



**Depaul International
Impact Report 2021-22**

DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place



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, across the world, 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.

Statement of the Chair and President of the Depaul Group

As we prepare this Report for 2021, the war in Ukraine is in its fourth month. The brutal invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 had an immediate impact on the Depaul Group. Depaul has worked in Ukraine since 2007, with shelters for homeless people in Kharkiv, Odesa and Kyiv. At the outbreak of the war, these projects were quickly transformed to become distribution centres for humanitarian aid, with many homeless people supporting the distribution of food and medical supplies. The rapid response from our supporters was overwhelming, with more than £2 million raised in the first month. The continued generous donations from our funders, coupled with mobilisation of support from across the Depaul subsidiaries and wider humanitarian aid channelled through Depaul, enables us to continue our urgent front-line humanitarian work for those most in need.

Depaul International (DPI) is the parent organisation of a global family of charities working with homeless and marginalised people, currently providing services in Croatia, France, Ireland, Slovakia, Ukraine, UK, and the USA. The Depaul Group also works in strategic partnership with two key international organisations: the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA) and the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH).

Our work during 2021 was again overshadowed by the Covid-19 pandemic, and Depaul subsidiaries continued to adapt and innovate to provide care and support for homeless people threatened by the disease. Despite the restrictions, during the past year over 21,500 people

received direct support from Depaul, while the FHA "13 Houses Campaign" marked real progress in its goal to house 10,000 people by 2023 (currently approaching 8,000). IGH continued to work with the UN to bring the issue of homelessness as a focus of international development, while maintaining drive on the Vanguard Cities programme to tackle homelessness in key metropolitan areas.

The short to medium term challenges for the Depaul Group are clear: to sustain the humanitarian work in Ukraine for as long as necessary, while simultaneously maintaining and improving support for people who are homeless across the world. In these tasks, we have huge appreciation for the tremendous work of our staff, volunteers and supporters, and we especially welcome the leadership of Matthew Carter as the new Group CEO for Depaul International. As ever, we are indebted to the generous contributions of our funders, and the welcome collaboration and support from government agencies and partners across the globe.



John Darley
John Darley
Chair of Trustees



Mark McGreevy
Mark McGreevy OBE
President of the
Depaul Assembly

Highlights of the difference we have made

“I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity.”

Frederic Ozanam



1 Depaul Croatia had over **18,000** visits to their day centre in 2021, where they provide homeless and destitute individuals with food, healthcare, hygiene and social support services.

2 Depaul UK continued its supported accommodation services and housed over **790** young people in 2021. Their robust policies and procedures ensured that there was not a single in-house transmission of Covid-19.

3 Depaul France provided intensive healthcare support

to **95** beneficiaries, helping them to access healthcare services, accompanying them to appointments, and supporting them to follow their prescriptions.

4 Depaul Ukraine continued to deliver its prisons pathway project and assisted over **1,800** people to access legal advice, social support, accommodation and employment.

5 Depaul USA moved **220** people into permanent housing – offering them a pathway out of homelessness and away from the streets.

6 Depaul Slovakia provided over **144,000** meals to people who accessed their services to make sure no one had to suffer from malnutrition or hunger.

7 Depaul Ireland continued with its housing-led approach throughout the pandemic and managed to resettle a total of **487** clients during the year.

8 The Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) jointly launched the International Journal on Homelessness, the first peer-reviewed, academic journal that

looks at homelessness through a global lens.

9 The Famvin Homeless Alliance welcomed six new projects to the 13 Houses Campaign, including one in Albania, which saw the concerted efforts of different Vincentian Family branches working in four different cities, building or repairing **79** houses after the 2019 earthquake.



Our work

Humanitarian and emergency response

The people we serve are at the heart of everything Depaul does. Our subsidiaries, currently working across seven countries, continuously strive to meet the most basic needs of people living on the streets and ensure access to life-saving provisions including food, shelter, sanitation and medical care.

Depaul Croatia further improved their outreach programme by expanding its staff team to ensure they could reach more people and serve them more effectively. As a result, the team saw more people accessing hygiene, healthcare and other support services at the day centre.

Depaul France expanded its innovative mobile shower service, the Mobil'douche, and commenced operations in Avignon in the South of France. At the end of 2021, this service was awarded the Cognacq Jay foundation prize for its important work serving rough sleepers.

Depaul Ukraine made sure its services remained accessible for people who are homeless, even at the height of Covid-19. They adapted their outreach projects to allow for social distancing and implemented additional hygiene measures such as the wearing of face

masks and disinfection of hands. The teams provided over 111,500 meals and facilitated access to additional support services where needed.

Depaul UK provided over 480 people with over 6,000 bed nights of safety through the Nightstop Network. The team also secured local authority funding to launch Nightstop in Essex, as well as Nightstop and Reconnect in Milton Keynes, embedding Depaul UK into new areas.

Depaul Slovakia successfully adapted their emergency services to respond to a major wave of Covid-19 at the beginning of the year. Once Bratislava's isolation units were fully occupied, the team divided their nightshelter into zones that allowed them to safely isolate clients who got ill; people who would otherwise have been forced to return to the streets.

DEPAUL IRELAND: Charlie's story

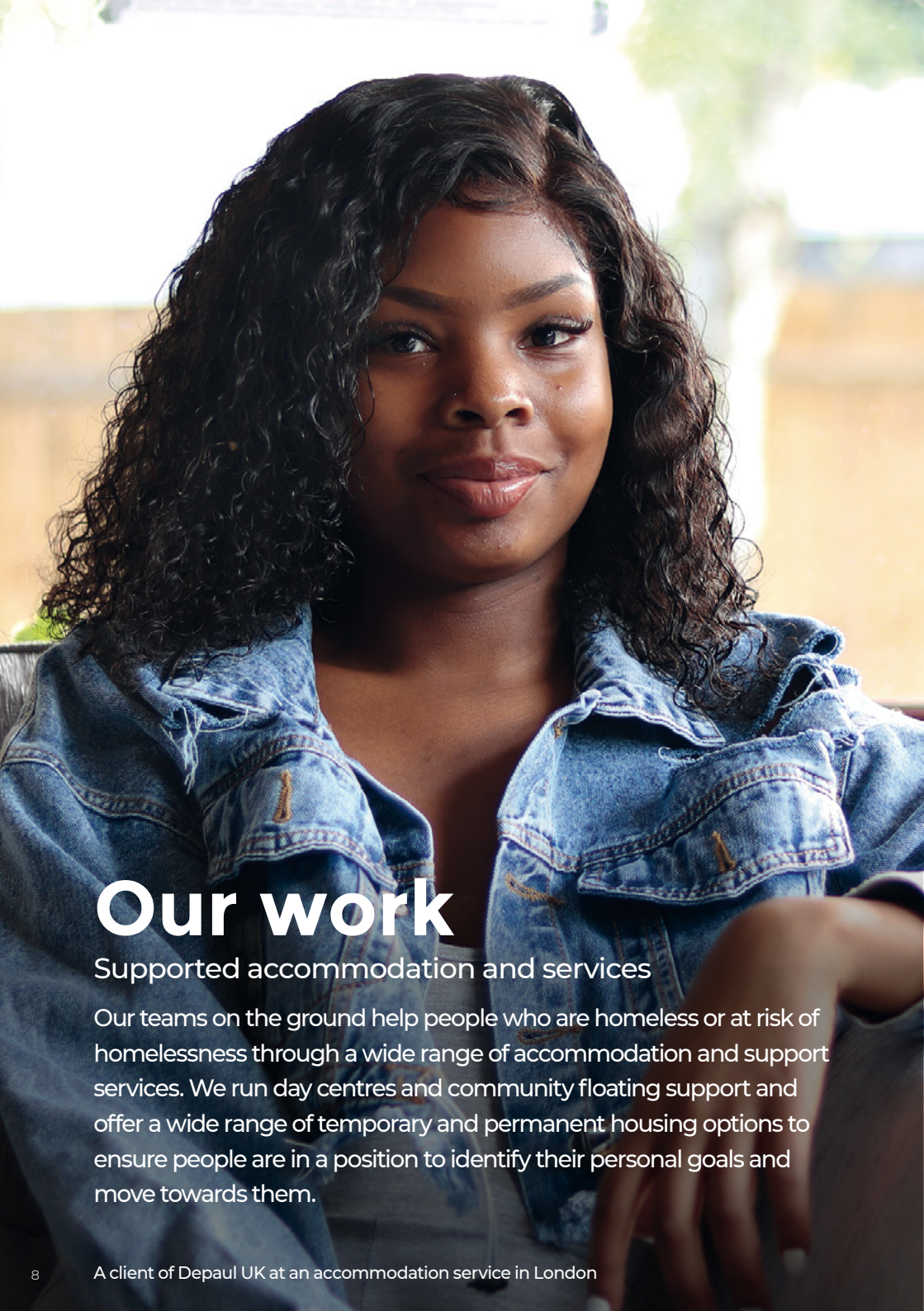
Charlie has been homeless, living on and off the streets of Dublin, for 15 years now. He has been struggling with cross addiction to drugs and alcohol for a long time and on New Year's Eve 2021, he came to the Ripley Court Hotel Shielding Unit in active addiction.

Ripley Court was originally opened during the Covid-19 pandemic and provides medical short-term accommodation for some of the most vulnerable to contracting the virus.

Charlie started to work with Depaul's on-site Dual Diagnosis Case Management team - a team that

supported him to manage his health. He felt his mental and physical health improve steadily with the guidance and support from the team and now has structure in his life. He has a daily routine, attends daily Alcoholic Anonymous meetings, as well as a day programme with the Tolka River Team. Additionally, he receives weekly counselling by the Ripley Court team.

When asked about his life now, Charlie says: "I have purpose in my life today; looking after myself; attending health care appointments which I neglected for years and I feel very proud of myself. Today is a good day. Just for today."



Our work

Supported accommodation and services

Our teams on the ground help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through a wide range of accommodation and support services. We run day centres and community floating support and offer a wide range of temporary and permanent housing options to ensure people are in a position to identify their personal goals and move towards them.

Depaul France opened a new pathway to accommodation options for vulnerable female rough sleepers in June. Service users can benefit from respite breaks in safe accommodation along with tailor-made support around health and welfare issues. In 2021, the team facilitated 9 respite breaks, totalling 78 nights.

Depaul USA commenced the development of a new day centre project in Los Angeles. With tireless support from the Daughters of Charity and other stakeholders, the project team were able to raise all the funds needed to refurbish the premises and hire a highly motivated and skilled team. The day centre was named Casa Milagrosa and opened its doors in the beginning of April 2022.

Depaul Ukraine completed the construction of their Modular Housing Shelter in Kharkiv which will serve up

to 40 homeless people who are elderly and/or have a disability. This shelter will support them to access housing via the state whilst being in a safe environment that is geared towards responding to their particular needs.

Depaul Ireland has a history of collaboration with the Society of St Vincent de Paul and in 2021 this resulted in an agreement that seven services would be transferred to Depaul Ireland as the SVP was stepping away from homeless service provision. Depaul took over the running of hostels in Waterford, Wexford, Longford and Cork, and Carlow. An additional 234 accommodation places transferred over and Depaul now operates 37 services across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

DEPAUL SLOVAKIA: JANO'S STORY

Jano has been living on the streets for ten years after suddenly losing his job and, a short time after, his tiny 1-bedroom flat.

For a long time, Jano tried to earn some money working in different part time jobs, but his salary would simply never be enough to pay for any housing. Then, last winter, he eventually ended up in hospital – with Covid-19 and frostbitten toes.

After the hospital, Jano came to stay at our shelter of St. Louise. He was in a wheelchair and at first it seemed as if he might never walk again. But Jano

never lost his spirit and with the help of our team, he got back on his feet and now only requires the support of a walking stick.

Jano is very handy and his favourite activity at the shelter is to make natural wood fire lighters. His hope for the future is to find a job, despite his disability, where he could use all his skills and creativity.

The team at the shelter of St. Louise continues to accompany him on this journey and will work tirelessly to help him make his dreams come true.



Our work

Programmes and activities

Depaul sees the potential in people and through our services, we encourage them to seize opportunities and develop their skills through a wide range of activities and programmes. We support professional development and activities to build confidence – not only for people facing homelessness, but also for the wider community through volunteer opportunities.

A client of Depaul Croatia working in HGarden - an employability programme funded by the EU

Depaul Ireland's Community Befriending programme supports men who moved on from homeless services to re-engage with local communities, establish supportive relationships and work towards sustaining their tenancies. The programme saw growing participation during 2021 with 47 men participating, an 18% increase on the previous year as well as a 79% increase in numbers attending social events. This was driven by the men having spent extended periods in isolation due to the pandemic. 100% of tenancies were sustained in 2021.

Depaul Slovakia ran their first “Living Library” at the end of 2021 to raise awareness and combat the stigmatisation of people who are homeless. Due to Covid-19, the event was held online, however, during the zoom session a group of young people had the chance to hear the story of a client and staff members and ask questions. The feedback was great and the team now plans to establish training sessions for clients who wish to become a “living book”.

Depaul Croatia created a social enterprise programme that is aimed at increasing the employability of clients by encouraging the community to hire people who are homeless for tasks around the house and garden. This enables clients to develop their skills and an extra source of income – for many the first step off the streets.

Depaul UK provided dedicated family support and mediation to 207 young people experiencing or being at risk of homelessness. The team worked with them and their families to improve communication, reduce conflict and strengthen relationships.

Depaul Ukraine organised a trip to the Black Sea for children with disability. After nearly two years of little contact with the outside world due to their vulnerability to Covid-19, the children were very excited to go on this trip. Many saw the sea for the first time and their reactions warmed the hearts of anybody lucky enough to join them.

DEPAUL USA: Joyce's story

In 2010, Joyce made it a point to stop by our St. Louis office daily. Most of the time, she was crying. At times, she was intoxicated and pleading for housing. Not knowing Joyce and being new to providing accommodation, we were not sure if housing her would work; but we were willing to give it our best try.

Joyce had been in and out of homelessness for over twenty years. She had been abused by her family, eventually became homeless and survived by drinking. The streets led to abuse and addiction issues. The only housing stability she had was when she was incarcerated.

Despite these challenges, Joyce has now been housed for 12 years. She takes pride in her flat, keeps it clean and pays her bills promptly. She spends her time writing poetry and thanks to our volunteer, Sr. Kathleen Driscoll, DC, former Director of Depaul USA's New Orleans programmes, her poems are organized and collected. As we celebrate Joyce's housing success, we are faced with a new challenge: helping Joyce move into senior housing. Her past has made this difficult, but we will continue to walk this path with Joyce.



The Ukraine War

900+ tonnes of aid delivered within 18 weeks of the outbreak of war

10,000+ people helped each week with food assistance

17,700 units of medical supplies delivered to hospitals

11,000 hygiene packages distributed per month

Depaul launched a cross-border humanitarian programme in response to the outbreak of war in Ukraine. Within a day, our appeal went live and within two weeks, trucks of aid were crossing the Slovakia-Ukraine border to take supplies to affected areas. Depaul is one of relatively few international agencies with an established operation in Ukraine. Our teams continued to operate in cities affected by conflict, including Kharkiv, Odesa and Kyiv. With procurement and logistics support from a brand new team based in Depaul Slovakia's Bratislava HQ, Depaul Ukraine initiated a programme based on five pillars:

1. **Food assistance**
2. **Health & hygiene assistance**
3. **Sustaining the vital social services already run by Depaul Ukraine**
4. **Embedding trauma-informed work**
5. **Capacity strengthening for our teams and partners.**

With the help of Depaul's supporters across the world, and funding from the UK Disasters Emergency Committee

(via the agency CAFOD), Depaul Ukraine has continued to scale its response. The needs have continued to increase. By mid-May, the World Food Programme reported that one in every three households were considered food insecure. Depaul's nutritionally balanced food baskets provide life-saving assistance, distributed alongside hygiene packages. The maintenance of good hygiene practices is vital to mitigate the risk of disease spread, including Covid-19. Depaul also works in partnership with St John Ambulance, providing vital medical supplies to the central hospital in Kharkiv.

Depaul's programme has and will continue to be driven by the dedication of our existing staff team, working with new colleagues and a host of volunteers from the communities we serve. Depaul was on the ground long before the outbreak of war - we are committed to working to support communities through the war, and we intend to continue our work long after the war ends. A day, we hope, that comes soon.

Depaul Ukraine: Yuriy's story

Yuriy lives in a small village between Borodyanka and Bucha in the Kyiv region. When Russian troops tried to capture Kyiv, they also came into his village. Like many of his neighbours, Yuriy was hiding from the shelling and Russian soldiers in the basement of his home. As the days passed, it became more difficult for him to tell how much time had passed: he couldn't see the sun and even today, he doesn't know if he had been hiding for 5 days or a week. The sub-zero temperatures added to the ubiquitous danger, and when neighbours were finally able to get to Yuriy, they realised that he suffered

from terrible frostbite. He was taken to hospital, but it was too late: Yuriy lost both of his legs at only 40 years of age.

Now, back home, his neighbour cares for him and helps him recover. Depaul Ukraine visits them regularly, bringing food, medicine and other essentials such as an anti-decubitus mattress to make him more comfortable.

We will continue our visits for as long as they are needed and hope that, with our help and the help of his caring community, Yuriy will be able to recover.



A global vision

The Depaul Group currently operates in seven countries via its subsidiaries. Beyond that, the Group works with the Famvin Homeless Alliance and the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness to ensure homelessness is addressed at a global level through advocacy, system change, the support of grassroots initiatives and capacity building.

The **Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness** expanded its advocacy efforts at the United Nations by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with UN-Habitat to raise awareness of homelessness within the UN ecosystem, provide technical assistance and capacity building to Member States, and plan for better global homeless data collection.

IGH staff also serve as Co-Chair and Secretary of the UN NGO Working Group to End Homelessness. In December 2021, the UN General Assembly passed its first-ever resolution on homelessness, which defines global homelessness and calls for data collection and harmonization.

Furthermore, the team supported 13 Vanguard Cities in their progress towards ending homelessness. The IGH commissioned an independent evaluation of the Vanguard Cities programme, which identified key enablers towards progress in ending homelessness across globally divergent contexts. These enablers are: the presence of a lead coordinating agency and coordinated entry to homelessness services, alongside investment in specialised and evidence-based interventions, such as assertive street outreach services, individual case management and Housing First.

In 2021, the **Famvin Homeless Alliance** developed and agreed on its strategy for 2022-2024, taking into consideration the learnings from previous years and feedback from the Vincentian Family. The new strategy is ambitious, seeking to establish 13 Houses projects in 100 countries by the

end of 2024; support advocacy efforts at local and global level; and develop strategies to effectively spotlight expertise and facilitate developments at grassroots level – to name but a few.

The team also delivered webinars in 2021, published its impact report, and a video highlighting the achievements of the past few years. Furthermore, the FHA's 2022 conference on refugees, internally displaced persons, and human trafficking will provide the starting point for new focus areas for the 13 Houses Campaign.

Depaul International continued to support subsidiaries throughout the pandemic as many countries experienced repeated restrictions and sought ways to ensure service delivery to those we are here to serve. During times of restrictions, the team facilitated online values courses, Trustee inductions and webinars, and when safe, DPI enabled staff exchanges between subsidiaries to encourage the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

For the first time, DPI delivered the Group Assembly virtually – a unique opportunity to invite staff members from across the Group to join and hear about the work we do in each of our subsidiary countries. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we now seek to further explore this format for future Assemblies.

In September 2021, we welcomed Matthew Carter as the new Depaul International Group CEO. Matthew came with a wealth of experience in the humanitarian sector – expertise that was crucial for the Group's response to the war in Ukraine.



Looking forward

Vision of the CEO

It has been a privilege to join Depaul and I am looking forward to the next year – a year that will be one of strategic focus as we reflect on the lessons learnt from our response to the Ukraine war and continue to collaborate across countries to address the desperate needs, now and into the future.

As a Group, we will enhance our capacity to communicate globally, ensure effective links across subsidiaries and partners, and increase our visibility. This is of vital importance as we see the upsurge in global poverty and homelessness – a challenge the Depaul Group is well placed to address by becoming a global voice. We will also build on the fundraising successes over the past few years and place collaboration at the heart of our work across countries – bearing testimony to our strategic commitment of looking beyond our own borders to support more people more effectively.

Within subsidiaries, 2022 promises to be one of exciting growth. As you will

have read, Depaul USA will open a day centre in Los Angeles, Depaul Croatia and France are exploring opportunities for their first housing projects, whilst Depaul Slovakia will strengthen its Housing First service. Depaul Ireland took into management seven properties of the Society of St Vincent de Paul and will incorporate them fully this year. Depaul UK will see a further growth of its rough sleeping provision and for Depaul Ukraine, the year will be focused on their humanitarian response so they can continue to serve the most vulnerable.

As we emerge from the pandemic, travel will become more important again; however, we will explore ways to reduce our carbon footprint and impact on global warming.

We are both challenged and excited by the year ahead and look forward to keeping you updated.

Matthew Carter, Group CEO Depaul International.

Thank you

The past year and the beginning of 2022 have been truly challenging as all of us have witnessed the human toll of the global Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. During these times, we have been deeply humbled by the resilience of our teams on the ground; by their tireless dedication to serving the most vulnerable people whilst facing adversity. None of our work would have been possible without you; you embody what it means to be Vincentian; you bring our values to life every day. Our gratitude and thanks go out to every single one of you.

The past months have also highlighted, yet again, that our supporters are fully committed to helping us provide services to the people we are here to serve. Their immediate and generous response to our appeals allowed us to not only ensure that thousands were kept safe during Covid-19, it also enabled our teams in Slovakia and Ukraine to establish a large-scale humanitarian response to the war and provide tens of thousands of people with food, medical aid and hygiene articles. Your support saves lives. **Thank you.**

Depaul UK: Amelia's story

Like many young people Depaul UK supports, Amelia experienced the loss of loved ones in her young life. She was only five when her mum died, she lived with her dad until she was 12 and one day he simply dropped her off at her nana and grandad's. When her nana died, her grandad was unable to look after her and she went to live with her aunt and uncle.

During the first lockdown in 2020, Amelia's relationship with her aunt and uncle deteriorated and she was asked to leave home.

For two weeks Amelia was homeless. She managed to stay at her boyfriends for a few nights, but he shared a room with his little brother so it was not an ideal place for her to stay. Amelia spent one night sleeping rough before she asked for help. Amelia says, "That two weeks I was homeless, it didn't hit me at all. It didn't feel real. Then it got really tough. I'd cry myself to sleep every night."

On arriving at Depaul UK, Amelia stayed in our supported accommodation; she had been studying at college but she had to leave the course. At Depaul she joined the Steps to Success programme and met Carmen, a Depaul keyworker.

Amelia takes up her story, "When I'm not in a good place, I don't talk. But Carmen asked me about everything, and so I told her about everything I was dealing with. Carmen helped me with a covering letter, and we got my CV sorted. I also bought a Continual Professional Development course, because I hadn't finished at college. I saved up to pay for that. I started applying for jobs. I applied for a care job and was invited to an interview. Carmen helped me prepare for the interview and I got the job."

"It feels incredible. I was always a motivated person, but with everything that happened with my family and college, I just lost all my confidence. I was in a really low place. Steps to Success and the people at Depaul were really patient with me. They gave me the push I needed. And now I have the job, the career that I wanted and I can find my own place and move on."

All at Depaul are wishing Amelia the very best for her future and are glad that we were able to play a small part in helping her along the way. Her commitment and dedication inspire us: we will walk with her for as long as she needs us, and we believe that, despite all the hardships she endured, a truly bright future awaits her.

A beneficiary of Depaul USA's housing programmes

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

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For financial information, including our Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements, please visit int.depaulcharity.org/governance



“All must be done with gentleness of heart and humility, as we consider the interests of those with whom we are working rather than our own.”

St Louise de Marillac


Depaul International

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