

**A year in the life of The Salvation  
Army in the Republic of Ireland**

# Unstoppable



**The Salvation Army in the Republic of Ireland  
Annual Review 2013**





The Salvation Army is a worldwide evangelical Christian church. Our message is based on the Bible; our motivation is the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Inspired by our faith, we engage in a programme of practical action to serve the community, to help those who are suffering and in need, and to fight for social justice.

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Some names have been changed and models used where appropriate in the photographs to respect the privacy of the people concerned



# A word of welcome from our Leader



**Commissioner Clive Adams**

Leader of The Salvation Army in the UK with the Republic of Ireland

When The Salvation Army's founder William Booth was told by his son about all the homeless people sleeping on the banks of the Thames, his response was simple: 'Go and do something.' That was in the middle of the nineteenth century. But today The Salvation Army's philosophy is exactly the same.

We see the problems our society faces, including homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and child abuse. We see men, women and children suffering greatly. More than anything we want to do something practical to heal their wounds and help them get back on their feet.

Added to this is our continuing work as part of the evangelical Christian church, spreading the message of the Gospel and working with other Christian denominations to put our shared beliefs into action.

In the past year I have had the opportunity to see at first hand how effectively this work is being done by The Salvation Army in the Republic of Ireland. I have been inspired by the sheer commitment and energy of our officers, staff and volunteers and the way they are working to change people's lives. You will see it too, in the pages of this Annual Review. And, whether you are part of The Salvation Army, or in a partner organisation, or simply interested in what we do, let me assure you of one thing. Our work will go on, determined and unstoppable, for as long as people need us.

However, we cannot do this work alone. As a charity we depend heavily on the support of others, whether it is generous individual donors, trusts, businesses or public bodies. That is why, at a time when the need for our services is growing and public funding is under pressure, we need all the help you can give us.

When you have read this review, please don't just put it aside. Please consider what you can do to help The Salvation Army continue its vital mission.

**'For The Salvation Army there's never a moment's rest.  
We wouldn't want it any other way.'**

# WE NEVER STOP HELPING PEOPLE IN CRISIS

The Salvation Army runs two Lifehouses – residential centres for homeless adults – in Dublin. They are:

- **York House**, which provides accommodation for 80 homeless men with medium to high support needs.
- **The Granby Centre**, which provides accommodation for 101 homeless men and women with medium to high support needs.

York House and the Granby Centre do far more than provide homeless people with a roof over their heads. They offer people who have lost everything – their homes, their independence and their dignity – the chance to get their lives back together and make a fresh start.

We seek to help people regain their self-confidence and equip themselves with the skills they need to live an independent life. We have an extensive training programme focusing on life skills and resettlement and also encourage our residents to enrol in vocational training that will help them find a job.

York House and Granby both provide Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) for up to 30 residents. During this period, residents are given individual attention to meet their needs and maximise potential. For residents whose needs are deemed to be complex, both Lifehouses also provide Long Term Supported Housing for up to a period of four years for 50/51 residents.

Granby has a Care Floor providing full board accommodation and care for 20 people with varied mental health issues, referred to us by the Health Service Executive (HSE) mental health services. It also has a Medical Centre providing essential support and primary care medical service to marginalised groups within Dublin who do not have a medical card and are unable to gain access to general medical primary care.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Throughout 2013 York House developed a new series of training and development modules to help residents rebuild their lives after being homeless. They included employment workshops designed to help residents get back into work.
- The addiction services at York House were also strengthened by a new series of workshops to help people with addiction problems to recover fully and make a new start in life.
- York House succeeded in securing funding from the Electricity Supply Board for a comprehensive training programme designed to address areas such as anger management, understanding parenting skills, self-esteem and personal care.
- Four staff accompanied twelve Granby Centre residents to the holiday village in Tramore, County Waterford, for a four-day break. The residents gave a small contribution to the cost of this holiday. There were outings each day, such as horse riding, a visit to an activity park and a stroll along the beach – and the residents returned with new energy and self-confidence and with a new determination to get their lives back on track.
- When the Philippines were devastated by a typhoon in November 2013 the residents of the Granby Centre asked if they could help. A large empty water bottle was placed in the reception area to collect donations and an amount of €150 was given. Most of this came from residents, with one man putting in the money he used to spend on drink every week for three weeks.
- One of the most enjoyable events in our calendar is the Inter-Centre Quiz. Teams from York House, Granby Centre and Lefroy House gather at the Granby Centre to battle for the prize of the Quiz Shield. This is a keenly fought event and in 2013 Granby Centre reluctantly had to hand the trophy back to York House. The event finished with a special supper arranged by the chaplains.

## 'The Salvation Army gave me back my family and my life.'

As a young man, David seemed to have the whole world at his feet. He came from a caring family, he was highly intelligent, and after gaining his university degree he seemed destined for a brilliant career. But things started to go wrong when David started to have serious mental health problems. He couldn't work any longer, he lost his home – and finally he ended up living rough in the parks of Dublin.

David had been homeless for several years when he realised that living rough was seriously damaging his health. 'I knew I would die if I went on like this,' he remembers. But finally he was put in contact with the Granby Centre, one of The Salvation Army's Lifehouses (residential centres for homeless people) in Dublin.

### **A new start**

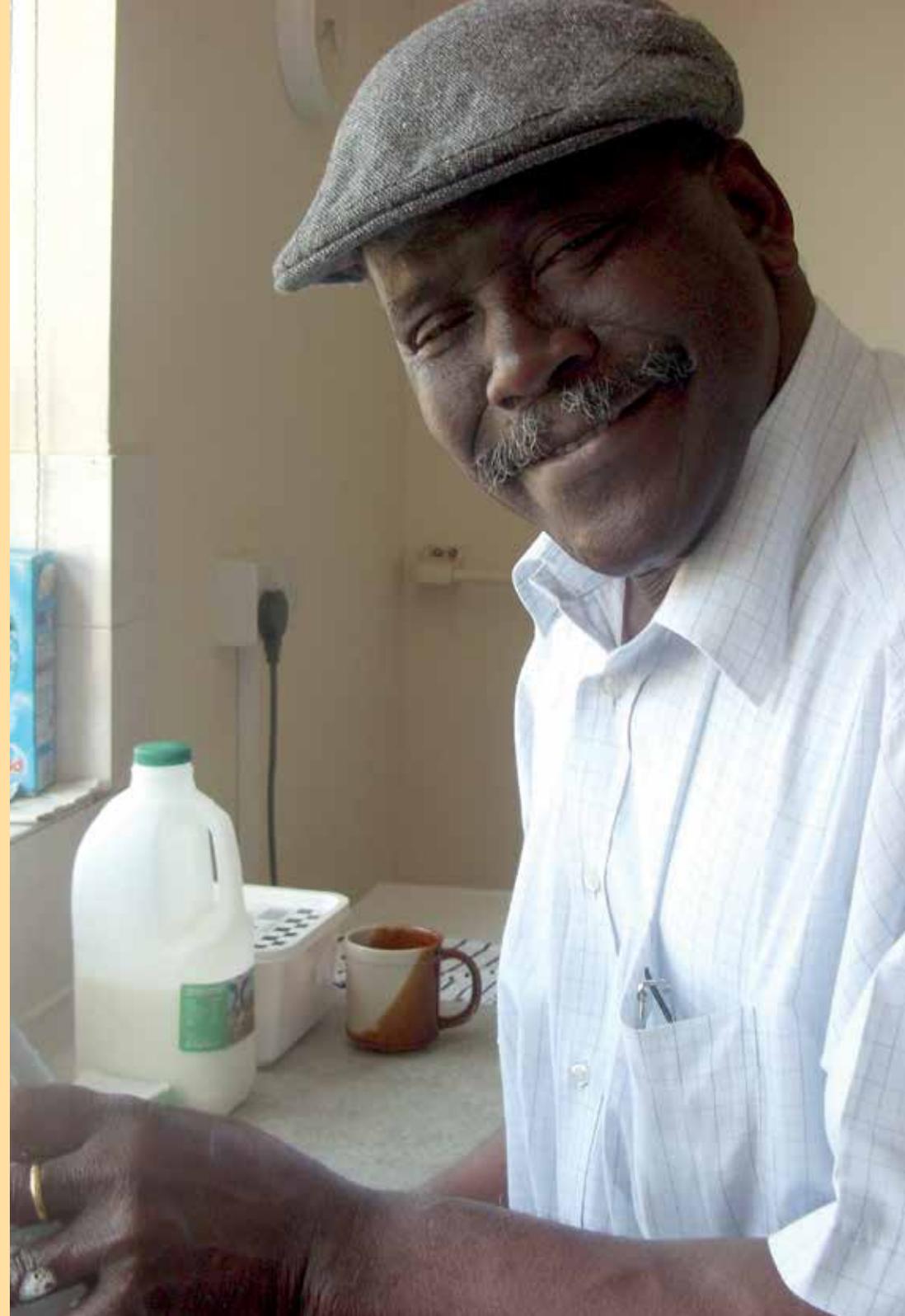
When he came through the doors of the Granby Centre, David was filthy and unkempt. After living rough for so long, he had lost his social skills and his ability to get on with other people. But at Granby he found a warm welcome. The staff there treated him with respect. They helped him clean himself up and gave him decent clothes to wear. They gave him a room and a bed to sleep in. They also re-educated him in the skills he had lost, like the basics of personal hygiene and how to keep himself clean.

David was difficult to live with at first. Even the simplest everyday things like living indoors and sleeping in a bed seemed strange and made him anxious at first. But gradually he calmed down – and eventually he was ready to move into one of our apartments where he could have more privacy and independence.

### **Family ties**

David's story had a happy ending. For years he had been estranged from his family, but the staff at the Granby Centre encouraged him to make contact with them. His relatives were amazed and delighted at how much he had changed his way of life and soon the old quarrels were forgiven and forgotten. Now David has moved away from Dublin to be closer to his family.

As David says: 'I'm so grateful to The Salvation Army. You've given me back my family and my life.'



# WE NEVER STOP CARING FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

The past year has seen Lefroy House, our young people's centre, continue to provide much-needed support and care to some of Dublin's most vulnerable and marginalized young people.

Many of the young people who come to us have never known the love of a stable family. Many have experienced neglect and abuse and have spent periods in the care system. A significant number have multiple addictions and severe behavioural problems. To all of them, The Salvation Army offers understanding and practical help. We give them the love and respect they have never known and show them that we are there for them, however great their problems may be.

The centre runs three separate emergency services for homeless young people aged from 12-18, namely:

- **The Night Light Project**, a crisis service which young people can turn to when in desperate need.
- **The Emergency Reception Centre**, which can provide food, shelter and support to up to 14 young people.
- **Emergency Crisis Beds**, seven individual bedrooms which are available each night for any young person who would otherwise be at risk of sleeping rough.

Beyond this emergency work, Lefroy House also offers vulnerable young people the chance to experience a stable, loving environment and start to rebuild their lives.

The main part of Lefroy House provides seven support flats for young people over 17 who are able to live independently and want to take part in a resettlement programme. The aim of the programme is to help

them break the cycle of homelessness by teaching them everyday living skills and social skills. In this way we help them move on into permanent accommodation and make a future for themselves.

It isn't always easy to help very troubled young people, but our staff will do whatever is needed. We also tailor the programme to meet the young people's individual needs.

These projects are registered with the Department of Health and Children who have a statutory role in monitoring and evaluating services.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- In 2013 we saw the introduction of the 'art squad' – an imaginative project where art teachers donate their time every Monday in order to work with young people and help them express themselves creatively. The art is displayed in the centre – much to the delight of the young people, who gain a great deal of self-esteem and enjoyment out of creating their own works of art.
- In 2013 we made increased use of our urban garden 'Faoi blaith'. This is a valuable space for our young people who love working there and tending the flowers and the plants. In the past year it has also provided excellent opportunities for special events such as outdoor dining and barbeques.
- In 2013 the urban garden also won a first place award in the north inner-city awards for individual contribution, and came third in the overall Dublin awards. These award ceremonies help recognise the good work carried out by the young people, which is a key component in raising their self-esteem.
- In Nightlight we saw the positive affect our DJ class can have on young people. This initiative helps young people with complex problems to express themselves through music and the young people who took part really benefited from it.
- There have been a great many activities this year such as day trips and go-karting. Physical exercise makes a huge difference to young people's mental health and this is one of the reasons we value the access we have to an outside gym.



# WE NEVER STOP WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

One of the aims of The Salvation Army is to proclaim our faith not just through worship but through practical action. Where neighbourhoods are fragmented, we want to bring them together. Where families are going through hard times, we want to help them to cope. Where older people are lonely and isolated, we want to bring companionship into their lives. That is why our churches are a hive of activity for the whole community.

In the Rathmines area of the city, we make Christian worship fun for families. Our **Café Church** on Sunday mornings brings people together for coffee, tea, muffins and informal chat about faith. Once a month we also have a **Messy Church**, where families can bring their children to learn through painting, modelling and other exciting creative activities.

We support families through **Paintbox**, our highly popular group for toddlers; and **Babysong**, where parents can bring their babies for activities centred on music, singing and movement. There's also **What Every Mother Needs**, a group that gives mothers some time to themselves, meeting friends and discussing the things that are important to them and their well-being.

Many of the children in the area rarely if ever go away on holiday, so we organise a Summer Camp where they can enjoy music and games and develop new interests and skills.

At the other end of the age range, there is our **CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) Café**. This is our weekly drop-in for older people, where they can meet up with friends, have a chat and a laugh and enjoy a meal. In 2013 the CAMEO group was broadened to include a wide range of fun and interesting activities, including big screen movie afternoons, flower arranging and origami.

**What's more, the really exciting news is that we are committed to expanding our services and serving more people in the Dublin area.**

We have recently appointed Majors Stuart and Gillian Dicker as the Dublin City Corps Officers and Mission Development Officers for Dublin. They will head up a team of local Salvation Army leaders and volunteers whose purpose will be to decide on and implement a strategy for growth within the capital, drawing on the skills and expertise of our officers, staff and volunteers. Meanwhile Lieutenant Ashley Proegers and his wife Teya are settling into their appointment as Salvation Army leaders in Rathmines.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- The Salvation Army in Dublin delivered Christmas presents to over 100 children in need. These were children who had been referred to us either by social services, religious institutions or public health nurses. Food parcels were also distributed to families and individuals who would otherwise have had little or nothing to eat at Christmas.

This was all possible because of the generous parents from the toddler groups in Rathmines, who volunteered to wrap presents and buy food.

- Our Salvation Army carol concert at St Anne's Church in Dublin on 7th December was a great success. The annual event has been running for more than eight years now and has raised over €20,000 for homeless services in the city. Not only did it feature wonderful music from the Wesley College Choir and The Salvation Army's Belfast Temple Band, but it included a spirited contribution from our own Community Gospel Choir made up of people involved in our work in the Dublin area.

This was so successful that the singers expressed an interest in forming a permanent choir that rehearses regularly. We now practice every fortnight at the centre in Rathmines.



# HOW WE'VE PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK

## Income

Overall income has increased by €245k (3%) on the prior year. Statutory grants are the main source of income (accounting for 74% of total income).

### Statutory income €5,387k (2012: €5,329k).

Health Service Executive €3,096k (2012: €2,942k) – the increase in overall funding is made up of a decrease in general of 5% but an additional funding amount for our York House STA project which has been outstanding from 2010.

Local Authority €2,010k (2012: €2,027k) – the slight decrease is from smaller amounts of funding in 2012 which were for that year only. The main funding has stayed the same.

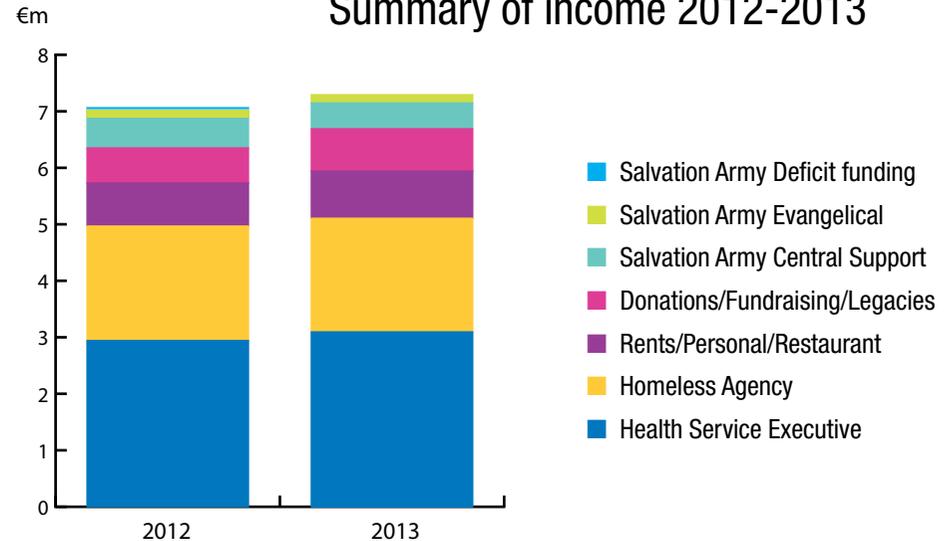
**Donations €375k (2012: €448k)** have decreased by 16% (€73k). Donations are booked on a cash receipts basis and are unpredictable in nature.

**Legacies €376k (2012: €174k)** have increased substantially by €202k. Legacy income is by its nature unpredictable as it relates to sums bequeathed to The Salvation Army.

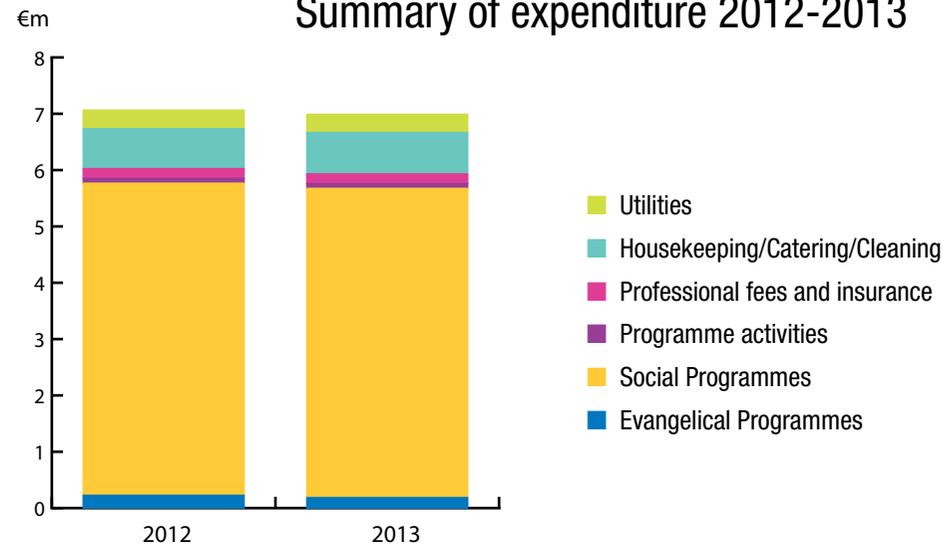
### Expenditure - €6,991 (2011: €7,066k)

Overall, expenditure has decreased by 1% (€74k). Salaries, wages and pension costs account for 64% of the expenditure costs at €4,448k (2012: €4,440k) and other operating expenses account for the remaining 36% €2,543k (2012: €2,626k) of the total expenditure. The majority of costs have seen a slight decrease when compared to 2012.

### Summary of income 2012-2013



### Summary of expenditure 2012-2013



# 6:8 CHALLENGE

I have been a member of The Salvation Army all my life and an officer, (full-time minister), for more than half of it. During those years a number of slogans have been used to describe who we are, and to motivate us to remain true to our purpose. A few that have particularly resonated with me are: 'The Salvation Army is the arm of the church with its sleeves rolled up', 'Where there's a need, there's The Salvation Army', and 'With heart to God and hand to man'. All three reflect the Army's commitment to uphold our Founders' conviction that we should ever seek to put into practice the faith we profess and demonstrate in practical ways to those in deepest need the love we preach.

Since taking over as the Ireland Divisional Commander just over a year ago, I have introduced what I have called the 6:8 Challenge. It is focussed on the need to practically live out the Christian message of love to all and is based on the response of the prophet to the challenge of God in Isaiah 6:8, 'whom shall I send and who will go for us?'. It is simply made up of the five word response Isaiah gave, **'Here am I. Send me!'**

Today, throughout the Republic of Ireland, officers, members, staff and volunteers of The Salvation Army are responding to the 6:8 Challenge in exactly the same way Isaiah did. Every day those who would otherwise be left behind by some in our communities are supported and helped by an army of people who are saying **'Here am I. Send me!'** You will have read in this Review just a few examples of the many ways we are striving to do this.

But we cannot do it alone. The 6:8 Challenge is to all. The 6:8 Challenge is to you. And the more who respond as Isaiah, and countless others have done throughout the years, the better chance we will have to actually make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.



**Major Elwyn Harries**  
Divisional Commander, Ireland Division

There are a number of ways you can respond to the 6:8 Challenge. If you are a person of faith then please pray for our work. If you have time on your hands and have a burden to do something then please consider volunteering. If you are able to support us financially then please donate. Together we really can make a difference.

**Here am I. Send me!**

The Salvation Army is a Christian Church and a Registered Charity

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**Company Secretary:** Major Graham Longmore

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**Vice Chairman:** Cecil Geelan

**Members:** Richard Ensor, Ethna Fitzgerald, John Fitzpatrick, Cecil Geelan, Robert Grier, Hugh O’Flaherty, Colm Regan, Don Tidy, Eddie Walsh

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