



Depaul International

Impact Report 2024

DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place



A client from Depaul Slovakia's St Louise shelter.

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 in 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 believed in the intrinsic value of all people and worked tirelessly throughout his life to support the most marginalised. All of the Depaul charities continue to work in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul, bringing a high standard of dignity, compassion and care to those we serve.

Depaul believes homelessness has no place.

Statement of the Chair and Group CEO

In 1989, after seeing growing numbers of young people sleeping on the streets of London, a group of people sought to answer the question 'what must be done?' That's how the first Depaul service was set up – a direct response to growing need. Over three decades later, the need has never been greater. It's estimated that one in five people globally either lives in inadequate housing or has no home at all. That's why in 2024, Depaul's 35th year, answering 'what must be done' remained central to our work. As we launched our new strategy, our services focused on supporting those experiencing homelessness to move into long-term housing and towards more stable futures.


This report highlights how our teams prioritise supporting those most in need, setting up services in areas where there is a lack of provision. You'll read about how Depaul Ukraine secured funding to set up the only supported accommodation for women sleeping rough in the country, and how Depaul Croatia launched a new prevention programme engaging with those in prison who are at risk of homelessness upon their release. Similarly, Depaul USA stepped in when no other organisation was willing and opened Strobel House, a permanent supportive housing development in Nashville. These are just a few examples of how our national teams identify local needs and respond quickly with high-quality services.

In 2024, we supported nearly 80,000 people experiencing homelessness internationally and we pride ourselves on ensuring every single person accessing our services is treated with dignity, compassion and care. It's what makes our services special. In May, we visited Depaul USA's new Central City apartments in Macon ahead of their launch and saw how the rooms are decorated with flowers. It's a simple gesture, but one that goes a long way and is at the heart of our values -making

sure every new resident feels welcomed and at home. Stories like this are peppered throughout the report – from staff at Depaul France's day centre tying washed and folded laundry with a bow, to a Depaul UK volunteer who cooks a meal for people using the Nightstop emergency accommodation service. It's hard not to smile when reading these stories. We hope that you do too, and that they stay with you after you read the report.

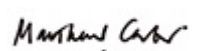
At Depaul, we work with two strategic global partners, the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA) and the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), and 2024 saw their work go from strength to strength. The FHA launched the 13 Houses Jubilee project, which will provide housing for those experiencing homelessness. We're proud to be a partner in housing projects in the UK and Ukraine. Meanwhile, the IGH team met with the UN Deputy Secretary General to discuss the issue of global homelessness.

2024 was the first year of our new six-year strategy, which aims to end homelessness for more people in more places. We began a new, exciting relationship with the Vincentian Family in the Philippines, ensuring that the voices of those experiencing homelessness globally are heard as we expand our services to new areas. We also began the development of a new global advocacy strategy. Looking ahead, 2025 will be a crucial year as we look to deliver projects across all the themes of the strategy. As ever we remain committed to putting those we serve at the heart of our work and to 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

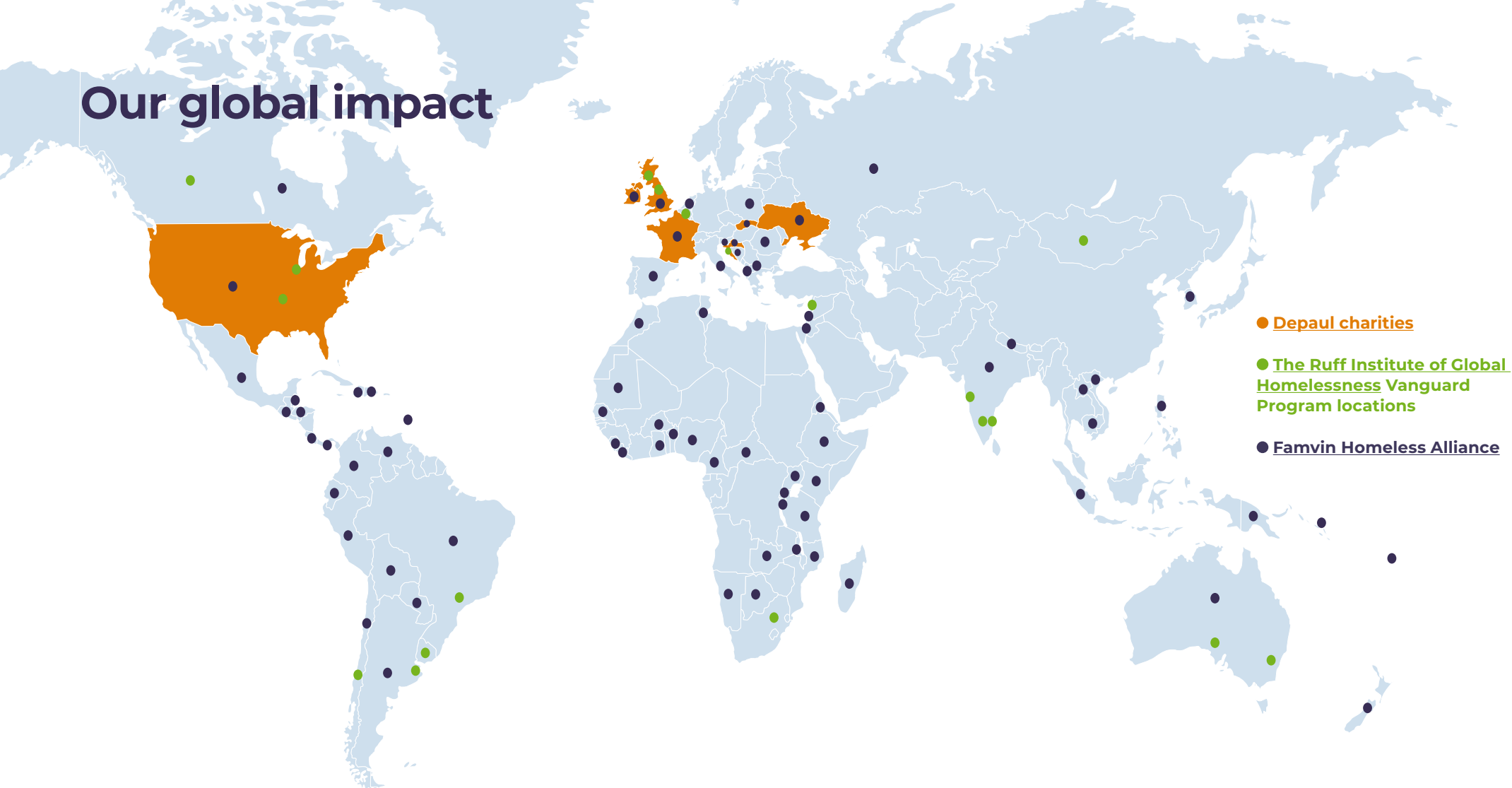
Chair of Trustees



Matthew Carter OBE

Group CEO Depaul International

Our global impact



Since **1989**, we have worked with over **510,200** people experiencing homelessness.

The Depaul Group is made up internationally of **seven** charities. The Group also has a key strategic relationship with the IGH, which focuses on ending homelessness globally by bridging research, policy and practice, and the FHA, mobilising the Vincentian Family across the world to develop new housing and other projects. The IGH's Vanguard Program operates in **16** communities worldwide and the FHA has projects in **74** countries, represented on this map.

In 2024 we...

- Addressed the needs of over **75,900 people** experiencing homelessness.
- Prevented hunger by providing over **1,702,900 meals**.
- Supported people to fulfil their potential with over **87,500 social support sessions** provided.
- Responded to homelessness by making over **2,400 beds** available every night.
- Ensured people had access to hygiene and medical services with over **344,700 visits to outreach and day centres**.

Depaul International

Depaul International oversees a group of leading homelessness charities, working across the world with a mission to end homelessness, supporting the most marginalised and improving the lives of those affected by homelessness. Set up in 1989, Depaul charities include: United Kingdom, Ireland, Slovakia, Ukraine, United States of America, France and Croatia.

Homelessness is a growing human tragedy which affects 1 in 5 people on the planet and severely impacts individuals and communities in every country in the world. Notably absent from the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, homelessness has no effective international coordination, limited international collaboration, and is grossly underfunded. Despite its devastating impact on people and communities around the world, homelessness is the most significant social issue without an international response. Until now. 2024 was a pivotal year for Depaul International, as we began the first year of the Depaul Group's [new strategy](#) 2024-2029 aiming to further address global homelessness. The new strategy's focus is to end homelessness for more people in more places by:

- **SERVICE:** Continuing to deliver high-quality and person-centred services, and; deepening our understanding of and evidencing what works to prevent and end homelessness.
- **REACH:** Working in partnership to co-develop and scale effective, locally-led solutions to prevent or end homelessness for more people in more places, particularly within the global south.

- **VOICE:** Elevating the issue of homelessness globally to change perceptions and inspire action to create systemic change.
- **VALUES:** Keeping our values at the heart of everything we do and striving for excellence across our organisation.

In 2024, Depaul and our national charities supported nearly 80,000 people across seven countries. We began an ambitious project to improve data collection and impact measurement across the Group, to improve outcomes for those we support through our services. The newly created Services Leadership Group got off to a promising start, with national service leads meeting twice in 2024 to collaborate on programme development and innovation and strengthening quality. Along with a new process for cross-team exchanges, a new health and wellbeing forum and some online learning opportunities, this helped us to better share expertise across the Group.

We began exploring new areas of international collaboration and delivery. 2024 saw the development of a new relationship with the Vincentian Foundation in the Philippines, which will formalise in 2025 through the delivery of a shared housing programme in Manila. We also began exploring homelessness in Kenya and Brazil.

Depaul USA clients in Philadelphia.



A key goal was to strengthen the Group's communications capacity through training, refreshing our brand guidelines and narrative and improving the website.

We sought to communicate to key audiences the issue of homelessness and solutions to end it. We published a research report which was the most comprehensive look at homelessness in Ukraine to date and this research will be used to develop new programmes to end homelessness and to advocate for more social housing in the country. We began the development of a new global advocacy strategy, looking

at why homelessness does not appear on the international agenda which will be a significant area of focus and activity in 2025.

We continued to be guided by our Vincentian Values including delivering our annual Vincentian Values in Leadership course for colleagues and running our annual Depaul International Week to mark the Feast Day of St Vincent de Paul. Other areas of this strategic work include developing values-inspired quality frameworks on equity, diversity and inclusion, client involvement and modernising our environmental policy.

Our strategic partners

The Group has a key strategic relationship with the IGH, which focuses on ending homelessness globally by bridging research, policy, and practice and the FHA – 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.

THE FAMVIN HOMELESS ALLIANCE

In 2024, the FHA reached more communities around the world through its 13 Houses Campaign. This Vincentian Family international initiative, which aims to transform the lives of those experiencing homelessness, consists of 121 projects in 77 countries, reaching over 10,500 people. Projects involve the provision of housing, with education, employment and training opportunities aiming to break the cycle of poverty.

In November, the FHA launched the 13 Houses Jubilee Project, which will see 13 Houses projects implemented in 13 countries during 2025. On the World Day of the Poor, in November 2024, Pope Francis blessed 13 keys symbolising each country and chose the 13 Houses in Syria as one of his “concrete gestures of charity” for the Jubilee Year. Depaul is a partner for the project in the UK and Ukraine. In London, St Vincent Mews is a new accommodation service where residents receive dedicated support to help them move towards independent living. In Ukraine, all branches of the Vincentian Family have come together alongside Depaul Ukraine to develop a new accommodation project.

In 2024, the FHA brought together the global Vincentian Family at a conference, ‘Vincentian Action in Slums.’ The three-day conference saw 65 lived experience experts

and practitioners gather in the Philippines to discuss and share solutions to some of the challenges commonly faced by people living in slums. At the conference, it was emphasised that solutions must respond to the needs of each local area.

The FHA has developed a toolkit, ‘Empowering Change’, which will launch in 2025. The toolkit will support local communities in their local advocacy efforts to amplify the voices of those experiencing homelessness.

THE RUFF INSTITUTE OF GLOBAL HOMELESSNESS

In 2024, the IGH continued to advocate for international homelessness policy. The IGH team served as Chair and Treasurer for the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness (WGEH). WGEH advocates for the end of homelessness via the United Nations, and hosted events including ‘Inclusive Social Policies and Poverty Eradication: Key to Ending Homelessness and Achieving the 2030 Agenda’. At this panel event, Depaul International’s Director of Fundraising spoke about the need for radical reform in the way homelessness is funded globally. In 2024, a key moment for the WGEH was meeting with Amina J. Mohammed, the UN Deputy Secretary General to discuss global homelessness.

Attendees at Famvin Homeless Alliance’s conference, Vincentian Action in Slums. Click the image to read a blog about the conference.



The IGH continued to collaborate globally via their flagship Vanguard Program, which sees communities committing to significantly reducing or ending homelessness. The initiative now spans 16 communities in six continents, connecting local expertise and innovation with global knowledge. In 2024, the IGH hosted the Vanguard City summit in Helsinki, which brought together partners who shared information about data and policies to end homelessness from their local contexts. The IGH team also visited Mongolia, to meet with Vanguard Program partners and learn more about their work on the ground.

2024 also saw the IGH launch the International Mayors’ Council on Homelessness in partnership with UN-Habitat. The Council brings together mayors from around the world to exchange evidence-based policies and best practices to end homelessness. In June, the Council convened in Paris, where they signed a joint declaration affirming their commitment to work together to end homelessness.

The IGH continued to run their Community of Impact webinar series, with discussions focusing on solutions to homelessness. The team also prepared for the International Journal on Homelessness Conference, taking place in Santiago in January 2025.

Depaul USA

Over the past sixteen years, Depaul USA has grown from a single housing project in Philadelphia to 27 programmes operating across 12 cities. In 2024, Depaul USA opened four new programmes, and provided support to nearly 7,000 people experiencing homelessness.

When one resident at Depaul USA's Leavenworth Attainable Housing (LAH) was undergoing surgery, she was worried about how her daughters would get to school. Ready to support, LAH staff stepped up to transport the girls until the resident was able to drive again. This is just one example of how, despite serving 25% more people in 2024 than 2023, the needs of each individual person supported by Depaul USA remains at the heart of their services.

At Depaul USA's day centres, those experiencing homelessness can receive healthcare support and are provided with meals. Over 90,000 visits were made to the day centres, which provide support tailored to each person. This includes benefits assistance, employment support and connecting people to housing opportunities. In Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Depaul USA met growing need by launching Opportunity House, the only day centre in the city. Meanwhile, Daybreak day centre in Macon, Georgia, remained open as an emergency shelter during Hurricane Helene, providing safety for those sleeping on the street.

Depaul USA's housing services continued to grow, with 44% more beds made available in 2024. 208 individuals were supported to move out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Strobel House opened, which is Depaul USA's first programme in Nashville, Tennessee. The accommodation provides 90 permanent housing units for people

experiencing homelessness, with half of the property set aside for unhoused veterans, young adults and LGBTQ+ people. As well as housing, Strobel House offers counselling and addiction treatment to help people maintain their tenancies. Elsewhere, Central City apartments and the Sheridan Health Centre opened in Macon. Central City provides 82 affordable housing units for Macon residents, whilst the Health Centre is a place where those who are discharged from hospital with nowhere else to go can rest and recuperate.

Depaul USA's existing housing programmes went from strength to strength. Leavenworth Attainable Housing had a 100% tenancy retention rate in 2024. Residents attend weekly individual appointments with a housing specialist to help them to resolve challenges. In New Orleans, a new permanent, supportive housing programme launched. Tailored assistance such as mental health support helped people to remain in their homes.

In the USA, 8% of undergraduate students are experiencing homelessness, and Depaul USA continued to respond to collegiate homelessness via their Dax Program. In 2024, the Dax Program provided 80 rooms across four cities for students experiencing homelessness and the newest accommodation, Rosary Hall in New York City, opened. Dax provides career counselling, equipping people with the tools needed to maintain tenancies following graduation.

Tay speaking to Chris, who works for Depaul USA's Leavenworth Attainable Housing. Click on the image to read an article about the service.



Aron's story

When his mother could no longer care for him, Aron experienced homelessness at the age of 18. He spent four years living in a tent in the centre of St Louis, before street outreach services connected him with support from Depaul USA.

At the beginning of 2024, Aron moved into St Lazare House, Depaul USA's supported housing service for young people who are experiencing homelessness and who have mental health needs. It is the only permanent supportive housing programme for unaccompanied young people experiencing homelessness in the city of St Louis. Stable housing is the foundation for exiting homelessness,

and at St Lazare Aron lives in a fully furnished apartment. Furnishings include a couch, coffee table, pots and pans, linen and towels – all the essential items needed to build a home.

Thanks to this stability, and support from Depaul USA's staff, Aron has been able to focus on achieving goals to improve his life. Since moving into St Lazare, Aron is receiving mental health support through ADAPT, a community mental health centre in St Louis. He also attended the St Louis Agency for Training and Employment three times a week. This has since enabled him to obtain his high school diploma and find employment.

Depaul UK

In 1989, Depaul UK was set up in response to the growing number of young rough sleepers in London. 35 years later, Depaul UK has expanded across the country, providing life-changing support to those experiencing homelessness. In 2024, Depaul UK supported 4,987 people.

When a young person arrives at host Mark's house he cooks them a special dish: a potato stew with tomatoes, olives and feta, served with flat bread. He gives the young person the chance to settle in, feel at home and, if they would like, a chance to chat and eat with him and his wife Elisabeth.

Every day, more than 350 young people in the UK become homeless, and Depaul UK's Nightstop service provides young people with a safe place to stay in a crisis. Volunteer hosts offer their spare rooms for the night, a hot meal, washing facilities, breakfast and a packed lunch in the morning, while Depaul UK's staff work behind the scenes to find longer-term solutions. In 2024, Nightstop provided 5,871 nights of emergency accommodation.

Depaul UK also continued its prevention work, and the education team reached 7,541 students across the country. The education team delivers interactive workshops in schools to help young people understand why homelessness happens and how to seek help if they need it.

Elsewhere, Casey, a 2024 client representative delivered a compelling and inspiring speech in the House of Lords, which can be viewed [here](#). They used the opportunity to speak about the challenges of youth homelessness and the need for a cross-departmental government strategy to end it. Casey ended their speech by reminding people to "see us

for our potential, not our poverty" - something which Depaul UK does every day.

In 2024, Depaul UK also opened new housing services for people with complex needs in Middlesbrough and London. In Middlesbrough, where homelessness has risen by 200%, Depaul UK runs a drop-in centre where those sleeping rough can receive meals, advice and support to reduce drug use. Depaul UK secured its 10th flat in the area, prioritised to support high-risk individuals.

In London, the new St Vincent Mews building provides bright, modern rooms and wrap-around care for 12 people with addiction or mental health needs. The supported accommodation is staffed 24-hours and is part of Famvin Homeless Alliance's 13 Houses Campaign, an initiative which aims to improve the lives of those experiencing homelessness globally. Find out more about the 13 Houses Campaign on page eight of this report.

On World Homeless Day 2024, Depaul UK launched a pilot study, [the Young People's Rough Sleeping Census](#). The census revealed the hidden reality of youth homelessness in London, as 28% of respondents did not appear in the City's official homelessness statistics. The pilot marks a significant step in understanding youth homelessness and will help to inform future services.

Mark, a Nightstop host, reunites with Yasmine, a young person supported through the service.



Mo's story

Mo lived with his siblings, but after several arguments, he had to leave and experienced homelessness aged 21. Despite having an engineering qualification, he struggled to find an apprenticeship and eventually began working as a security guard. However, the agency would only give him one shift a week, which wasn't enough to pay rent. With nowhere to go, and no means of supporting himself, he went to the council. They referred him to Depaul UK's Nightstop service.

Mo spent five months staying with various Nightstop hosts and remembers how safe and happy he felt during this time. "There's one host couple who I remember well," he says. "I used to cook meals for them, which wasn't expected of me, but I insisted

because I really enjoy cooking. They loved it – I know how to make a good curry!"

"Another host took my recipe as she liked it so much. We cooked together, and it was nice to make lovely nutritious food from scratch," Mo recalls. "I remember she also had a projector, so we watched a film after dinner, and it was like being at a cinema."

Whilst being supported by Nightstop, Mo completed a housing application through the council and was offered his own flat. Shortly after, Mo met his wife, and they now have a daughter together. "Things have really levelled up over the last few years. Since I got my place, I've also now got a full-time job that I love, so you should never give up."

Depaul Ukraine

In 2007, Depaul Ukraine's work began with one small minivan supporting children sleeping on the streets of Kharkiv. After scaling their services in response to 2022's full-scale invasion, Depaul Ukraine has implemented a strategy which addresses the rough sleeping crisis, prevents homelessness and strengthens community resilience. 2024 saw Depaul Ukraine support 55,160 people.

"I wasn't just looking for material help. I wanted humane treatment and to be listened to." These words are from a client who received support from Depaul Ukraine's mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. At Depaul Ukraine, specialist psychologists respond to every person's specific needs, supporting those impacted by conflict to process their own trauma and develop lasting coping mechanisms. The client, who has since decided to train as a psychologist herself, reflected that the support gave her life meaning again.

These MHPSS services are a cornerstone of Depaul Ukraine's work, which responds to the impacts of the full-scale invasion. Poor mental health is exacerbated by conflict and is a driver of homelessness. Yet, in Ukraine there is only one clinical psychologist for every 100,000 people. Recognising that more MHPSS services are needed, Depaul Ukraine expanded their programmes and over 3,380 people received specialised support from Depaul Ukraine's MHPSS services in 2024.

These services reached those most in need, including those displaced from their homes or living in remote areas where there is a lack of provision. In Kharkiv region, the adult MHPSS mobile team provided clinical psychological support, a rarity in rural areas, to 11 new villages in the first six months of 2024. Meanwhile, a new MHPSS centre for adults opened in

Kharkiv, where peer support groups and individual counselling sessions equip people with techniques to cope with ongoing stresses including shelling and the loss of loved ones.

Depaul Ukraine is the leading organisation responding to homelessness in Ukraine and 2024 was the first full year of operation for their low-threshold shelter in Odesa. The shelter provides a place for those sleeping rough who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs and who would be turned away by other night shelters. Over 900 people accessed the shelter in 2024. Staff build trust with these clients, signposting them to further support including addiction services.

In 2024 Depaul Ukraine published a [research report](#) which is the most comprehensive look at homelessness in Ukraine to date. Using this report, the team is leveraging their expertise to develop new programmes to end homelessness. Over half of all people supported by Depaul Ukraine are women, yet there is a lack of housing options for women rough sleepers in the country. At their low-threshold shelter, women who do not use substances stay there because they have nowhere else to go. To respond to this need, the team secured funding for the first supported housing programme for women sleeping rough in Ukraine. Launching in 2025, the project will provide women in Odesa with a home of their own.

Volodimir with a client at Depaul Ukraine's low threshold shelter.



Volodimir's story

Volodimir first experienced homelessness in Kyiv, after he was released from prison. "I didn't have anywhere to go, so I slept at the railway station," he says. In order to cope, he turned to alcohol.

He moved to Odesa after finding a job there, but exploitation meant he had to leave. His reliance on alcohol worsened, making it hard for him to find a new job, and he slept in Odesa's railway station or outside on the streets.

"Close to the railway station, there was a soup kitchen. This is where I first found out about Depaul's services," he remembers.

He was encouraged to attend a rehabilitation programme, where he began to address his addiction to alcohol. When he left rehab, he decided to volunteer at Depaul's day centre, and was able to find a place to live.

When the full-scale invasion began, Volodimir was asked to help distribute aid to those displaced. "I packed the food kits and had conversations with clients," he says.

Then, when Depaul opened the low-threshold shelter in Odesa, Volodimir was invited to work there. "Now, I believe what I am doing is right," he says. "What people do shows you what they believe in."

Depaul France

Since it was set up in 2014, Depaul France has supported thousands of people sleeping on the streets. Depaul France runs a day centre in Paris, as well as three mobile shower services in Paris and Avignon. Recently, Depaul France has launched a housing pilot, providing studio flats for people with health needs. In 2024, Depaul France supported over 260 people experiencing homelessness.

At L'Accueil Périchaux, Depaul France's day centre, a client passed over a note alongside their laundry. The note read: "can you please wash at 30 degrees, put in a little fabric softener, and lots of love?" After washing the laundry, the team personally handed the clothes back to the client. They were neatly folded and tied with a bow.

There were nearly 8,000 visits to L'Accueil Périchaux in 2024, yet each item of washed clothing was returned in the same way, folded and tied. It's just one way that L'Accueil Périchaux's team of staff and volunteers ensured that the 261 people who visited the day centre in 2024 felt welcomed. As well as laundry services, L'Accueil Périchaux is a place where those sleeping on the streets of Paris can come to receive a hot meal, use the shower facilities and receive a haircut.

Accessing healthcare can often be difficult for those sleeping on the street, and Depaul France aims to remove barriers by offering healthcare services at the day centre. Clients receive help to manage their medications and are accompanied on hospital visits. 2024 saw 99 people receive this vital support.

Attending a day centre can often be the first step towards moving off the street. Depaul France aims to facilitate this by building up trust with those visiting L'Accueil Périchaux. Social support sessions are offered, where

people are aided to secure and retain employment, as well as accessing benefits and pensions. 1,092 social support sessions took place in 2024, seeing a 190% increase in the number of people securing employment, benefits or pensions in comparison to 2023.

2024 also marked the first year Depaul France held holiday retreats for clients. To give people a chance to rest and recuperate from sleeping on the streets, Depaul France invited clients on residential retreats to Carcassonne and the countryside outside of Paris. During the retreats, there was the opportunity to take part in gardening and leisure activities.

Since Depaul France opened, there has been a 50% increase in homelessness across the country and in response, Depaul France is piloting a housing programme. Through the programme, people with health needs are housed in a studio flat. They also receive assistance including mental health and employment support. 2024 marked the first anniversary of the programme.

Elsewhere, Depaul France continued to operate its mobile shower service, Mobil'douche, for those experiencing homelessness in Paris and Avignon. At the Mobil'douche, people can make new connections, use shower facilities and be signposted to specialist support services.

Clients from Depaul France's day centre.



Michel's story

Michel has been sleeping on the streets of Paris for four years, when he became homeless after losing his job and being evicted from his home. He has been visiting Depaul France's day centre, L'Accueil Périchaux regularly for the past two years.

Last year, Michel went on Depaul France's holiday retreat, spending a few days outside of Paris. "It's good to get out of Paris, sleep properly somewhere quiet, and then do something different during the day, like the gardening we

did. It helps you think of other things, not just getting by every day" says Michel. During the trip, he enjoyed having the opportunity to cook. "I think that's when I thought I should probably try and do something with my life next year. I've already started doing odd jobs."

Since the trip, Michel has been working with Depaul France to get his documents sorted, including his ID card. He has also signed up for the first holiday retreat of 2025.

Depaul Croatia

Depaul Croatia has provided vital support to those experiencing homelessness in Rijeka since its founding in 2018. In 2024, the team supported 335 people via their day centre, outreach, social enterprise programmes and prisons prevention service.

At Haven House, the only day centre in Rijeka, clients regularly get up to choose a radio station and select which music plays in the common area. Haven House provides support to people experiencing homelessness, and music plays a key role in creating a welcoming atmosphere. On Wednesdays, Haven House's client choir rehearses. One choir member, when asked why they loved singing, replied "music is so soothing".

The choir, which celebrated its second year of running in 2024, is just one activity available at Haven House to help clients to boost their confidence and learn new skills. With 19,102 visits in 2024, support received by clients went beyond provision of meals and hygiene services. One-to-one support is offered from a social worker, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, enabling clients to engage in long-term change. 2024 saw a 20% increase in the number of these support sessions provided, with 2,122 sessions attended throughout the year.

To help clients gain the skills needed for employment, Depaul Croatia runs three social enterprise programmes: Bread of St Vincent, H-Garden and Lend a Hand. In December, Depaul Croatia unveiled a new production site for the Bread of St Vincent programme, which sees client learning how to make bread products including croutons. Elsewhere, the H-Garden programme continued, with

participants learning how to grow crops including rosemary, thyme, turmeric and ginger. Throughout the year, the products from Bread of St Vincent and H-Garden were sold in local parishes, and people had the opportunity to share their experiences, helping them to build their public speaking skills.

Depaul Croatia also continued their vital outreach service, which supports up to 50 people each week. Staff and volunteers deliver hot meals, hygiene items and clothes directly to those sleeping on the street. Through outreach, Depaul Croatia can identify those who are newly homeless, build up a relationship with them, and encourage them to engage with further support at the day centre. A social worker also accompanies the team during outreach. In 2024, there were 723 visits to Depaul Croatia's outreach service.

2024 marked the launch of Depaul Croatia's prisons prevention programme. Through the programme, Depaul Croatia engages with those in prison who are at risk of homelessness upon their release. The team runs weekly one-to-one and group sessions alongside a psychologist. The programme encourages people to think about what options are available to them following their release. 31 people received support during the first year of the programme.



H-Garden participants.

Bruno's story

One December day, Bruno sought refuge at Haven House, Depaul Croatia's day centre in Rijeka. He had just left hospital, where he had been recovering from a heart attack. Bruno had spent many years working as a construction worker, yet difficult circumstances including not receiving his wages from his former employers meant he had nowhere to go when he left hospital.

Bruno was welcomed at Haven House, where the team provided him with three meals a day, hygiene services, clothing, food, healthcare and counselling. Yet, at Haven House, he received more than just material support – he found a family. He sought advice from staff, joined Haven House's choir, and began working in H-Garden.

He would often speak to staff about his previous construction work with great respect, showing them photographs. It was clear that he had been very good at his job, and when a job at a construction site opened up, staff encouraged him to take it. Initially, he was hesitant – he was worried about starting a new job, working with new colleagues and being disappointed again. With the continued support of everyone at Haven House Bruno decided he would take the job.

So far, Bruno is progressing well. He's enjoying his new job, gets along with his colleagues, and has received accommodation through his employer. Everyone at Depaul Croatia is proud of Bruno's successes and will continue to support him on his journey.

Depaul Slovakia

Depaul Slovakia has been in operation for 18 years, providing essential services to those experiencing homelessness in Bratislava. Depaul Slovakia operates the largest low-threshold night shelter in central Europe, as well as a housing programme and outreach services. In 2024, Depaul Slovakia supported 2,200 people experiencing homelessness.

At Depaul Slovakia's St Louise shelter, guitar lessons for residents take place frequently. Peter, who teaches the lessons, used to live at the shelter himself. It's where he first picked up a guitar again after experiencing homelessness and rediscovered his love for music. Now, thanks to Depaul Slovakia's integration housing programme, he has a home of his own. He remains involved at the St Louise shelter, bringing joy to residents and helping them build their confidence through the guitar lessons.

St Louise is an accommodation service providing round-the-clock care for people with health needs. Often, residents come to St Louise after being discharged from hospital with nowhere to go. Across all Depaul Slovakia services, 3,975 healthcare support were provided in 2024. At St Louise, residents can also engage in activities, including cooking together, and visiting galleries. In 2024, residents from St Louise attended the Good Market event in Bratislava, where they shared their stories and ran workshops teaching the public how to make waste-free firelighters.

Advocating for better healthcare availability for those experiencing homelessness remained a key component of Depaul Slovakia's work in 2024. In May, the team organised a press conference, presenting their 2023 research about the unavailability of healthcare for those experiencing homelessness. Subsequently, the Ministry of Health prepared a draft law that will address the issue. The team also met with the

European Commissioner at St Louise, speaking with them about the service and the current situation for those experiencing homelessness in Slovakia. 2024 saw Depaul Slovakia partner with other organisations working with those experiencing homelessness in the country to create the Platform to End Homelessness in Slovakia.

Over 4,000 people are estimated to be sleeping on the streets of Bratislava, which is why Depaul Slovakia runs the St Vincent de Paul night shelter. The night shelter has not closed for a single night since it was set up in 2006. Support available at the shelter goes beyond just a place to sleep. 155 clients received support to secure employment, benefits or pensions in 2024. Alongside this, Depaul Slovakia organises sessions in cooperation with the Slovak Catholic Charity as part of the STOP Human Trafficking project.

In April, Depaul Slovakia opened a community centre in Záhorská Ves, a town with a large Roma community. The Roma community is the main client group, and the centre provides counselling, hygiene services, and supports children's education.

2024 also saw the continuation of Depaul Slovakia's Integration housing programme, which has provided a home for 11 people over the past three years. The programme places those experiencing long-term homelessness into independent, permanent housing.

Clients at Depaul Slovakia's St Louise shelter.



Robert's story

After Robert's wife passed away, he went through an extremely difficult time. He had to leave the flat they had shared together, as his step-daughter did not want him to continue living there. His situation became even more complicated when he lost his job in the construction industry, which he had always loved and found fulfilling. With no support and no loved ones to turn to, he found himself sleeping on the streets.

In his most difficult moments, he used alcohol to escape from reality. His mental state worsened, and he was admitted to a psychiatric hospital. Although this period was challenging, the treatment helped him, and he

began to abstain from alcohol.

Now, he sleeps at Depaul Slovakia's St Vincent de Paul night shelter, where he has found hope and a positive outlook on life again. Thanks to the support of the night shelter team, he feels accepted and secure.

Robert is now actively looking for a job that will help him to secure his finances and become independent. "It strengthens me to see that people around me are living in an orderly and happy way," he says. Depaul Slovakia will continue supporting Robert and hopes to one day provide him with a home through their Housing Integration programme.

Depaul Ireland

Since 2002, Depaul Ireland has grown from a small, Dublin-based charity to being a significant leader in addressing homelessness across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In 2024, Depaul Ireland supported 7,321 people experiencing homelessness through their 42 services.

Moving into supported accommodation can be daunting for anyone, but especially for children. That's why, at Cloverhill, one of Depaul Ireland's family services in Belfast, staff spent time asking one young girl how her day had been and watched her practice riding her scooter. These small actions made a huge difference in helping her settle in and feel at home. Across all services, Depaul Ireland ensures that all clients feel welcome. As one of the leading providers of homelessness services on the island of Ireland, Depaul Ireland's work falls under five pillars: prevention; families and young people; high support accommodation; health and rehabilitation; housing.

2024 was a landmark year for Depaul Ireland's low-threshold harm reduction services. A Depaul-led consortium in Northern Ireland marked ten years of service at Foyle Haven, a low-threshold harm reduction day centre in Derry. At Foyle Haven, individuals experiencing homelessness are allocated a key worker who creates a support plan.

To help people exit homelessness, Depaul Ireland offers support sessions aiding people to make long-term positive change. In 2024, there were 50,257 sessions, providing assistance including legal aid and mental health support. Depaul Ireland supported 1,012 clients to exit homelessness in 2024, a 39% increase compared to 2023. They moved into long-term supported accommodation, private rented tenancies, Housing First accommodation, local authority housing, or

were reunited with family. Elsewhere, the team continued to focus on supporting those seeking international protection. A new service, Augusta Lodge, opened in Mayo in December. Augusta Lodge is a family accommodation service which provides a home for women and children seeking international protection. There are 23 beds available at the service. There were over 800 beds available across all Depaul Ireland's accommodation services.

In 2024, Depaul Ireland also expanded its Homeless Health Peer Advocacy programme, opening in Cork and Derry. The programme seeks to address the impact experiencing homeless has on people's health. Peer advocates support those experiencing homelessness to make and attend health appointments.

In partnership with The Passage, Depaul Ireland launched [research](#) into homelessness and human trafficking. The report called on politicians to involve homelessness organisations in the introduction of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking. 2024 also marked the first year of full operation for Rosa's Place, Ireland's first-ever dedicated service for women who have experienced trafficking. In 2024, Depaul Ireland also undertook a piece of [research](#) with Mental Health Reform examining the link between homelessness and mental health. The findings highlight the severe mental health crisis among those experiencing homelessness in Ireland.

A Depaul Ireland client outside his new home with staff.



Erin's story

When Erin's relationship broke down, she tried for months to stay in her family home. But, on a solo income, and with two young boys, it was more than she could manage alone. Struggling to find anywhere else that was affordable, Erin and her children ended up staying at a family member's home.

"We were on borrowed time," says Erin. "The fear of being thrown out loomed over me like a dark cloud." Erin's worst fears were realised when her host family asked them to move out.

"It's the lowest I've felt in my life," she says. "I never thought we could experience homelessness." That's

when Erin turned to Depaul. "Meeting my Depaul keyworker, it felt like a lifeline. Like someone was on our side. It was a little bit of light in that dark time." At Depaul, Erin's keyworker created a support plan for her, focusing on getting her family moved into permanent accommodation as quickly as possible.

Recently, Erin and her children received some wonderful news – they would be moving into a home of their own.

"Things are so tough right now," says Erin. "There are so few affordable homes. But we're beyond grateful for the support and our new beginning."

Looking ahead

2024 was the first year of our new six-year strategy, which aims to end homelessness for more people in more places. Looking ahead, 2025 will be a crucial year as sadly the numbers of those experiencing homelessness globally continues to rise. In response, we plan to deliver major projects across all the themes of the strategy at pace.

We will deliver a multi-country pilot of an emerging and innovative therapeutic approach – Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. The new initiative means programmes using this innovative model will begin in Depaul services in the UK, USA, and Ireland.

As the full-scale invasion continues in Ukraine at the writing of this report, we remain committed to supporting those experiencing homelessness across the country. In 2025, we will open the only women's housing projects for rough sleepers in the country in Odesa. The project will offer tailored support to address the specific vulnerabilities of women and help them to rebuild their confidence.

2025 will see a new partnership with the Vincentian Family to open Manila's only housing programme for families living on

the street and those at risk. This model takes learning from housing-led programmes across the world which have proven to most effectively address homelessness. We will continue to explore partnership in new locations, including Kenya and Brazil.

We will begin to deliver a global advocacy strategy to elevate the issue of homelessness internationally, increasing recognition and driving change. This will include advocacy efforts with multilateral institutions to raise critical awareness of the importance of including homelessness within global development agendas. As ever, guided by our Vincentian Values we remain committed to putting those we serve at the heart of our work.

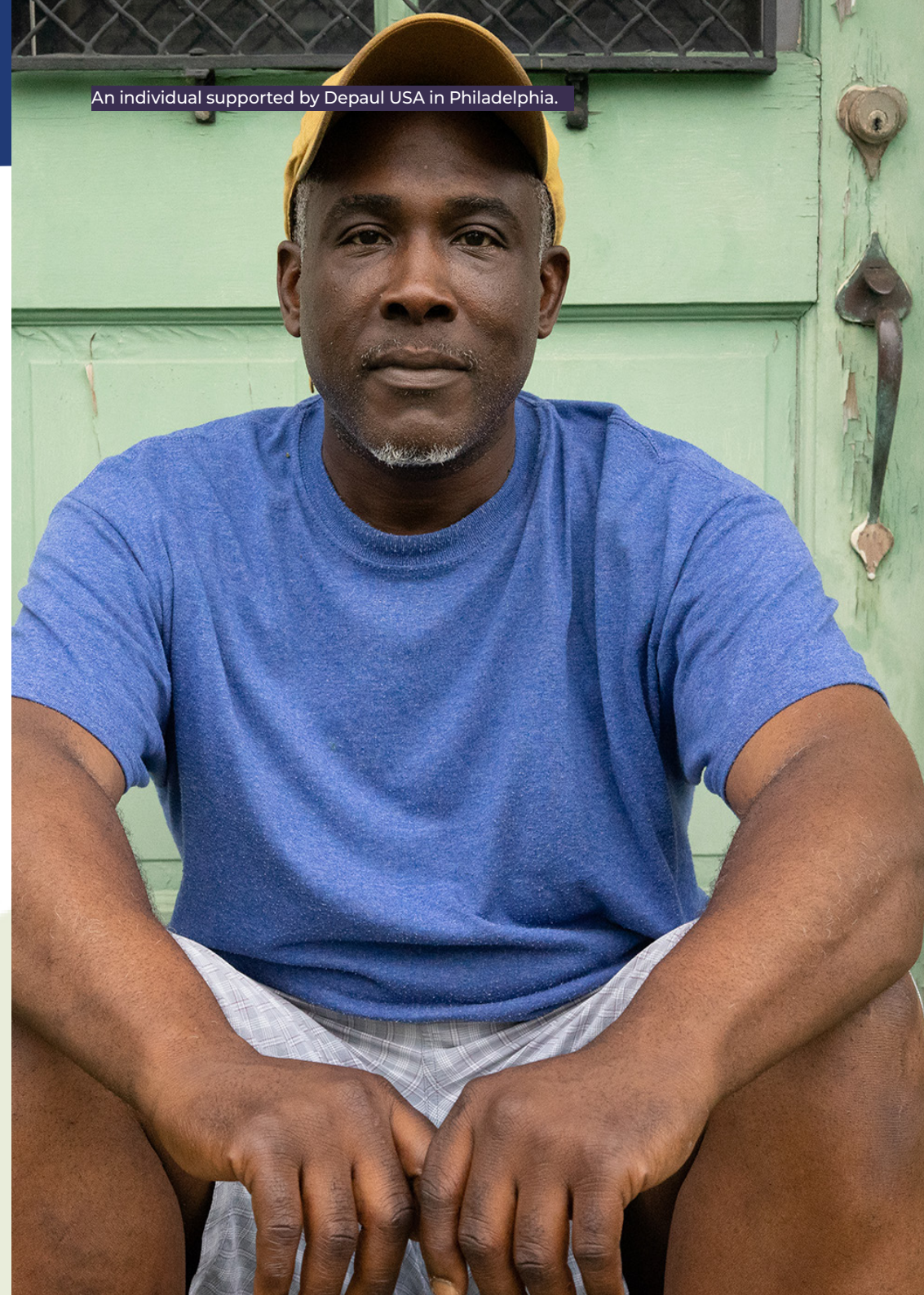
Significant and sustainable funding will be pivotal to our ability to deliver on our bold ambitions. With the recent catastrophic cuts to international aid budgets, organisational sustainability has become more important than ever. In 2025, we will be launching an endowment to ensure that Depaul International will always be able to work towards a world where everyone has a place to call home and stake in their community.

Thank you

2024 saw our teams respond quickly and effectively to the growing global challenge of homelessness. Our people are our most valuable resource and are integral to turning our ambition of ending homelessness into reality. Without our staff and volunteers, our work would not be possible. Their work supporting people with dignity, compassion and care has been inspiring. Thanks to them, we have been able to transform the lives of thousands globally.

The commitment and generosity of our supporters is deeply appreciated and has enabled us to make a difference to people like Erin, Mo and others worldwide. We've been able to invest in housing programmes, and help people to fulfil their potential via employment and education opportunities. We are glad to know that we can rely on our supporters' solidarity in 2025, as we continue to work towards a world where homelessness has no place.

An individual supported by Depaul USA in Philadelphia.



The Depaul Group – made up internationally of seven 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 IGH and the FHA.

Depaul International oversees the Group, ensuring the highest standards of service provision, governance, finance and helping develop capacity in areas including fundraising, communications and safeguarding. We establish new members to the Group in countries where we can make a difference – where there is a lack of services and where people and communities who are marginalised need our help.

Our local to global structure makes us ideally placed to join up evidence and innovation, identify emerging trends, analyse best practice – including what has worked to end homelessness – and share this knowledge internationally. We are agile to emerging global issues, can mobilise the necessary expertise to deliver effective services and, together with the IGH and the FHA, we speak out and act on global homelessness.

We remain committed to developing solutions that work, driving the conversation on homelessness to influence policy and public opinion, advocating for system change, and achieving a world where homelessness is unthinkable.

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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