



Depaul International

Impact Report 2023

DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place

Depaul Slovakia host their Sleepout event, 'Depaul Under the Stars.'



Statement of the Chair and Group CEO

2023 saw levels of homelessness continue to grow in nearly every country across the globe. As you'll read in this report, the ongoing commitment of the Depaul Group to address the challenges this presents and support some of the most marginalised in society is unwavering. Our dedicated teams across seven countries supported nearly 125,000 people with more reached globally through our partners the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA) and the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH).

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine continued in 2023 and sadly, we hear every day from our colleagues in the country how the situation is intensifying. Our brave, dedicated staff continue to go above and beyond, helping over 102,000 people with cash, accommodation, psychosocial support and more. Our local teams continued to act fast in emerging situations, ensuring support reached those in need quickly. The Kakhovka dam disaster was one example: our response saw accommodation available for displaced people within 24 hours. In September, the third phase of our Ukraine programme launched, scaling services responding to trauma, rough sleeping and displacement.

Dignity, compassion and care remains at the heart of our work, as our teams respond to challenges including increases in rough sleeping and support for those seeking international protection. In July, Depaul Ireland's launch of Cosán Nua, a migrant services programme, was especially moving. Seeing the incredible help provided was a testament to Depaul's

ability to respond with empathy to the growing international complexities of homelessness. Across the wider Group, the dedication of staff and volunteers remains inspiring. In April, many of us came together in Paris, celebrating Depaul's incredible work. A special moment was being joined by a guest from the day centre, who shared his experience of sleeping on the streets and visiting our day centre. He spoke about feeling like 'somebody was walking alongside' him on his journey. It's a sentiment that is echoed in our teams internationally, as we strive to support people with compassion.

2023 also saw our strategic partners go from strength to strength. The FHA celebrated reaching 10,000 people experiencing homelessness via their 13 Houses Campaign. We welcomed the first UN report on homelessness and the IGH hosted the first International Journal on Homelessness conference.

Looking ahead, global collaboration is key to our new six-year strategy 2024-2029. We'll pursue an ambitious local-global agenda to grow the number of people worldwide who can claim the dignity and security of a home. The strategy will show how we'll prevent people from becoming homeless, and how we'll support those experiencing homelessness. We'll effectively involve those we serve and actively engage with those who share our commitment to creating a society in which everyone, across the world, has a place to call home and a stake in their community.

Helen O'Shea

Matthew Carter OBE

Chair of Trustees

Group CEO Depaul International



Since 1989, we have worked with **434,256** individuals

In 2023 we...



Addressed the needs of over **124,800** individuals



Prevented hunger by providing over **8,592,000** meals



Responded to homelessness by making over **716,600** bed nights available



Supported people to fulfil their potential with over **80,700** social support sessions provided



Ensured people had access to hygiene and medical services with over **342,500** outreach and day centre visits

The opening of the first Dax house in Los Angeles. Click the image to find out more.



Depaul Croatia: Vjeko and Matej's story

When he lost his job, Vjeko's life changed instantly. He went from being the co-owner of a company to being unemployed. After family relationships also broke down, he moved to Rijeka looking for new opportunities. But, when he arrived in Rijeka, he had nowhere to stay, and spent days wandering through the streets with no money for food or accommodation.

For three months, Vjeko visited Haven House regularly. It was a place where he could rest after spending sleepless nights on the streets. At Haven House, Vjeko had the space and stability he needed to apply for jobs, and before long, he began working as a taxi driver.

After several days, he met Matej, who had been sleeping on the streets for five years and was a regular visitor to Haven House, Depaul Croatia's day centre. Recognising that Vjeko needed support, Matej took him to Haven House.

Then, a week before Christmas, both Vjeko and Matej received some wonderful news – Depaul Croatia had found them an affordable apartment to share. They were able to move in immediately, as Depaul's supporters had donated the first month's rent. Together, they celebrated Christmas in their very own home.

Highlights

The Depaul Group has subsidiaries operating in **seven** countries. The Group also has a key strategic relationship with the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), which focuses on ending homelessness globally by bridging research, policy, and practice and the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA) mobilising the Vincentian Family across the world to develop new housing and other projects. IGH's Vanguard Program operates in **18** communities worldwide and FHA has projects in **67** countries, represented on this map.

In 2023, the Depaul Group provided life-changing support for thousands. Here are some highlights of the difference we made:

● **Depaul France** reached over **200** people sleeping rough in Paris and Avignon via their Mobil'douche service. The Mobil'douche, which had over **2,300** visits in 2023, is a place where people experiencing homelessness can build connections with others, use shower facilities, and be signposted to specialist medical and social support services.

● **Depaul UK** prevented **600** young people from spending a night on the streets thanks to their nationwide Nightstop network. Through Nightstop, which provided **6,675** nights of emergency accommodation in 2023, young people at risk of homelessness are welcomed into the home of a volunteer host.

● **Depaul Ireland** significantly expanded Cosán Nua, a migrant services programme which now works across **nine** different counties. Cosán Nua supports people seeking international protection in Direct Provision services to settle in the community. In 2023, Depaul Ireland supported over **1,700** new clients through Cosán Nua.

● **Depaul Croatia** increased the number of one-to-one support sessions designed to help people fulfil their potential. In 2023, over **1,700** sessions were provided by a specialist team of social workers, psychiatrists and psychotherapists.

● **Depaul Ukraine** ensured people impacted by war received vital

psychosocial, legal and employment support. Over **17,000** support sessions were attended across the country, at day centres and via mobile teams.

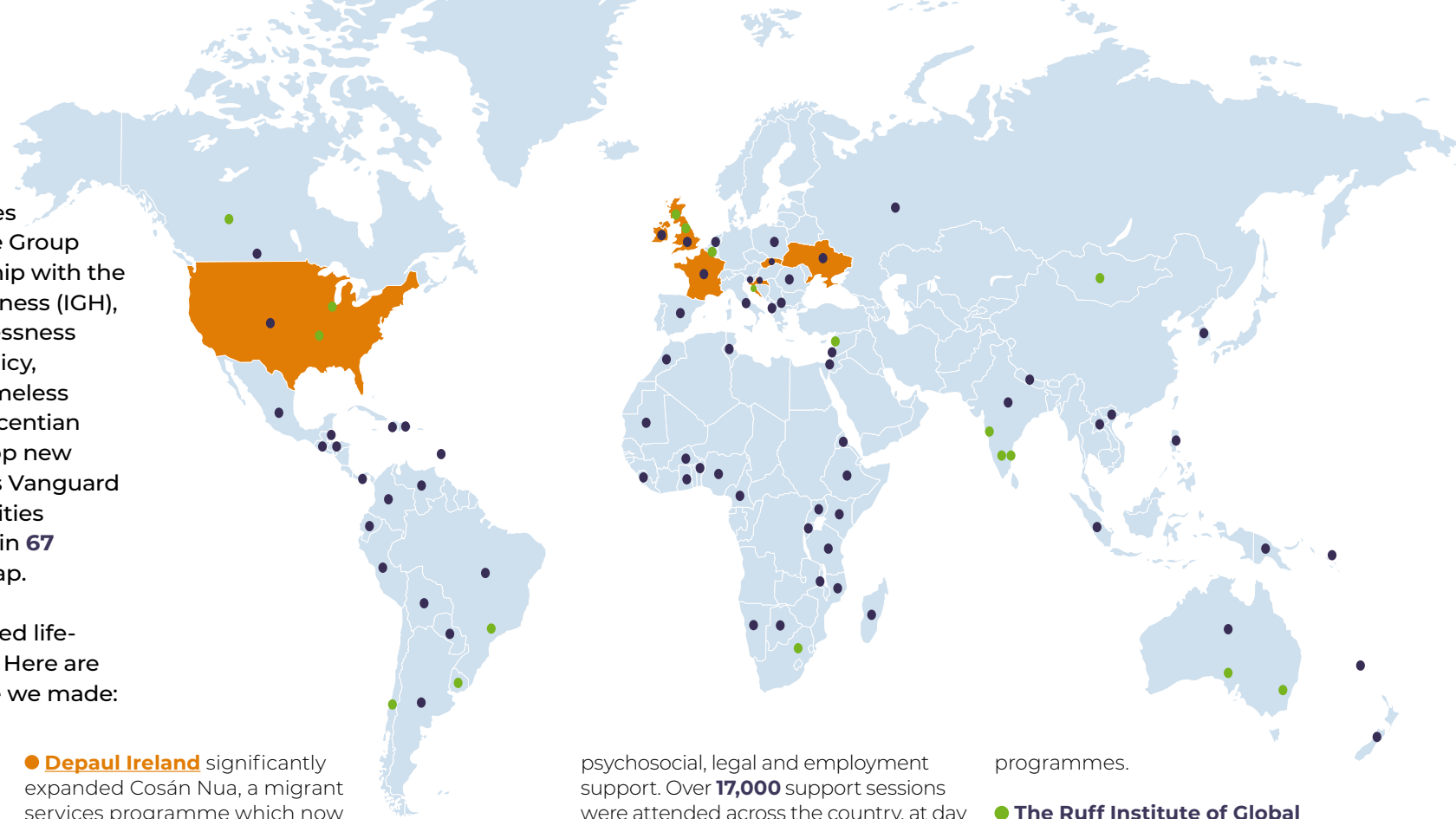
● **Depaul Slovakia** hosted special events at their night shelter, including 'Bashavel', an event where clients enjoyed music, a BBQ, and received haircuts. At the shelter, over **60,200** bed nights were provided for people experiencing homelessness.

● **Depaul USA** expanded their services into new cities, supporting people experiencing homelessness in Missouri and Kansas for the first time. Overall, in 2023, Depaul USA operated in **ten** cities, reaching over **5,400** people via day centres, accommodation projects and employment support

programmes.

● **The Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness** expanded their Vanguard Program, which sees communities across the globe committing to significantly reducing or ending homelessness. In 2023, São Paulo joined the programme, which now spans **18** communities across **six** continents.

● **Famvin Homeless Alliance** celebrated transforming the lives of **10,000** people worldwide via their 13 Houses Campaign. The campaign creates and improves services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, with projects providing housing, education and training opportunities.



Peter, who is supported by Depaul Slovakia, shares his story with the public at an event.



Our work

Immediate needs

The people we serve are at the heart of Depaul's work. Our subsidiaries strive to consistently meet the needs of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Our teams run day centres, outreach services and night shelters providing safety, shelter, food, hygiene and medical care.

Depaul Ukraine opened a low threshold shelter in Odesa, the first of its kind in the area. The low-threshold model removes barriers to entry, creating a safe environment so that people who are under the influence of drugs and alcohol can access emergency shelter. The shelter provided over 500 clients with a warm place to stay during winter. **Find out more on page 16.**

Depaul USA operated a free health clinic at Daybreak, their day centre in Macon. The clinic ensured that people could receive medical care in a familiar, comfortable setting. Food and medical assistance was provided across all three of Depaul USA's day centres, with over 67,400 visits.

Depaul Slovakia welcomed people to their night shelter over the Christmas period, opening during the day as an additional space where people experiencing homelessness

could get warm and receive a meal. Over 161,200 meals were provided in 2023 to people using the night shelter and day centre.

Depaul France provided women with much-needed respite from sleeping on the street, as they offered emergency shelter in hotels. In 2023, 159 bed nights were provided, and women using the service received support from a social worker during and after their stay.

Depaul Croatia ensured those sleeping rough in Rijeka had access to hygiene and healthcare services at Haven House day centre. A GP, nurse and dentist provided vital care at the centre, which had over 19,800 visits in 2023.

Depaul Ireland supported people to fulfill their potential at Foyle Haven day centre. At Foyle Haven, individuals are allocated a key worker who helps them reach their goals. In 2023, there were over 11,200 visits to the centre.

Depaul Slovakia: Edo's story

Marián works as a social worker at Depaul Slovakia's St Vincent de Paul night shelter. In Bratislava, she would regularly see Edo, who had difficulty walking and problems with his vision. After speaking to him, it became clear he was living in extremely difficult conditions.

Marián invited Edo to stay at Depaul's night shelter. He politely declined but decided to visit the shelter for a shower and a coffee. This was an opportunity for Marián to build up trust with Edo.

After visiting Edo, Marián realised his situation was complicated. The place

where he was staying only had an old bed and very basic facilities. He had no income and no health insurance. Marián did not leave Edo to face these difficulties alone. She signed Edo up for health insurance and supported him to visit a doctor.

Currently, Marián and the team are arranging a pension for Edo. Edo's work records have been lost, but they are working to find evidence of his employment, so he can receive his pension. The team are committed to supporting Edo on his journey, and will assist him for as long as he needs.

A Ukrainian family are handed the keys to St Michael's House, a Depaul USA residence.



Our work

Accommodation and support services

Our teams provide suitable temporary and permanent accommodation, alongside comprehensive support, for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This includes assistance towards health, wellbeing and supporting people towards independent living by building life skills including financial management, education, and employment opportunities.

Depaul Ireland opened Rosa's Place, a dedicated service for women who have experienced trafficking. The service, which is the first of its kind operating in Ireland, accommodates eight women.

Depaul USA opened a temporary housing project, ROOTS (re-entry, opportunity, overcoming, transformation, success), in Greenwood, Mississippi. ROOTS supports women exiting the prison system to transition back into society, by providing housing, financial skills workshops and employment support.

Depaul UK expanded their accommodation services for people with complex needs. In Middlesbrough, the Single Homeless Accommodation Programme opened, which will provide ten flats housing those who have been sleeping rough. The programme offers accommodation for up to two years, working with Depaul's Positive

Pathways day centre to support people towards a future off the streets.

Depaul France provided a home for people with health needs who have been sleeping rough. Currently, three flats are available. Those accommodated via the project are visited by Depaul France staff, who are on hand to aid the transition and assist with any issues.

Depaul Ukraine continued to support those displaced by conflict. In 2023, 162 people displaced to Kyiv were supported by Depaul's temporary accommodation project. Meanwhile, in Odesa, Depaul provides cash-for-rent payments to eligible displaced families. The transfers, which are the equivalent of two months' rent, support people to access housing and are an opportunity to save their income and look for work. **Find out more on page 16.**

Depaul France: Brigitte's story

When Depaul France launched a new accommodation service for people with health needs, the team immediately thought of Brigitte. A regular visitor to the day centre, Brigitte was experiencing health problems after spending 15 years sleeping on the streets. The team had previously supported Brigitte to access emergency shelter in hotels, but, as these stays had not always gone smoothly, they were unsure if she would feel comfortable moving into the new accommodation.

However, they were willing to take a chance, and spoke to Brigitte about

moving into the flat. Initially, she wanted to try living there for a few days. These few days quickly turned into two weeks, and before long, a month had passed. Now, three months on, Brigitte still lives in the flat and is settling into her home.

Depaul France's staff are mindful not to rush Brigitte through such a big transition. Volunteers and staff regularly visit her, offering support where needed. She also still visits the day centre, popping in twice a week to pick up medication and share photos of her home. "I love my room, really I do," she says. "It's all I need."

Ivan* takes part in Depaul Croatia's H-Garden programme.



Our work

Developing skills, independence and belonging

We provide a wide range of activities and programmes alongside our services in the community. We support people to seize opportunities, and to develop their social networks and skills by running employment programmes, activities, mental health and wellbeing initiatives.

Depaul Croatia equipped people with the skills needed to return to employment via their bespoke training programmes. 18 people participated in H-Garden, a therapeutic gardening programme which improves confidence and helps people to develop the transferable skills needed to find employment.

Depaul USA ran employment assistance programmes at its three day centres in Los Angeles, Macon and Little Rock. The programmes connect people with job opportunities, as well as providing CV writing workshops, interview practice and career advice. In 2023, over 130 people were supported into employment by Depaul USA.

Depaul Ukraine scaled psychological and social support, including to children impacted by war. At children's centres in Kharkiv, Odesa and Mykolaiv, children can engage in art therapy and other group activities which support

their development and improve their wellbeing. 90% of children interviewed at centres in Odesa and Mykolaiv at the end of 2023 reported a significant improvement to their mental health. **Find out more on page 16.**

Depaul Slovakia hired a therapist to work with residents at their St Louise shelter, which accommodates people in poor health who have experienced homelessness. Residents can also attend physiotherapy sessions and are supported by staff to take part in therapeutic creative workshops, such as making wood firelighters.

Depaul Ireland expanded the Befriending programme, which runs at Back Lane and Peter's Place hostels. At Peter's Place, young people can take part in activities including arts, crafts and cooking. The programme encourages residents to explore interests and hobbies that can be continued into independent living.

Depaul Ireland: Brian's story

After training as an electrician, Brian left Dublin to work in South Africa. However, when the work dried up, Brian spent a year sleeping on people's couches, with no home of his own. Eventually, the Irish embassy helped him return to Dublin.

When he arrived in Dublin, he spent time sleeping on the streets, which led him to experiencing issues with alcohol. "It was cold on the streets when I had nowhere to go during the day," says Brian. "That's where the alcohol comes in, just to get through the day."

Brian was then welcomed at Back Lane, Depaul Ireland's hostel, where

he received counselling and gave up alcohol. After spending ten months at Back Lane, he received a home of his own. "I never stopped when I got in, I was putting up shelves and I was painting – it was great to have that to do," he says. "It was a huge relief, you feel like a person again... It's peace of mind."

Brian is still supported by Depaul's community befriending service. He regularly meets up with a volunteer befriender for a coffee and a chat, which has helped him to settle into his new home.

Felix, a Depaul UK client ambassador, presents a petition to 10 Downing Street.



Our work

Advocacy

Ending homelessness requires local, national and international efforts. Across the Group this may involve advocating for an individual's rights, local advocacy to increase services, or national or global campaigning for systemic change.

Depaul Slovakia commissioned an expert to conduct a report about the availability of healthcare for those experiencing homelessness, after recognising that some of their clients struggled to access healthcare.

Once the report was complete, they presented the findings to politicians and NGOs, engaging them in a round table discussion to advocate for better healthcare for people experiencing homelessness.

Depaul UK advocated for continued investment in homelessness services, engaging with politicians and officials to ensure that accommodation for those experiencing homelessness was

protected in new legislation. As part of the Ministerial Rough Sleeping Action Group, Depaul UK also engaged with the UK Government's efforts to end rough sleeping.

The IGH advocated for international homelessness policy within the UN ecosystem. The team hosted the UN NGO Working Group to End Homelessness Urban October event, 'A Future We Want: A Home For All,' focusing on women's experiences of homelessness. Speakers at the event included UN officials, people with lived experience of homelessness, and **the FHA's** 13 Houses Campaign Coordinator, Natalie Monteza.

Depaul UK: Jack's story

When Jack graduated from university with a sports degree, he was feeling positive about the future. But, when Jack's Nana sadly passed away, his mental health declined.

"I personally didn't deal with the loss immediately. I started working a month later without really taking much time to digest anything. It caused my depression to worsen, to an unbearable point," says Jack.

Jack left his job, and his relationship with his mum broke down. Eventually, they both agreed it was best to stop living together. With nowhere to go, he faced homelessness.

When he contacted the council, Jack was placed in Depaul UK's supported accommodation. He was also referred to Depaul's Steps to Success

programme, which supports young people to reach their education and career goals.

Alongside education and employment advice, Steps to Success gave Jack the space to talk about his worries in a supportive environment, and he attended therapy sessions.

"Steps to Success has been absolutely massive in terms of building up my confidence," Jack says. "We kind of sat down on day one and said let's see what your hobbies are, what you want to do, what would fit your profile. A lot of things came up. I wanted to do something where I was helping people, and so I was set up in a voluntary... (role), where I helped set up a mentoring programme, for which I'm eternally grateful."

At Depaul Ukraine's children's centre in Mykolaiv, children and caregivers receive support. Click the image to watch a video about Depaul's work in Ukraine.



The Ukraine war

In 2023, we supported over **102,000** people in Ukraine.

Over **7,700,000** meals provided across Ukraine, predominantly in areas close to the frontline.

Over **62,000** visits to our day centres enabled people to access support services including specialist legal, employment and psychological support programmes.

As the war in Ukraine entered its second year, our teams continued to support the most marginalised people, often in harder-to-reach areas. We responded to communities' needs via an emergency response programme, providing support including food, shelter and home repairs. Our teams predominantly reached those sleeping rough, single women, people with disabilities, children and the elderly.

Throughout the year, we were agile to emerging situations, responding quickly and efficiently to ensure support reached those most in need. Following the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in June, we secured additional hostel accommodation in Odesa. Within 24 hours, accommodation was available for those displaced by the disaster, providing shelter for 100 people.

In 2023, factors that cause people to sleep rough, such as unemployment, displacement and trauma were exacerbated by the intensifying war. In response to this, we launched the third phase of our Ukraine programme, which

focuses on resilience and community-led recovery. New initiatives include cash transfers for medical procedures and employment support programmes. Services to address trauma were scaled, including the expansion of mental health provision for children and caregivers. Mobile teams provided much-needed psychosocial support for children in frontline communities. We also set up a mobile team for those who have lost loved ones in the war, assisting them to process their own trauma. Meanwhile, the opening of a new low threshold shelter in Odesa saw us lead the way in responding to increases in rough sleeping. The low threshold model removes barriers to entry for those rough sleeping by enabling those under the influence of drugs and alcohol to access shelter.

Our work in Ukraine would not be possible without the dedication of our staff and volunteers, who support people every day with dignity, compassion and care. Thanks to this commitment, we will continue supporting those in Ukraine.

Depaul Ukraine: Svitlana's story

Before the war, Svitlana lived with her husband and young son in a village near Kharkiv. But, on 24th February 2022, her whole life changed. When Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began, her village was occupied almost immediately.

Following de-occupation, airstrikes began, and a shell hit her home – a moment she will never forget. She evacuated the area with family. "I found out that our house burned down," Svitlana says. "My whole life was there. I still feel devastated."

When her family returned to the village, Svitlana found it difficult to cope with the loss of her home. Then, she met psychologists from Depaul's mobile team, who were ready to support her. "Psychologists from Depaul listened to me, helped me deal with my feelings, taught me to take care of myself again," says Svitlana. "Then I started to work on restoring my house. After the roof was restored, I was afraid to go into my house, but together with a psychologist I got through this moment, and now I am at home again."

The Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness

As the first ever United Nations Secretary-General's report on homelessness was welcomed in 2023, advocating for international homelessness policy via the UN remained a key priority for the IGH. The IGH team continued in key executive leadership positions on the UN NGO Working Group to End Homelessness (WGEH), and hosted events such as the WGEH's Urban October event, which focused on women's experiences of homelessness across the globe and featured speakers from the Famvin Homeless Alliance.

2023 also saw the expansion of the IGH's

flagship Vanguard Program, which now spans 18 communities across six continents. The initiative connects local expertise and innovation with global knowledge, as each community commits to reducing or ending homelessness. The IGH team visited Vanguard communities in Chile, Uruguay and Brazil, meeting with local practitioners and government stakeholders. During the trip, São Paulo was announced as a Vanguard City. 2023 also saw the IGH welcome their second Vanguard country: Mongolia.

The IGH continued to facilitate global knowledge exchange, hosting the first International Journal on Homelessness conference in Chicago. The three-day

conference brought 300 people together, with an additional 75 people joining online, to exchange ways to prevent, reduce and end homelessness. Planning has already begun for the next conference, which will be held in Santiago, Chile in 2025.

Famvin Homeless Alliance

2023 was a milestone year for the FHA, as they celebrated transforming the lives of 10,000 people experiencing homelessness globally via their 13 Houses Campaign. Launched in 2018, the campaign creates and improves services for the 1.2 billion people experiencing homelessness worldwide. The campaign's projects provide housing alongside education and training opportunities to end the inter-generational poverty that can often cause homelessness. At the end of 2023, the campaign had 103 projects spanning 65 countries, and 25 Vincentian branches had collaborated on the campaign.

The FHA were also awarded the Best Social Value in Social Project or Action prize at the International Festival of Social Advertising in Madrid, for their impactful video campaign about the Sheltering sculpture. The sculpture, created by artist Timothy Schmalz, raises awareness about homelessness. In the video campaign, the story behind the sculpture was shared, and the practical solutions to homelessness being implemented via the 13 Houses Campaign were promoted.

Depaul International

Throughout 2023 the Depaul International team continued to support our Ukrainian colleagues in their response to the ongoing war in the country. We continued to help them to

provide humanitarian assistance, to raise international public awareness and to fundraise. From September, we began the third phase of the programme, where we transitioned services to a greater focus on recovery-oriented and holistic assistance. This shift included initiation of employment programmes, introduction of new cash-based models including cash for employment and cash for health grants and expansion of our mental health and psychosocial support services.

More widely, the Depaul International team continued to work with subsidiaries to develop services and organisational capacity. We facilitated knowledge exchanges to improve service delivery across countries, and shared tools and resources to support best practice. Alongside this, a regular online Housing Forum and Communications Forum facilitated learning and supported development. This year we also focused on safeguarding practices across the Group, including delivering training in Croatia and France, informed by their local context.

There has been considerable work undertaken by Depaul International and across the Depaul Group in 2023 in the development of the new six-year strategic framework, which begins from January 2024. This is a pivotal and exciting moment for Depaul, building on the past 30 years of extraordinary work across the Group in our challenge to end global homelessness. The new strategic framework is ambitious and bold, continuing to place the people we serve at the centre of all we do and is underpinned by our Vincentian values.

A 13 Houses Campaign project in Mozambique. Click the image to find out more about the campaign.



A global vision

The Depaul Group currently operates in seven countries via its subsidiaries. The Group also has a key strategic relationship with the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness, which focuses on ending homelessness globally by bridging research, policy, and practice and the Famvin Homeless Alliance mobilising the Vincentian Family across the world to develop new housing and other projects.

A girl takes part in a session at Depaul Ukraine's children's centre in Odesa.



Looking forward

Vision of the CEO

2024 is an extremely important time for Depaul Group as we launch our new six-year strategic framework (2024-2029) aiming to further address global homelessness. The strategy comes at a time of immense challenge across the world; we know homelessness is increasing in all countries bar two. As is only too visible, there is a dramatic increase in numbers of rough sleeping, mass migration due to climate change and numbers of those seeking asylum due to conflicts across the world. More people require low threshold services, which provide safe environments for people under the influence of drugs or alcohol. There is a significant shortage of affordable housing which feeds the problem. There needs to be new and stronger leadership in addressing homelessness and its root causes and for the sector to look at joint and collaborative solutions.

The new strategy talks about Depaul's international reach from 'local-to-global': listening and working with those we serve across the globe, enabling the voices of those who are homeless to be heard and strengthening international advocacy to end homelessness. We want to build upon our existing work across Europe and USA, reaching out and working more closely with our global family in Africa, Asia, Middle East, Latin/Central-America and the Pacific.

At the heart of this global ambition is partnership, collaboration, cooperation and supporting national and local initiatives. In the UN Secretary-General's report on global homelessness, launched in 2023, this

cooperation and knowledge sharing was stressed as essential in ending homelessness.

As ever, a continued focus on our people and our services is critical. Within the Depaul Group, as is already happening, we will be increasingly required to respond to rising global homelessness and global drivers such as housing shortages and migration. Led by our Vincentian values, it will be the Group's entrepreneurial approach, along with our professional expertise, leadership, brilliant staff and volunteers, who will respond to this growing need.

As we look ahead to the next six years there is much to do and our strategic framework is ambitious and bold, continuing to place the people we serve at the centre of all we do.



Matthew Carter

Matthew Carter OBE
Group CEO
Depaul International

Extrat speaking at the opening ceremony of the new Dax residence in Chicago.



Thank you

2023 has seen our dedicated teams across the globe respond to new challenges, including rising levels of rough sleeping, displacement and mass migration. The commitment of our teams has been inspiring, as they continued to support people with dignity, compassion and care. Thanks to their patience, empathy and hard work we have been able to transform the lives of thousands globally.

The commitment and generosity of our incredible supporters has enabled us to make a difference to people like Extrat, Svitlana, Brigitte and others worldwide. We've been able to invest in programmes that support people to access housing and shelter, and to fulfil their

potential via employment, training and education opportunities. We are so glad to know that we can rely on our supporters' continued solidarity in 2024, as we implement our new six-year strategy that will see us end homelessness for more people in more places. Thank you.

Every year, the Depaul Group marks Depaul International Week. In 2023, we celebrated the incredible work of our global teams. [Click here](#) to watch.



Depaul USA: Extrat's story

Originally from the Republic of the Congo, Extrat was studying to become a doctor in Cuba. For safety reasons, he fled to the United States to seek asylum. Arriving in the US, he was excited to restart his studies in Chicago, and was offered housing for six months via an assistance programme.

However, when the six months came to an end, Extrat had nowhere to go. He stayed in various shelters, but the stress of constantly moving around left him unable to eat or sleep, which had a negative impact on his studies.

Then, Extrat's university referred him to Depaul USA's Dax Program, which provides housing for students experiencing or at risk of

homelessness. As well as housing, the Dax Program also offers students life skills workshops, financial stipends and mental health support.

In November, Extrat became the first resident at the newest Dax house in Chicago, which houses six older college students. Extrat shared his story at the residence's opening ceremony.

Now, Extrat has a room of his own, and can once again focus on his goal of becoming a doctor. To achieve his dream, he has enrolled on an English language course at college. "I moved here and I started to have a normal life," Extrat says, "because I've got a place where I can live, I can study, and I can work on my goals."

The Depaul Group – made up internationally of seven subsidiary charities and overseen by Depaul International – exists because we believe everyone deserves the dignity and security of a place to call home. We are locally governed and locally run and committed to ending homelessness and improving the lives of the people affected by it. The Depaul Group also has a key strategic relationship with the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) and the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA).

Depaul International oversees the Group supporting subsidiary charities to maintain the highest standards of service provision, governance, finance and we help develop capacity in areas including fundraising, communications and safeguarding. Depaul subsidiary charities are currently based in seven countries across Europe and North America, (Croatia, France, Ireland, Slovakia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) providing a range of urgent accommodation and services for people in great need.

The Group also has a key strategic relationship with the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness, which focuses on ending homelessness globally by bridging research, policy, and practice and the Famvin Homeless Alliance mobilising the Vincentian Family across the world to

develop new housing and other projects. Both strategic partnerships were born out of our shared values and commitment to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it.

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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Homelessness has no place