



Youth Work Ireland

**YOUTH WORK IRELAND**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2011



# FOREWORD

– John Gilmore, President

2011 was a busy year for Youth Work Ireland as we continue to respond to young people's lives across the four corners of Ireland. Despite the huge pressure on volunteers, workers and local communities brought about by the on-going recession we still see the best of Ireland in the work of our local services.

However the message needs to go out loud and clear that young people are bearing too much of the brunt of a crisis they did not create. Whether it is chronic youth unemployment, the slash and burn approach to the funding of youth services or the on-going crisis in our mental health service this is the year to say enough is enough.

Sometimes organisations can be accused of saying “not in my back yard” but for voluntary youth services there is no back yard anymore. Cuts to this area have been far in excess of other budgets. Similarly social welfare payments to young people have been cut and the few entry level jobs that are available are now at reduced salaries and terms and conditions. There are clearly segments of society that did very well from the Celtic tiger and are still relatively unaffected by its collapse, whether these are the offshore Irish who visit for race meetings or the super wealthy who pay very small amounts of tax. It is clearly time for the burden of our economic woes to fall elsewhere.



# INTRODUCTION

- Patrick Burke, CEO



Clearly our economic circumstances form the greatest challenge for young people in the immediate future. The economic crisis reaches all age groups; it affects the choices made in school, in the family and in all aspects of young people's lives. We know from our work around the country that local communities and youth services are responding well despite these trying times. Youth Work is now more important than ever. It is a critical response when youth unemployment is high and education and training are limited. Time and again we know that when it comes to that terrible decision whether to stay or leave this country those involved with youth projects and youth work often opt to stay as they see the great potential in this country.

We welcome work on a new Children's Strategy and the development of a Youth Policy Framework. As with the development of quality standards for the youth sector we will embrace a greater emphasis on outcomes which will enhance the understanding of the huge social and economic value of local youth services led by local people. Some values must remain at the heart of this policy work such as the voluntary participation of young people, the focus on development and active citizenship, a strengths based approach and the value of relationships and critical adults in the process.

Youth Work Ireland works with over 80,000 young people, nearly 1,000 staff and over 7,000 volunteers annually through 450 clubs and projects in all parts of the country with spin off benefits for local communities and economies. Youth Work Ireland's aim is to change society for the benefit of young people and the wider community. This new and innovative reporting format provides but a sample of the activities around the four corners of Ireland, we know from our work there is so much more to see. However we hope that these snapshots inform people of the tremendous benefits that youth work provides for our communities and our country

# PROGRAMMES

## Variety 2011

The variety show area events took place in Louth and Clare. Louth saw 28 acts taking to the stage in the Town Hall in Dundalk. Clare saw 32 acts taking to the stage in the Kilfenora Community Hall. Both events were really well attended with audience members enjoying the variety of acts and the skills of the young people taking to the stage. Out of these events 18 Acts were chosen to go forward to the National Final in Mary Immaculate College in April 2011. 8 Local Youth Services were represented on National Final day. Over 80 young people took to the stage representing 18 different clubs and projects.

### GROUP SINGING

Waterville Youth Club, Kerry DYS

### SOLO SINGING

Ballylongford Youth Club, Kerry DYS

### GROUP INSTRUMENTAL

Ballydonoghue Youth Club, Kerry DYS

### SOLO INSTRUMENTAL

Glengarriff Youth Club, Kerry DYS

### COMEDY SKETCH

Causeway Youth Club, Kerry DYS

### DRAMA PIECE

Doohamlet Youth Club, YWI Monaghan

### SPOTLIGHT

Doohamlet Youth Club, YWI Monaghan

### SLOW DANCE

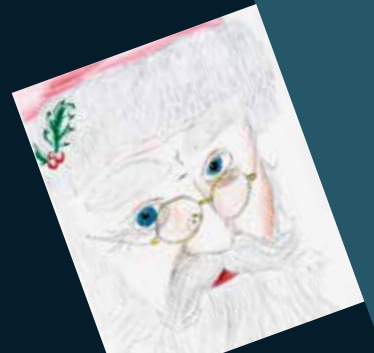
Sixmilebridge Youth Club, Clare Youth Service

### CREATIVE DANCE

Cockhill Youth Club, Donegal Youth Service

### BANNER COMPETITION

Causeway Youth Club, Kerry DYS



## Nollaig 2011

Nollaig 2011 was launched in September 2011. This is Youth Work Irelands **Design a Christmas Card** competition. The winner of this competition received a €100 *One for All* voucher, their card is framed and reprinted for their personal use. The winners of each of the other categories win a €50 *One for All* voucher and they get their card framed and reprinted. Over 360 entries were received from our Local Youth Services. A selection panel was chosen from National Office and they selected their category winners and the Nollaig overall winner.

## Irish Youth Music Awards

The 5th Irish Youth Music Awards took place in Liberty Hall on April 28th. This was the biggest IYMAs yet and local areas are now organising heats to determine their local team. Guests this year were Daragh Cullen, Outside the Box and David Managan who really got the audience moving. As always it was a tense affair to decide where the awards went. **Exit Fire** from CDYS Cork scoped the overall award with **Truth for Me** from Derry winning the Paul Clancy song writer's award sponsored by Kildare Youth Service. Special thanks to all our industry partners IMRO, IRMA, Hotpress and EMI Records along with CDYSB and YANI.

Hot Press reviewed the 4th IYMAs CD featuring bands from Meath and Cork particularly Outside the Box the 2010 IYMAs winners. The CD also featured as one of Jackie Hayden's (Hotpress) *First Cuts* choice on a number of radio stations.





# PROGRAMMES



## Games 2011

The soccer area events of games 2011 took place in Louth and Clare. The Clare event took place in Clare Leisure World, Showgrounds Road, Ennis, Co Clare. The Louth event took place in Leisure Park, Rathmullen Road/Marleys Lane, Drogheda, Co Louth.

From both of these events the soccer entries were chosen to go forward to the national finals in the University of Limerick in June. On national final day over 250 young people representing 10 Local Youth Services took to the courts taking part in various events including chess, draughts, soccer etc.

EVENT	Runner Up	Winner
<b>DRAUGHTS</b>	Michael Heraghty, Fanad Youth Club Donegal Youth Service	Ryan Henry, Ballylongford Youth Club Kerry DYS
<b>UNI HOC U.18</b>	Kilgarvin Youth Club Kerry DYS	Ballygarrett Youth Club FDYS YWI
<b>HIP HOP</b>	Kilrush Youth Club Clare Youth Service	Templemore Youth Project Tipperary Regional Youth Service
<b>BASKETBALL U.15</b>	Club Oige Criost Ri Donegal Youth Service	Castleisland Youth Club KDYS
<b>BASKETBALL U.18</b>	Malin Head Youth Club Donegal Youth Service	Castleisland Youth Club KDYS
<b>5 A SIDE FEMALE U.15</b>	Fanad Youth Club Donegal Youth Service	Clonard Youth Club FDYS YWI
<b>5 A SIDE FEMALE U.18</b>	Kilfenora Youth Club Clare Youth Service	Clonard Youth Club FDYS YWI
<b>5 A SIDE MALE U.15</b>		Kilfenora Youth Club Clare Youth Service
<b>5 A SIDE MALE U.18</b>	Club Oige Criost Ri Donegal Youth Service	Crossbeg Youth Club FDYS YWI
<b>TABLE QUIZ U.15</b>	Kilhihil Youth Club Clare Youth Service	Miltown/Lixnaw Youth Club Kerry DYS
<b>TABLE QUIZ U.18</b>	Templemore Youth Project Tipperary Regional Youth Service	Kenmare Youth Club Kerry DYS
<b>TABLE TENNIS MALE</b>	Michael Dullergan, Planet Youth Donegal Youth Service  Tony White, Oylegate Youth Club FDYS YWI	Conor McGuire, Clonard Youth Club FDYS YWI  Ciaran Faul, Buzz Stop Clare Youth Service
<b>CHESS</b>	Eoin Larkin, Oylegate Youth Club FDYS YWI	Katie Anne Neville, Oylegate Youth Club FDYS YWI

# IRISH YOUTH WORK CENTRE



Contributing to the overall debate and reflection on the system of Youth Information provision in Ireland Youth Work Ireland developed Trial Sites to test and reflect on our model and practice in this area. Five members, Clare Youth Services, Donegal Youth Service, FDYs, Kildare Youth Service and Youth Work Ireland Monaghan, all took part.

We have facilitated work with BeLongTo Youth Service and our local member youth services. This product has also been delivered with very high levels of participation nationally. A very successful HR training workshop was held for regional management in 2011. Board development and other trainings have been provided to a number of member services.

We have further facilitated work between members and the TCD/NUIG Changing Generations Study. Our regular suite of workshops including Measuring Outcomes continued in 2011. An extensive road show was carried out in 2011 on the activities of the Irish Youth Work Centre. We continue to facilitate 'Teen Between' a support programme for young people affected by marital breakdown, in partnership with the Family Support Agency. Irish Youth Work Scene (quarterly) and the Youth Studies Ireland Journal continue to inform the youth work sector on issues of practice and theory.

# YOUTH WORK IRELAND WEEK

The inaugural Youth Work Ireland Week was held in April 2012. The initiative was the centre piece of our 50th anniversary celebrations as we felt the best way to commemorate the past was to celebrate what we are today. This collective celebration and showcasing of the work of Youth Work Ireland involved all members locally engaging in a programme of activities and some key national events.

A variety of activities took place in the four corners of Ireland to make Youth Work Ireland Week ranging

from parades to sporting events to youth campaigns. Events also included rap, health workshops, volunteering events, fun runs, fundraisers, film nights, cooking, sexual health work, photography, pool and much more. We were thrilled that Ireland international Sean O'Brien launched Youth Work Ireland Week in Tullow Youth Café in Carlow.

Nationally the work and impact of Youth Work Ireland was brought right to the heart of decision making with an Oireachtas Briefing which engaged the majority of Oireachtas members and almost all of those from the constituencies of our member services. The event really put the organisation on the map with key decision makers.

# VOICES OF YOUTH

In 2011 Voices of Youth, a youth led advocacy group facilitated by Youth Work Ireland, organised a major event on the potential Children's Rights Referendum. This was motivated by a concern amongst the group that young people were not specifically informed or aware of this proposal. The daylong event involved workshops on some key scenarios devised by people working in the field of children's rights and called on Government to deliberately include young people in whatever plans it developed for the referendum campaign. The event received coverage in the national media and was well received by children's and youth groups.

Voices of Youth continued to work on issues such as The Mosquito Device, schools and education, School uniforms and others receiving much coverage in the national media. Members took part in a visit to Aras an Uachtarán on the invitation of President Michael D. Higgins.



# COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY

With increased pressure on the public purse the Government developed a new approach to examining expenditure issues in 2011. The Comprehensive Review of Expenditure involved a detailed examination of all expenditure items with a view to a fundamental reassessment of their continued necessity and role. Each Department of Government was required to produce a detailed report with a proposed multi-annual framework within the parameters of the national finances over 3 years. We made a detailed submission to this process working in partnership with all members.

Significant change is underway in the area of Further Education and Training with the merger of VECs and the establishment of ETBs and SOLAS. We ensured our voice was heard with a submission to this process.

We made a submission to the DCYA Statement of Strategy and a number of submissions and statements on the crisis levels of youth unemployment. We have consistently called for a faster pace on education and curricular reform and published a Constitutional Amendment Bill (Presidential Age) in 2011 proposing to end the age limit of 35 to be President.

We worked with the Stand Up for Children organisation and the Children's Rights Alliance to further the proposal to have a Children's Rights Referendum and we made a detailed submission to the Department of Social Protection on Community Employment and the vital role it plays in the provision of youth work services at local level.

We made a detailed budget submission in 2011 and have kept abreast of all developments relating to the proposed new Children's Strategy and the new Youth Policy Framework which will be an important pillar in this.

# QUALITY

2011/12 saw the completion of peer assessments with a number of Youth Services with a successful outcome. Presentations were made to Cork and Midlands regional Youth Service.

To strengthen and support our work locally we engaged in a wide ranging testing process with the SPEAK system in 2011. The work on Youth Information trial sites also contributed to our overall quality assurance work.

The DCYAs National Quality Standard Framework was rolled out in 2011 and some work was also done on a standard for youth clubs. The NQSF is a key pillar in the DCYAs approach to youth work policy. A number of Youth Work Ireland members undertook the NQSF and all come through it with flying colours. Youth Work Ireland's QSF was cited as of critical assistance by those taking part and our work or our organisation continues to shape policy and practice nationally in this field. We are now re-examining the precise role and function of our QSF process for the future.

# FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Youth Work Ireland introduced a major new Governance structure in 2011. This new scheme is aimed at ensuring maximum membership involvement in our work while ensuring efficiency in everything that we do. There are now 7 sub-committees of the National Board which ensure a wide spectrum of people contribute to decision making. Similarly link people have been designated in National Office to ensure that we broaden the relationships between membership and National Office and ensure a good flow of communication for all.

In 2011 we entered in to a partnership with SpunOut. ie to link online and community based youth work.

In 2011 our main income source from DCYA fell by 7.16%. IYJS Income is now being distributed via Youth Work Ireland National Office. Careful control of expenditure in line with reduced incomes in ensured at all times. We have appointed new auditors Grant Thornton in 2011.

# VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The 2011 Volunteer Achievement Awards took place at Youth Work Ireland National Office on the Saturday November 5th 2011. Simon Harris TD (Ireland's youngest TD) presented the awards. As always there was strong interest in the awards from all around Ireland. Supported by teams of locally based staff the recipients are among the key deliverers of services to young people. Much of this work is done "out of the spotlight" and quite often receives little recognition.

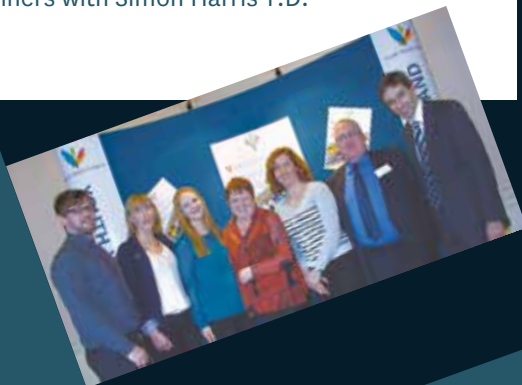
The people honoured represent a group of committed and dedicated individuals who give their free time to benefit local communities and society in general. Through their enthusiasm and dedication they inspire young people and support them to realise their own potential.

The recipients were;

- **Leading the Way Award Winner** – Padraig McGrath, Daingean Youth Club, MRYS
- **Stepping Up Award Winner** – Peter Murphy, Bruach na Habhainn Youth Project, KDYS
- **Making a Difference Award Winner** – Gearoid (Gadge) Murphy, Killarney Youth Club & Drop-in, KDYS
- **Behind the Scenes Winner** – Karen Dunne, Board of Directors, Youth Work Ireland Galway
- **The Extra Mile Award** – Angela Montgomery, Castlepollard Youth Club, Midlands Regional Youth Service

Each recipient received a specially commissioned pin designed by jewelry designer Garrett Mallon.

VAA Winners with Simon Harris T.D.



## FUNDRAISING

We continue to work on diversifying our fundraising base and have appointed a Head of Development to take this work forward. Our fundraising strategy emphasises a continuum of funding options such as monthly giving, corporate giving, events, trusts and foundations, legacies and trusts and foundations. Our 5 year aim is to have an annual fundraising income of €1.5 million.

Youth Work Ireland entered into a significant 3 year partnership with B&Q to support local youth projects around Ireland. This work involves partnering local stores with local projects and engaging staff in fundraising work along with national fundraising initiatives. Our monthly giving campaign will be launched in October 2012 which will ask donors to give a small monthly donation to maximise the potential of Ireland's young people.

For more information see

<http://www.youthworkireland.ie/site/fundraising/> or contact Jennie Blake at [jblake@youthworkireland.ie](mailto:jblake@youthworkireland.ie).





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**OUR VISION**

A more equal and sustainable world where  
all young people are valued and involved.

**OUR MISSION**

To contribute to changing society  
for the benefit of young people.

National Youth Federation Ltd.  
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