteer training and youth awards. They scheme is currently being developed to co-host volunteers
- Greenhill YMCA continued to support local and international charities through hosting and supporting fundraising challenges. These included the Oxfam Four Peaks Challenge, and coordinating a Fields of Life beacon lighting event which involved marshalling several hundred participants to the summit of Slieve Donard



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

YMCA Ireland's community relations and diversity training programme continued to draw substantial participation in the past year with 5 RAPP (Reconciliation and Peace Peer) and 2 LWD (Living with Diversity) programmes being delivered during its course. A new development during the year was the offering of RAPP in the Sligo/Fermanagh area.

In order to ensure that Community Relations training courses continue to represent best practice a major review of each programme was conducted during the year. This led to the assessment methodology used in RAPP being amended to help maintain the highest possible levels of course accessibility on the part of potential participants. The RAPP programme has also continued its evolution from an almost exclusively YMCA focused programme, to one that has been recognised by the broader youth and community sector as a vehicle to help equip young people with training on both historic and newly emergent diversity issues.

Two Living with Diversity (LWD) programmes were delivered during the year with positive feedback from participants. Delivered over eight days of residential based training, the course is OCN accredited for adults who address diversity issues in their everyday work and who wish to further develop their capacity to facilitate such work. During the year a "faith based" model was also introduced to provide further training for individuals specifically from church and para-church backgrounds who were involved in some aspects of diversity work and practice. An important aspect of the continued work of CR is the provision of one to one mentoring support to local YMCA practitioners in order to develop their work and practice.

There has been continuing support for YMCA local associations during the year with the nature of this differing according to local need. This has included assisting with the administration of OCN registered courses; providing advice in relation to funding applications; supporting locally delivered RAPP courses and assisting with programme development.

This year's annual report comes at a pivotal time for YMCA Ireland's community relations work when its Peace 3 funding comes to an end. This will mean that there will be no dedicated post with a remit for community relations and broader diversity work. It will be a key challenge for the organisation to adapt to this new situation in a way that maintains the momentum of the work over recent years. An evaluation report on the YMCA's community relations work over the period 2005-12 will be produced by December and it is hoped that this will chart the way the organisation can continue with the embedding of CR and diversity values in its programmes and activities in the years ahead.



### Case Study

*Cormac is a young man with a passion for youth-work cultivated by his life experience and as a member of his West Belfast youth club. Coming from West Belfast, he has had a life-time to observe the effects of division on his city and has long thought that one of the primary tasks of any youth-work programme should be to address the north's historic divisions. As part of his personal and professional development, Cormac sought to get involved in a range of community relations training initiatives. While on a diversity course with YouthAction he became aware of a YMCA programme called "Living with Diversity." On his first day on the course he was struck by the range of professions involved. PSNI officers sat alongside youth workers and teachers and explored issues of difference and commonality. Space was given to the hearing of the "other" with all the tensions, difficulties and opportunities that this presented. There was no attempt to dodge issues, yet the way this was facilitated led him to emerge from the course with a regard for it as one of the best community relations courses he had ever been involved in! For Cormac the next step will be to build on the learning and embedding it within his youth-work practice while retaining a now valued link with the YMCA through sessional work involvement.*

## FAMILY YOUTH WORK

A significant development during the year in the evolution of the Parents and Kids Together (PAKT) programme in the Republic, was an external evaluation carried out by consultants from Exodea Europe. It had been approximately 10 years since the last major review of the programme had taken place. The evaluation process was extremely thorough and involved getting feedback from all the key stakeholders including children, parents, funders and staff while the research was managed by a small group made up of staff, a management volunteer and a representative from a university. This helped to ensure the robustness of the outcomes.

The evaluation concluded that PAKT is "providing a highly valued and innovative service that works in an holistic, non-threatening manner to support young people and their families". It documented the ways in which families reported they and their children benefited from involvement. They noted the positive relationships which PAKT volunteers and staff had built up with children and cited their ability to work at the young person's level while being attentive to their needs. Parent feedback also included comments about the positive learning experiences their children had been exposed to and how their involvement had a positive impact on family relationships. Exposure to the wider world, particularly through the engagement with the Lusaka Street

Children project was also named as an important dimension of the programme. The researchers also found evidence of positive interagency cooperation at a local level. The evaluation also considered how PAKT fits in with current and projected government policy in the area of family support, concluding that the universal and non-stigmatising nature of the programme means that it has an important role to play in the continuum of family services at a local level.

While providing very positive feedback, it did make a number of recommendations, some of which are already being implemented. These include a new on-line practitioner recording form which will make the task of measuring inputs and outputs easier; a new regional staff management model; agreement to establish a national PAKT advisory committee which will advise on strategic issues. Like many other YMCA programmes, PAKT is also considering how it should measure its impact on children and families in terms of outcomes and a number of possible models are being examined.

In local PAKT programmes the year saw many new additions. These included the development of links between PAKT groups and the Lusaka Street Children project; new family activities; new parenting supports ranging from formal parenting courses to peer support groups to visiting speakers on topical issues such as nutrition, bullying,

adolescence and substance misuse. It was also encouraging to see the variety of ways in which local parents got involved in fundraising for Zambia through mini-marathons, cake bakes and bazaars!

The year unfortunately saw the closure of the Milford PAKT programme after almost eight years of serving the community due to the complete withdrawal of funding. While every effort was made to try and sustain the programme this proved not to be possible. However it was encouraging to see the positive impact the programme had made in many children's lives over the years and to celebrate its many achievements. Milford PAKT still holds the record of the only group ever to have built two curraghs from scratch!



# GLOBAL

With the financial support of Irish Aid, YMCA Ireland has continued over the past year to strive towards ensuring that global justice is seen as a core value within local programmes and services. On the ground there is evidence that the embedding of global interventions in existing programmes has continued, both as a result of staff employed under the global project but also indirectly through staff/volunteers that have been trained in the NYCI/YMCA Global Justice in Youth Work course. A highlight of the year was the involvement of local YMCAs in organising events under the One World Week theme of "A rich man's world?". These acted both as catalysts to raise awareness among young people within local YMCAs but also as a way of building the capacity of young people, volunteers and staff who had already participated in global justice training events. Another important development during the year was participation in the Irish Aid/NYCI Zambia Youth Worker Exchange programme.

An important milestone in the international partnership between the Irish and Zambian YMCAs was a visit by three Irish staff and volunteers to Zambia in April 2011 to the Irish Aid funded Lusaka Street Children Project. This visit enabled the Irish team to gain first-hand experience of the project with our partners in Y Care International. The project involves providing meals to 125 street children, a range of care services to 300 and assisting 127 young people to

go back to school. During the past year 53 caregivers and 8 young people who had spent time on the street completed a 12 week basic literacy and numeracy course. In addition to learning basic literacy and numeracy, the non-formal classes also included components on business management and entrepreneurship as well as health and hygiene.

The sense of partnership was deepened over the past year by a series of skype calls between young people in Ireland and their peers in Zambia. Another important highlight was the visit of Annie Ngwira, CEO of YMCA Zambia to Ireland in July 2012 where she met with key volunteers, staff, parents and young people. At least 8 local YMCAs have now committed to annual fund raising for the Lusaka project. There is evidence of a growing consensus that YMCA Ireland and YMCA Zambia have much in common and want to commit to a longer term partnership, one which is not necessarily funding driven. There are common threads in areas such as staff development, social enterprise, youth leadership, vocational training which will be explored in the coming months.



# LOCAL SUPPORT

## Building the YMCA's Capacity

The YMCA in Ireland has eleven independently managed and seven nationally managed local centres. The primary role of National Council is to build their capacity to provide quality services and programmes to young people in local communities. This is done by helping them to clarify their mission, supporting the development of relevant and quality programmes and assisting in their sustainability and development.

## Mission Clarity

During 2012 National Council provided direct support in the development of local strategic plans. It has also invested in building among volunteers and staff, an understanding of the Movement's ethos by providing guidance on our Christian values and developing support of diversity initiatives.

Further focussed training has been provided in key areas such as child protection and welfare, risk management, challenging behaviour and health and safety.

The National Council also has an advocacy role with government responding to key policies and engaging in consultative forums where policy affecting YMCA work at a local level will be developed.

## Relevant programmes

A strong focus during the past year has been the encouragement of partnerships and collaborative working across and between associations. This has been facilitated by providing regular meetings of practitioners to share experience as well as providing opportunities for joint tendering.

The Council has encouraged the development of a number of "signature programmes" to build consistency of approach within the YMCA and to assist in the dissemination of best practice throughout the network. Training and introduction of pilot ways of recording practice with a focus on developing best practice in outcome measurement have also been a feature of the year.

## Sustainability and development

A key function of National Council has been to support the development of "good governance" in local associations. Providing direction and support to Trustees has been an important aspect of this as well as advising local staff and assisting them in finding specialist supports where this is required.

Support and training has also been provided to assist in the making of collaborative bids for government services and new confidence and skills have grown in this very competitive area. A research and policy bank has been set up to support

local staff and new partnerships created to provide a wider range of available expertise.

Shared services have been provided and administered by National Council for many of the local associations including IT, telecommunications, insurance, salary administration and personnel advice.

An important emphasis has been the investment in new leadership. In particular the Council has been building a new generation of trustees and volunteers. We hope the engagement in this process will be fruitful over the coming years



## Ballincollig

### Highlights

- A group of eight trainees successfully graduated from the STEP programme having achieved a number of FETAC and ECDL Awards
- A new year long STEP launched which will lead to a full Level 4 FETAC award
- A small scale organic gardening programme was introduced as part of the STEP programme with trainees and staff enjoying eating what they grow!
- A young person who graduated from STEP a few years ago, completing the YMCA Leaders in Training Course, began volunteering in PAKT and attended an International Leadership Camp in Germany
- A busy PAKT year with lots of new activities on offer including a fundraising event organised by parents for the Lusaka street children project
- Local team were enriched with the presence of EVS volunteers from Germany who brought new skills and fresh insights

### Opportunity

- Developing a 'Youth Space' for local young people in the 12 - 18 age group where they will be free to decide on its main focus with the help of volunteers and staff from Cork YMCA's Groundfloor project.

## Bandon

### Highlights

- A public event organised with Transition Year students from local school in Bandon Shopping Centre, helped to raise the public's awareness of ethical shopping
- Over €1,000 raised for Lusaka street children project through the design, printing and sale of calendars.
- Two Young Social Innovator projects supported by Bandon YMCA focusing on 'Homelessness' and 'Drugs & Alcohol' reached the national finals in Dublin.
- Following on from a 12 hour photography training course for 13-17 year olds, a weekly photography club took place during the summer holidays.
- Video + a new youth information peer education video programme is offered to schools in West Cork. It is designed to help equip groups of young people with essential filmmaking skills so that they can develop information based videos

### Opportunity

- Continuing to find new ways of engaging young people in information.

## Bantry

### Highlights

- The successful graduation of 16 young people from STEP
- A new year long STEP launched which will lead to a full Level 4 FETAC award
- The continued enrichment of programmes through EVS volunteers
- Formal establishment of referral pathways for families into the PAKT programme
- Successful delivery of Parenting course to traveller parents involved in PAKT
- Development of new partnerships with other community based organisations

### Opportunity

- Planned move to new premises after a long search, will greatly enhance the experiences of young people involved in Bantry YMCA programmes and open up new opportunities.

## Cobh

### Highlights

- Sixteen young people graduate from STEP with a range of new skills and qualifications and a new year long STEP launched which will lead to a full Level 4 FETAC award. Continued development of a mentoring project STEP +
- Successful fundraising for local and global projects including an Escape from Spike Island sponsored swim!
- Involvement in setting up a community Film Hub in conjunction with other youth services
- Fourth successful year of PAKT's Christmas Family Fun Day with 200+ participants. PAKT + launched which sees young people in the 13+ age group continuing to be involved
- Community and Network connections established via Website and Facebook and local discussion forum to promote youth information services
- Continuing demand for support services through Community Drugs Project from young people and family members

### Opportunity

- Development of a youth led "Youth Space" with the support of young people and staff from Cork YMCA's Ground Floor project.

## Donegal

### Highlights

- Successful graduation of 16 young people from STEP
- A new year long STEP launched which will lead to a full Level 4 FETAC award
- Introduction of a new animation module for trainees
- Launch of new gardening project with focuses on medicinal and cooking herbs and crocuses for link with Holocaust project outlining a star of David situated around an oak tree
- Closure of the Milford PAKT project following the ending of HSE funding
- Continued operation in Donegal of the Finding Your Place leadership development programme under the auspices of L'derry YMCA

### Opportunity

- Seek support from the community for a new strategic direction for Donegal YMCA .

## West Dublin

### Highlights

- Active engagement by parents and teens in global awareness culminating in a Family Fun Day to raise funds for Zambia street kids.
- First batch of PAKT kids have now graduated to becoming volunteers who have received training.
- Summer Project was filled to capacity and participating families benefited from both in-house family events and trips to the beach.
- PAKT mums who have participated in Back to Education training now regularly take the lead in family and community events.
- Participation in the external evaluation of PAKT was hugely positive for families and staff.

### Opportunity

- To find a new context for Soulworks which can generate a new tier of youth leadership for West Dublin YMCA.



**Building Capacity 2012 Stats**  
 19 YMCAs trained in Risk Management  
 16 YMCAs trained in Children's safeguarding training  
 14 YMCAs provided with advice on Personnel, Payroll and insurance services  
 8 YMCAs supplied with IT and telecom resources  
 17 YMCAs directly supported with governance and charity advice/training  
 6 YMCA collaborative Projects initiated

**Community Relations 2012 Stats**  
 2 LWD programmes with 31 participants  
 5 RAPP programmes with 55 participants.  
 9 staff involved in community relations mentoring projects  
 6 local associations supported in community relations development work.



**Global 2012 Stats**  
 8 local YMCAs engaged directly with the Lusaka Street Children Project  
 29 YMCA young people took part in NYC's seminar: 'Making the Case for Development Education in Youth Work'  
 174 interventions in local programmes delivered by global staff  
 907 young people involved directly in global activities  
 500 staff and volunteers involved in training or other awareness raising events around global issues



**Step 2012 Stats**  
 108 trainees participated in STEP  
 63 Males/ 45 Females  
 69 awards were achieved between ECDL and FETAC.  
 52% of trainees went on to Further Education or Employment

**Health Promotion 2012 Stats**  
 Over 80 hours of one-on-one contact to young people involved in STEP  
 Over 200 hours of health education has been provided in 5 local YMCAs.  
 25 people from involved in Cobh Concerned Persons group.  
 Over 60 young people assisted through the Cobh community drugs project.



**Greenhill 2012 Stats**  
 8000 young people participated in Greenhill YMCA programmes  
 27 young people completed Assistant Leader Training  
 10 year-long international volunteers hosted  
 24 staff/volunteers achieved Worldhost award  
 12 staff/volunteers completed accredited youth work training  
 480 young people complete five-day Summer Adventure Camp



**International 2012 Stats**  
 Collaborative projects imitated with 10 National Movements  
 Active Participation with YCARE, European and World Alliance  
 Irish Young people supported to 5 international seminars





## Contact Us

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Youth development **health living** community engagement

