

*Share a Break  
And  
Room to Share*



*Annual Report  
2007*

# Share a Break

The Share a Break scheme has been successfully expanding over the past 25 years. During 2007 it continued to offer respite in a family setting on an on-going basis to children and adults, the range of intellectual disability being from mild to severe. This service allows people to have an individualised form of respite.

The scheme operates in Counties Longford, Westmeath, Laois, Offaly, south Kildare and west Wicklow. The scheme is administered by the Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary (Muiríosa Foundation) and during 2007 continued to be funded by the Health Service Executive.



*Imelda Dennedy, Marie Kelly and Peter Fox*

## **Westmeath/Longford**

During 2007, 16 children availed of regular respite under the scheme in Westmeath and an additional eight in Longford. The number of adults availing of the scheme was 35 in Westmeath and three in Longford.

The total number of days provided by the scheme was 2,559 at a cost of €102,378.50. Eight new host families were recruited. All of these new host families had heard of the scheme through word of mouth.

## **Laois/Offaly**

A total of seven children availed of regular Share a Break during 2007 in Laois and a further 16 in Offaly. The number of adults availing of the scheme was 12 in Laois and 30 in Offaly. The number of days respite provided was 2,116 at a cost of €84,635. Four new host families were recruited.

## **South Kildare/West Wicklow**

Within this region, a total of 23 children availed of 706 days respite under Share a Break, at a cost of €28,250. Three adults availed of 131 days respite at a cost of €5,250. An additional four host families were recruited.

## Share a Break

Region	Hosts	Children	Days	€ Cost	Adults	Days	€ Cost	Total Cost (Adults and Children)
Westmeath Longford	57	24	927	37,080	38	1,632	65,298.50	102,378.50
Laois Offaly	52	23	553	22,120	42	1,563	62,515	84,635
S. Kildare W. Wicklow	25	23	706	28,250	3	131	5,250	33,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>2,186</b>	<b>87,450</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>3,326</b>	<b>133,063.50</b>	<b>220,513.50</b>

\* Share a Break costs €40 for a 24 hour period and €25 for part of a day.

## Room To Share

The Room to Share scheme commenced in 1993 and provides long term care in a host family setting to people aged 18 years and over.

Those currently availing of the scheme live in Counties Longford, Westmeath and Laois. It is organised by the Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary (Muiríosa Foundation) and during 2007 was funded by the Health Service Executive. The range of disability of those who avail of the scheme is from mild to severe.

What is distinctive about this scheme is that people live with their host families on a full time basis.

Region	Number Placed	Cost €
Westmeath	9	67,931.39
Longford	5	32,375.08
Laois	7	66,999.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>167,305.59</b>

### Westmeath/Longford

During 2007, 14 people availed of long term placements under the Room to Share scheme in Westmeath/Longford. Of those, nine were in Westmeath and five in Longford. During 2007 one person left the scheme in Westmeath and two joined it. The Cost was €100,306.47 for the 14 people placed.

### Laois / Offaly

A total of seven people availed of the services of the Room to Share scheme in Laois during 2007. The total cost of the seven placements was €66,999.12.

# Host Families

The total number of host families providing the service in Westmeath/Longford was 57. There were 52 in Laois/Offaly. In south Kildare and west Wicklow, the number of host families was 25. A total of 16 new families were recruited across all regions in 2007.



## Summary

Within the Laois/Offaly, Westmeath/Longford region, 148 people availed of respite and long term care under the Share a Break and Room to Share schemes during 2007. The total cost was €354,319.09.

In south Kildare and west Wicklow, 23 children availed of regular respite amounting to €28,250. A further three adults availed of respite under the scheme at a cost of €5,250.00.

A total of 16 new host families were recruited for the schemes. This included eight in Westmeath/Longford, four in Laois/Offaly and four in South Kildare.

Budgetary constraints again prevented a significant expansion of the scheme during 2007. Most of the new host families who were recruited heard of the scheme through personal contact.



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