



Depaul International

Impact Report 2019-20



Our Mission

We aim to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a society in which everyone has a place to call home and a stake in their community.

Our Values

Our key values underpin all of the work we do:

- We celebrate the potential of people
- We put our words into action
- We aim to take a wider role in civil society
- We believe in rights and responsibilities

Our Roots

Depaul International takes its roots from the 17th century French social reformer St Vincent de Paul who started a movement that responded to the needs of the 'poorest of the poor' in a practical and non-judgemental way. All of the Depaul charities continue to work in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul, responding to need through action and innovation.

Chair and Group CEO's Statement

This year's Impact Report is written under the dark cloud of the corona virus pandemic. Across the world, the people hardest hit by the virus are those at the margins of society. Those individuals and families who are homeless face the desperate plight to find shelter and refuge from the threat of the disease. The work of Depaul has never been more needed than now, and the response from the Depaul charities in seven countries, working with partners and government, is exemplary.

The rapid and all-encompassing spread of the virus required new ways of working to protect both those who are homeless and our staff and volunteers. Within days, staff in all seven Depaul subsidiaries (currently in Croatia, France, Ireland, Slovakia, Ukraine, UK, USA) had implemented measures to provide safe refuge, meals, medical care and outreach services to those who find themselves on the streets.

As ever, the Depaul Group is indebted to the many individuals and organisations without whom our work would not be possible. Individual donors have responded rapidly and generously to our emergency appeals. Co-operation with government agencies, partners, the Vincentian Family and the Institute of Global Homelessness has again shown the power of collaborative working in response to these latest threats to the most vulnerable.

The challenge remains to continue to provide support to homeless people throughout the period of the pandemic and beyond. As ever, Depaul charities will respond to

this challenge with confidence and commitment, and look to build on these initial experiences in our further battle to combat global homelessness.

Depaul International is the parent organisation of a global family of charities working with marginalised and homeless people. This report will show that during 2019, the Depaul Group and its key strategic partners continued to move forward in all areas. Across the seven countries of our activity, direct support was provided to more than 22,000 individuals*. Work with the Vincentian Family on the "13 Houses Campaign" saw the opening of homes for 3,500 people, well on the way to the target of 10,000. And joint efforts from the IGH, FHA and DPI helped mobilise opinion at the United Nations to bring the issue of homelessness to the top of the UN agenda.

While the need to address the issues of the pandemic may dictate a shift of focus in our work, our Mission remains unchanged: To end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it. As Chair and CEO, our sincere thanks go out to colleagues, supporters, friends and associates as we continue to pursue that goal.



Mark McGreevy
Mark McGreevy OBE
Group Chief Executive



John Darley
John Darley
Chair of Trustees

*This is an increase of 2,000 people from the previous year. We also reached a further 6,000 people who benefitted from Depaul UK's new school education programme.

Spotlight on the difference we have made



The Institute of Global Homelessness

together with the Working Group to End Homelessness, partnered with the United Nations resulting in the first UN resolution on homelessness in more than 30 years



Depaul Ireland

helped over 4,800 men, women and children and provided over 2,000 vital health care interventions for the most marginalised in our society



Depaul USA

helped 117 people to transition into permanent accommodation through its day resource centres Jericho Way and Daybreak



Depaul France

provided over 5,700 hygiene sessions and saw a 47% increase in day centre visits – bearing testimony to the importance of these services



Depaul UK

kept more than 900 young people safe by providing 9,000 bed nights through its Nightstop network – made up of 31 active services across England, Scotland and Wales



Depaul Slovakia

helped over 1,200 people stay safe at night through its St Vincent night shelter – ensuring people had access to a warm bed, showers, food, medical care and social support



Depaul Ukraine

prioritised social support sessions as an effective way of helping people off the streets – resulting in over 200 people securing a source of income



Depaul Croatia

enabled over 18,000 visits to its day centre – providing access to food, hygiene and healthcare services and social support.



Our work

Humanitarian and emergency response

Homeless people are at the heart of everything Depaul does and our subsidiaries, currently across seven countries, continuously strive to meet their most basic needs. Our teams step in when urgent action is required, often at short notice, to ensure access to life-saving provisions including shelter, food, sanitation and medical care.

Depaul Croatia regularly visited homeless people in their dwellings through its outreach service, bringing food and clothes, and inviting them to access the day centre for more targeted support. A staff exchange between Depaul Croatia and Depaul Ukraine helped to improve service delivery – with the latter sharing a decade of experience of running outreach services.

Depaul USA continued to run its vital resource centres in Macon (Georgia) and Little Rock (Arkansas) to meet the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness by providing meals, hygiene and health services as well as support with housing placements. The centres were visited over 60,500 times; handed out over 70,000 meals; and provided over 22,000 hygiene services.

Depaul Slovakia's outreach team made over 2,200 visits to homeless people living in garden sheds and

other dwellings; and the emergency day centre St Elizabeth enabled over 3,000 visits to address the most urgent medical and hygiene needs of Bratislava's entrenched rough sleepers.

Depaul UK provided emergency accommodation through its Nightstop service – a service that places young homeless people in the homes of trained volunteers. Over 1,000 people volunteered as drivers, chaperones, hosts or mentors; and 677 volunteers opened up their homes to someone in need – an increase of 12% on the number of volunteers actively hosting from the previous year.

Depaul Ukraine provided a safe and warm place for 575 homeless people in its emergency shelter in Kyiv this winter whilst its outreach teams in Kharkiv and Odesa supported more than 5,000 homeless and destitute people with food, healthcare services and social support.

OUR IMPACT - Depaul France

When he was only 20 years old, Hassen became a caretaker for a person with a disability. It was his first job and even today, many years later, he recounts that he felt just like Omar Sy in the film *Les Intouchables*.

He later had other jobs, but one day he fell ill, had to take sick leave, and that is when the problems started. Before long, Hassen was on the streets, sleeping in a car park close to Porte de Saint-Cloud, not far from the Seine. That was six years ago.

Hassen struggled. He developed mental health and behavioural

problems, and stopped trusting people. The streets are a cruel companion.

Then, he heard about the day centre *Accueil Périchaux*. It became the focal point of his daily routine – having a shower first and breakfast after. Seemingly small, but meaning the world to Hassen.

His mental health and behaviour keep him on the streets. For now. But Hassen is making progress: he now engages with others and has started to trust us. He takes his time, but we will stand by his side until he is ready to move on.



Our work

Supported accommodation and services

Depaul helps people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through a wide range of accommodation and support services. We provide temporary and permanent accommodation, run day centres and community floating support – projects that help people identify their personal goals and move towards them.

Depaul Ireland opened its new service Cosán Nua or 'New Path'. This project works with asylum seekers who have been granted legal status to remain, and provides advice, support and help in moving on to safe, independent accommodation. By the end of 2019, Cosán Nua had already helped over 300 individuals find new homes within communities across Ireland.

Depaul Ukraine supported people leaving prison to successfully re-settle within the community to reduce their risk of homelessness. Their innovative prisons project helped nearly 600 people by providing legal assistance, social support, employability training and accommodation.

Depaul France's specialised health and hygiene projects, complemented by individualised wrap-around support, continued to provide crucial services to entrenched rough sleepers in Paris. In 2019, these services were used over

5,700 times and the day centre was visited nearly 7,000 times.

Depaul USA's rapid rehousing programme in Philadelphia placed homeless men, who are in employment, in private rental units across the city. The team supported residents throughout, paid security deposits and provided rental subsidies that decline as people settle into their units and achieve greater economic stability. Last year, 32 men were housed and 11 have now moved on to permanent homes.

Depaul UK focused its housing strategy on three main areas: they developed an innovative peer-led landlord scheme that helps young people learn how to manage a tenancy in shared, private-rented housing; refurbished existing accommodation; and designed sector-leading move-on housing that will be opened in areas of high need to help young people move out of homelessness.

OUR IMPACT - Depaul Croatia

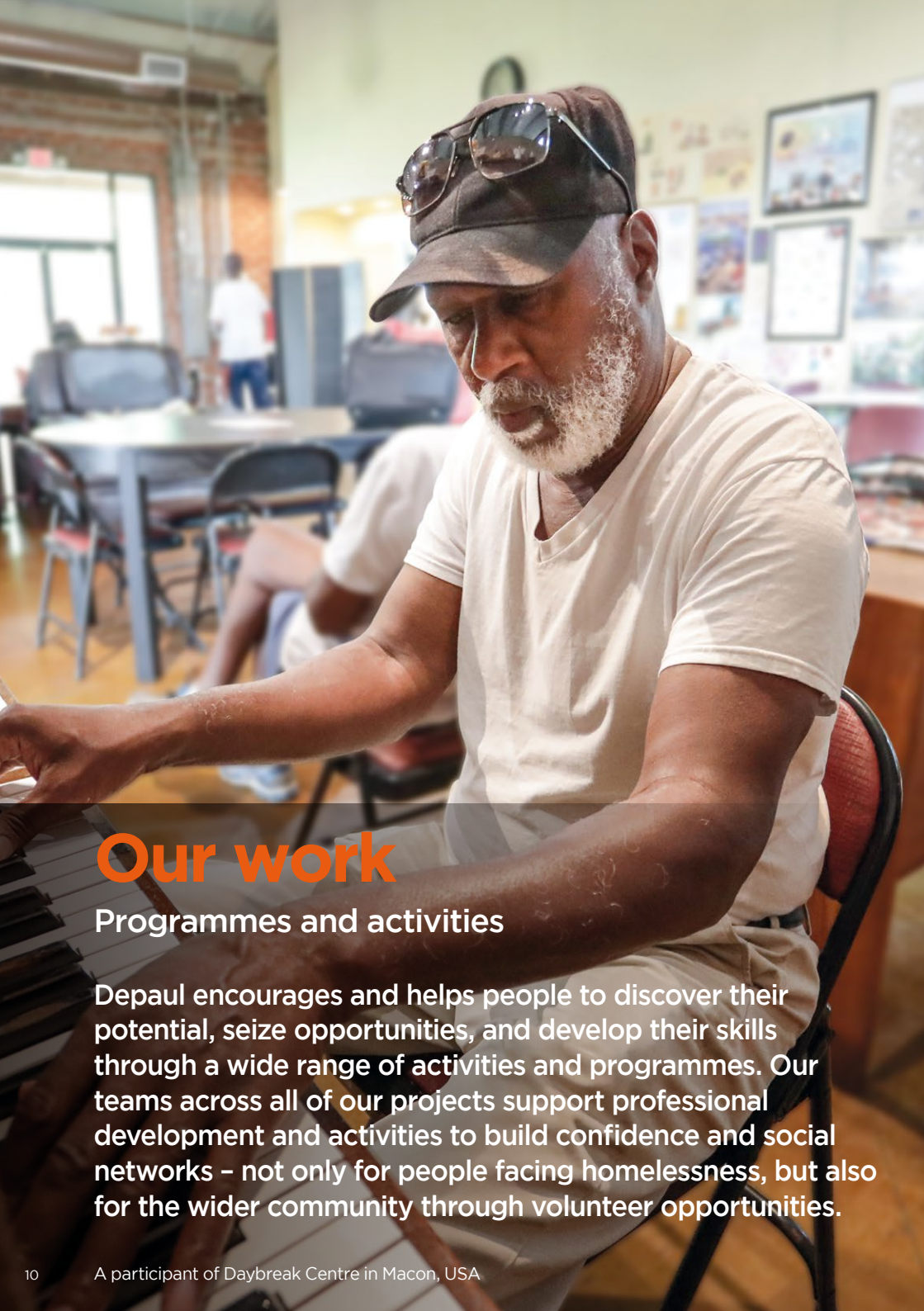
Luka had worked all his life but one day, an accident forced him to retire with a spine injury. Soon after, he lost his wife. Within months, his life had been shattered to pieces, he was unable to cope and turned to alcohol.

Eventually, he came to us to seek help. His health improved, he was engaged, helped where he could. But then he reinjured his spinal nerve, leaving him stranded in a little, dilapidated room. We got worried and decided to visit him. It was devastating. Luka was unable to physically move or prepare food,

and he was surrounded by his own excrement and rubbish.

The team was desperate to help, but hospitals refused to take him. Every day, we visited Luka, cared for him and brought food. We worked with his doctor, and liaised with the authorities – we simply could not give up. Eventually, persistence paid off. Luka was admitted to a care home for the elderly, where he now lives safely, cared for, and with dignity.

When in need, nobody should be left alone.



Our work

Programmes and activities

Depaul encourages and helps people to discover their potential, seize opportunities, and develop their skills through a wide range of activities and programmes. Our teams across all of our projects support professional development and activities to build confidence and social networks – not only for people facing homelessness, but also for the wider community through volunteer opportunities.

Depaul USA helped launch the Transportation Assistance Program (“TAP”) in conjunction with Little Rock’s public transportation agency and the Arkansas Homeless Coalition – a programme designed to help people with very low-incomes access public transportation for free so they can travel to doctor and housing appointments, receive necessary services, and pursue employment opportunities.

Depaul UK’s dedicated national Programmes team delivered its Get Up and Go! Programme to help young people improve their confidence, physical fitness, mental health, independent living skills and well-being. 558 young people accessed the programme and 123 successfully transitioned into education, training, employment or volunteering within one year of engaging in the programme.

Depaul Slovakia developed a new cooking programme at St Vincent’s

Nightshelter that brings together members of the community and homeless people. Importantly, this programme creates opportunities for conversations and learning. Over 330 individuals have now joined – each becoming an ambassador for homeless people and helping to change perceptions within the community.

Depaul Ireland set up the programme ‘Walking into Wellness’ for residents with mental health difficulties so they can enjoy calm, tranquil, nature-based settings, giving them a much needed break from the busy setting of homeless accommodation. In Northern Ireland, the team of Stella Maris worked in partnership with Dunlewey, a counselling service for those experiencing addiction, to design a brief intervention model for service users to provide one-to-one counselling when someone is experiencing a crisis situation due to their addiction.

OUR IMPACT - Depaul Ukraine

Yulia was only 17 when she fell in love with a boy at her college and not long after, she fell pregnant with twin girls. Sadly, the father left her during the pregnancy, not giving her any support. To make things worse, Yulia was unable to stay at her family home. After she had lost her mother to cancer, her father found a new wife, but unfortunately, she did not accept Yulia as her own and with the birth of the twins, the relationship broke down entirely.

Yulia was forced to drop out of school, with no home and no

hope. This was when Yulia came to Depaul’s Mother and Child Centre. Here, Yulia and her girls were able to live together as a family. Yulia learnt how to look after her children, and her daughters enjoyed to play and learn. Yulia showed herself to be a wonderful mother and having grown in confidence, was able to move into semi-independent accommodation.

She is now training to be a dairy technologist and soon, she will be able to give her little daughters the life she always dreamt of.



Looking Forward - Vision of the CEO

The next year will be one of great challenges for Depaul International, but also one of opportunity.

Responding to the Covid-19 crisis has meant changes to many of our services across all the countries we work in. New services have been taken on, the way we work in our day centres has had to change, getting more food and health services to the most vulnerable has become urgent - while keeping them and our staff healthy. This means the organisation has had to be at its most flexible and innovative. Our staff and volunteers have truly risen to this challenge.

Potential new developments will also keep us busy. In Depaul USA, we have been invited to consider developing services with the Daughters of Charity on the West Coast for the first time.

The Daughters have also invited us to look at taking on services for the homeless in Seville, Spain. In the UK, the Government have asked us to help with the large number of street homeless who have been moved into hotels during the corona virus crisis.

Finally, we will now be working with our partners to take forward the work on defining, counting and assisting homeless people across the globe. This follows the successful campaign by our partners at the Institute of Global Homelessness to have this approach adopted by the United Nations.

We are very excited about what lies ahead and look forward to sharing it with you.

Ian Brady - CEO Depaul International

THANK YOU

For over 30 years, we have been fighting homelessness - one of the most severe expressions of social inequality, of poverty and exclusion. We developed humanitarian services to keep people alive, opened accommodation projects that welcomed even the most entrenched rough sleepers, lobbied for change across governments, and convinced communities to get actively involved in solving homelessness.

None of this would have been possible without your help. We are humbled by your dedication, commitment and

generosity. You stood by our side when we dreamed up new services, when we celebrated successes, and, most importantly, when we faced challenges and needed your support to continue our work.

All of you - staff, volunteers, donors and friends - make a real difference in the world and your continued enthusiasm and engagement make us believe that we can and will achieve our vision of a society in which everyone has a place to call home and a stake in their community. **Thank you.**

Depaul USA - Husein's Story

Husein came to America from Bosnia as part of a relocation effort to assist survivors of the war between Bosnia and Serbia. Husein served as a soldier in the Bosnian army but was captured by Serbian forces. What followed is unimaginable. He tells us that he was held prisoner and endured on-going torture for a year before he was finally released.

Eventually, Husein came to the United States, initially landing in Chicago. But Husein spoke no English and did not fare well. He lived in an abandoned building in Chicago, getting food from local shelters.

After two and a half years in Chicago, Husein moved to St. Louis. He was confused, unable to communicate effectively due to the language barrier, and suffered from severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The war had left deep scars.

When Husein first arrived in St. Louis, he ended up living in a tent on the river just north of the city. Eventually, a local mental health agency started to work with Husein and referred him to Depaul USA for housing and other supportive services. A turning point.

Within a week of his referral, the team moved him into an apartment.

Once Husein had settled into his new home, we helped him enrol in classes at the International Institute so he could improve his language skills. Husein was a fast learner, and before long, he started to engage in meaningful conversations. He can now communicate when he is struggling with PTSD and this allows us to help him access the services he needs. Depaul USA also continues to assist him so he can maintain his mental health services, health benefits and housing.

Most importantly, Depaul USA helped Husein to connect with his local mosque – something he is very thankful for. He engages in social events and activities there three to four times a week. He has even been entrusted with a key due to the amount of time he spends volunteering at the mosque. He has also developed strong friendships and goes on fishing trips in the summer with his friends.

Although Husein still needs supportive services to maintain his housing, he now lives as independently as he can. He misses his country but loves his new neighbourhood and his apartment. Husein finally has a safe place to call home and we could not be happier for him; after so many difficult years, he can, at last, start his new life.



Depaul International is the parent organisation of a group of charities that works to support homeless and marginalised people around the world. The Depaul Group currently works in Croatia, France, Ireland, Slovakia, the UK, Ukraine and the USA.

Depaul International is committed to transparency in its activities. We welcome requests for information and feedback on our work.

To find out more, visit: int.depaulcharity.org or email info@depaulinternational.org

Trustees of Depaul International (valid as of 1st June 2020)

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Patrick Litton – Treasurer
Adrian Abel
Sr Margaret Barrett DC
Dame Louise Casey CB
 (stepped down May 2020)
Kathryn Gerhardt
 (stepped down April 2020)

Patricia Jones CBE
 (stepped down Jan 2020)
Heidi Kruitwagen
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Fr Aidan Rooney CM
Andrew Clark
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 (appointed April 2020)

For financial information and the Annual Accounts please visit int.depaulcharity.org

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 Depaul International

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