



MENDICITY INSTITUTION
SINCE 1818

Annual Report 2015



THE MENDICITY INSTITUTION

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

His Grace The Most Reverend Diarmuid Martin,
Archbishop of Dublin

His Grace The Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson,
Archbishop of Dublin

Very Reverend Victor Stacey,
Dean of St. Patricks Cathedral

Very Reverend Dermot Dunne,
Dean of Christ Church Cathedral

Management Committee:

Mr. Patrick Bewley	The Chairman
Fr. John Collins	Vice-Chairman
Mr. Trevor Lloyd	Hon. Treasurer
Ms. Betty Sisson	
Ms. Caroline Carson	
Mr. Tony O'Rourke	
Mr. John Conran	
Mr. Julian Judge	
Very Rev. Victor Stacey	
Very Rev. Dermot Dunne	
Fr. Stanislaw Hajkowski	

The Manager

Charles Richards

Registered Charity
Number:

20001322

CHY Number:

834

Office Address:

9 Island Street,
Dublin 8

Bankers:

The Governors and
Company of the Bank of
Ireland

Auditor:

Merry, Mullen and
Company, Chartered
Accountants and
Registered Auditors,
35 Westland Square,
Pearse Street, Dublin 2



MENDICITY INSTITUTION
SINCE 1818

The Mendicity Institution was founded in 1818 to suppress begging, relieve poverty and ensure that nobody in the Metropolis went hungry. For nearly 200 years we have been creating opportunities for homeless, destitute and isolated people to live better lives.

We empower people to work their way out of homelessness and deprivation.

We recognise the dignity and potential of marginalised members of our community. We see the homeless as a resource. We create stepping stones to a life independent of homeless services, and towards reintegration with society. We prevent and fight homelessness by helping disadvantaged people work.

We are inclusive, we are innovative, and we provide a quality service to people who come to us.

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

2015 was a busy year in the Mendicity with increasing numbers of people presenting to us looking for help. We have continued to fulfil our ethos of giving marginalized individuals a chance to work their way out of poverty and homelessness to a more independent life.

Our Food Service continues to serve nearly 20,000 meals per annum and thanks to increasing supports from Food Cloud BiaFi, Heart to Hand, Aldi, Adamstown Educate Together and Athy Parish, we were able to present wonderfully varied and nutritious meals at lower cost.

As always throughout our history, we have been trying to address gaps in existing services. We address the needs of destitute individuals who have no entitlement to state supports in Ireland, and we were delighted to successfully assist 50 people in securing employment last year.

For more difficult cases, that is migrants that have been on the streets for many years, often addicted to alcohol and unwilling or unable to return to their home countries, we have started an innovative Mendo Workshp. It encourages people to embrace sobriety and provides an opportunity for them to ease their way back into the world of work, its demands and challenges.

We have expanded our Prison In-Reach Project that aims to prevent homelessness upon release, and are providing supports through Romanian now, as well as through English, Polish and Russian.

Recognising the homeless people as resource that could benefit the local community, we have also started running a MenDo Shed. This is a space where homeless men can work shoulder to shoulder, involving themselves in constructive projects such as building pigeon lofts for local children, mapping local graveyards, or teaching our older and often isolated clientele to use computers. These activities help the homeless to realize their potential, and rediscover forgotten work habits and learn new skills. It also gives them hope that they might one day be able to return to the life they once had.

Our premises are located in a deprived area of the city and we are committed to maximise its usage both to benefit our service users and the local community. We currently host and support the local youth club, a Coder Dojo and the local football club.

On behalf of our hard working the Committee and dedicated staff, I would like to thank you for your generous and loyal support which enables us to continue our work, ever mindful of the duty of care that we have inherited from our founders nearly 200 years ago.

Patrick Bewley,
The Chairman

Manager's Report

From my point of view as Manager, the last year and into 2016 has been very encouraging.

For a long time our concern was safety, the safety of the staff and the service users and also the behaviour of service users in the neighbourhood.

However the development of our Men's Shed that we call the MenDo Shed and the Mendo Workshop taken in conjunction with our expanded Employment and Advocacy Service has made all the difference in creating a much calmer and constructive environment than we could provide when our main focus was simply providing a Food service.

There is a concentration of homeless people in the city on account of the wide range of basic services available. This can have a deleterious effect as distinct milieus develop where dependency becomes normalised. Our services give people an opportunity to reduce that dependency which too often can lead to a downward spiral of addiction, petty criminality, mental deterioration and poor health.

The Shed and Workshop have been very successful in addressing this issue. The Shed provides constructive activity and the Workshop provides four hours legal paid employment per week for otherwise destitute EA migrants.

Both provide stepping stones on the way back to independent living. Sobriety is paramount, the work is

rewarding, there is a sense of achievement at the end of each day and a positive camaraderie is evident. The Employment and Advocacy Service takes things further by assisting service users into full time employment and private rented accommodation.

In many ways these initiatives reflect the attitudes and beliefs of our founders back in the early nineteenth century, however while their attitude was 'if you don't work, you don't eat' ours is more a case of saying to our service users in regard to the Shed and the Workshop, 'try it, you might like it.' So far, so good.

We look forward to the future and continuing to develop new programmes and projects to improve the lives of our service users and make a positive contribution to the life of the city.

Charles Richards (Manager)

PROJECTS AND SERVICES

Food Centre

For nearly 200 years we have been serving homemade meals, free of charge, no questions asked, to all who come in.

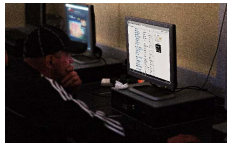


FOOD CENTRE OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday
Breakfast: 9.00 – 9.30
Lunch: 10.30 – 13.00

Saturday
Breakfast: 10.00 -11.00

Computer Room and Recreational Area



We provide **free** access to computers and the **Internet** on our premises for all service

users,

5 days a week.

We are proud to provide a



safe space



where people can relax, chat or read a book

and stay connected.



Employment and Advocacy Project

Running since 2012, this project, supports all who want to return to the labour market. It aims to facilitate a path to independent living

Over 40% of people presenting to our services in 2015 had no means to support themselves, no entitlement to social welfare supports, no family, friends, or anybody else who would help them.

In 2015 we held nearly 1500 individual appointments with 207 people, out of which 97 were homeless and 64 at risk of homelessness.

for homeless, vulnerable, poor and socially marginalised individuals. It provides access to services, training and employment.



MenDo Workshop

12% of people seeking our help in 2015 were long term homeless, often rough sleepers, with severe alcohol addiction.

MenDo Workshop gives them a chance for legal work. It incentivises sobriety, boosts self-esteem, opens up new possibilities.



After a few months with us, the first three of the Workshop participants moved to other (better paid☺) legal employment and found private rented accommodation. A year later, they are still there.

Duffily Bag - Homeless Helping Homeless

In order to create opportunities for employment for other people, we chose the manufacturing of a water-proof, fire resistant sleeping bag for the homeless as our main project for the Mendicity Workshop.

The bags, affectionately called Duffily bags, were



invented by a 14 year old student from Limerick, Emily Duffy, a laureate of the 2015 BT Young Scientist competition.

After four stages of design development and testing, we



selected and trained 5 service users to manufacture the bags, which were distributed free of charge among the roughsleepers and homeless shelters.

We were very encouraged by the positive outcomes of the Duffily bags project, and the empowering impact that it has on the service users staffing the Workshop.

MenDo Shed

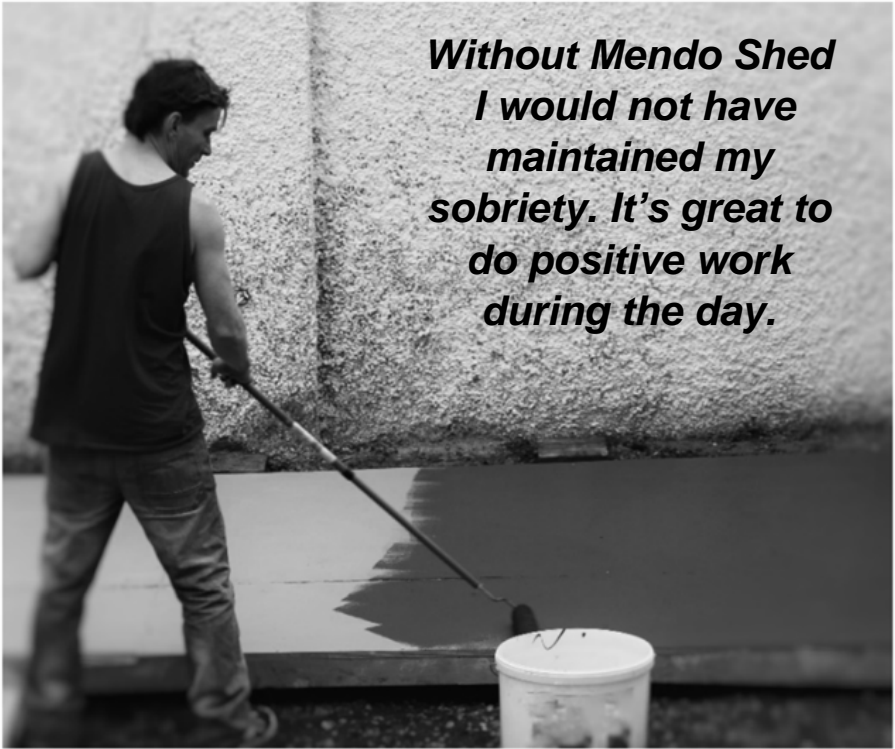
A safe and welcoming space. A hot cup of coffee. Chance to work shoulder to shoulder on projects that benefit the local community – building a wormery for the community garden, refurbishing and maintaining communal buildings, mapping local graveyard, digitalising historical records, dog walking, teaching computers to the elderly, shooting videos. It provides a respite from the streets, a chance to clear the head, rediscover old skills and develop new ones.



for getting back to employment.

Established in 2015, MenDo Shed Project aims to involve homeless people in constructive and achievable projects in order to provide them with skills and motivation





***Without Mendo Shed
I would not have
maintained my
sobriety. It's great to
do positive work
during the day.***

"I'd been on the streets for seven years and drinking heavily. I hit 40 and decided to stop drinking. Without the Mendicity Institution - that gave me the chance to be part of their MenDo Shed - I would not have maintained my sobriety. It's great to do positive work during the day. My confidence came back and I was able to meet up with my family for the first time, after seven years of silence. Long live the Mendo." Mark

Prison In-Reach Project

Approximately 12% of prisoner population in Ireland are EU citizens, and many from Central and Eastern Europe. Many of them do not speak English, have no family here, no home, and no entitlement to social welfare support upon release and they effectively end up being homeless.

Mendicity Prison In-reach Project helps support Central/Eastern European migrant prisoners to prevent homelessness upon release and reduce the reoffending rates. It involves designing a post-release support plan for each individual; procuring travel documents for prisoners wishing to return to their country of origin; providing information on services and entitlements available (in Ireland and home countries), referring to other services when necessary; providing assistance with securing emergency or temporary accommodation and job seeking for released prisoners; assisting prisoners with ongoing non-legal cases while in prison such as cumulating debt, closing bank accounts.

In 2015 we have supported 10 prisoners preparing them for their release through English, Polish, Lithuanian, Romanian and Russian.

Financial Statements

THE MENDICITY INSTITUTION & THE MENDICITY INSTITUTION TRUST

Income and Expenditure Account

	Notes	2015	2015	2014	2014
		€	€	€	€
<u>Incoming Resources</u>					
Voluntary Income:					
Subscriptions		38,565		29,274	
Bequests		33,507		33,570	
			72,072		62,844
Activities for Generating Funds					
Rent Receivable			295		5,802
Investment Income:					
Dividends and Interest			152,597		145,068
Bank Interest Receivable			858		683
Total Incoming Resources			<u>225,822</u>		<u>214,397</u>
<u>Resources Expended</u>					
Charitable Activities:					
Provisions		28,719		28,168	
Projects		19,973		-	
Donations		46,500		15,000	
Portfolio Management					
Charges		19,355		16,312	
Governance costs	1	15,698		19,580	
Provision of services	2	183,798		140,102	
Total Resources Expended			<u>314,043</u>		<u>219,162</u>
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources			(88,221)		(4,765)

1. Governance Costs	2015	2014
	€	€
Wages	6,903	5,940
Employer PRSI contributions	676	573
Light and heat	1,324	1,077
Legal and professional	1,892	7,244
Audit	3,782	3,782
Bank charges	244	190
Printing and postage	-	137
Telephone	877	637
	<u>15,698</u>	<u>19,580</u>

2. Provision of Services

	2015	2014
	€	€
Wages	132,706	103,369
Employer PRSI contributions	13,903	10,523
Security and office costs	3,506	569
Telephone	877	637
Light and heat	5,294	4,307
Sundry expenses	2,444	2,984
Travelling and subsistence	4,549	3,217
Insurance	4,412	4,889
Repairs and maintenance	16,107	9,607
	<u>183,798</u>	<u>140,102</u>

The members of the Management Committee receive no salary, expenses or allowances, for their contribution to the work of the Mendicity Institution.



In December our staff and MenDo Shed members cooked a Christmas Dinner for staff of Bentley Systems to thank them for their generous donation.



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