

Youthreach

NEWSLETTER

National Association of Youthreach Co-ordinators

January 2009 • Issue 4

Students Reach New Heights

Students completing their Leaving Certificate Applied in Youthreach recently climbed Croagh Patrick to raise money for Temple Street Hospital for Sick Children. Their Teacher, Sean Mimmagh said the Climb, done in October occurred on probably the only dry day they had but the view from the top of the mountain was spectacular and made the climb worthwhile. Sean went on to say that the fundraiser was done as part of the Enterprise module of the Leaving Certificate Applied and all the Students have to take part in the organising and running of the charity event.

The marks earned for their efforts in the Enterprise Module go towards their overall exam results, the result being the Students work very hard on this Module. John Moore, the Coordinator of Youthreach said the Sponsored Climb raised over €600.00 and the money collected was spent in Smiths



Stores in Claremorris on Toys for the Children.

John went on to say he was delighted with the sponsorship response from people in the locality of Ballaghaderreen and Boyle and the effort put in by the Students. The Students doing the sponsored event were Geraldine O'Donnell, Siobhan Taylor, Rachel Kane, Natasha Conroy, Daniel Davison and Charlene Calpin. The students enjoyed the challenge presented by the sponsored Climb, the buying and wrapping of the presents, and especially, the presenting of the gifts to the children in the Hospital. The Students believe that any time in hospital is not pleasant but Christmas time is even worse, particularly as it is a time that should be spent with families.

Sean Mimmagh said that on behalf of the Leaving Certificate Applied Students in Youthreach, he would like to thank the Management and Staff at Smiths Stores in Claremorris for their assistance and support in providing the Toys for the Children of Temple Street.

Youthreach Hospital in Finland

Two LCA students (Chloe Crawford and Niall Culhane) and two teachers (Claire Ryan and Niamh O'Connell), recently took part in a multi-lateral exchange to Finland. The exchange was run under the Grundtvig 3 Action administered by the Irish National Agency, Leargas. This action promotes a European dimension to adult education. It provides teachers/practitioners the opportunity to visit and gain ideas and methodologies to enhance programmes they offer in their perspective organisations. It provides adult learners with the opportunity to meet with peers from other countries and to gain an understanding of culture and life in these countries. Our project is entitled 'Sustainable Development' and our partners are from Finland, Denmark and Poland. The aim of the project is to look at areas such as recycling, energy conservation and organic farming and gain a deeper understanding of these issues. It is hoped to implement a workable recycling system in Youthreach Hospital by educating and informing both students and teachers of good practice.



Chloe Crawford, Niamh O'Connell, Niall Culhane, Claire Ryan



Youthreach students with Danish students Niall, Chloe, Jeppe, Mikkel and Jesper

Changes in Galway Youthreach

This year in our lovely Youthreach centre we have had quite a few changes.

The timetable is very different. Instead of five classes which were one hour long, we now have seven classes each day. They are now forty five minutes long and our lunch break is forty five minutes long as well. Also we no longer receive our dinners in which everyone here loved so much.

New teachers

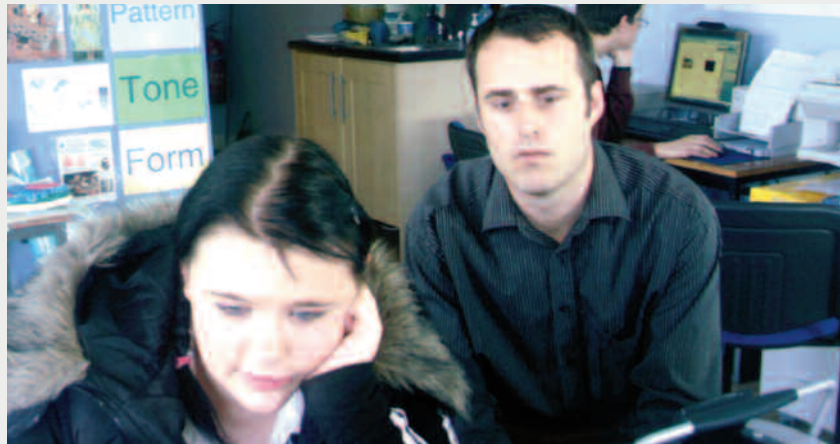
I would also like to welcome all of our new staff. Karen is our new fitness instructor, Mark our new art teacher is replacing Anastasia while she is on maternity leave and we also have Nicola as a new numeracy and literacy teacher.

'Projects for All'

Every Wednesday afternoon instead of our regular classes we now get to do different projects for 8/9 weeks at a time. Mary did this Magazine with us, Mark is doing photography, Marie-Anne is baking, Ina in teaching how to transfer skills, Marie is helping us with Getting a Job and Ailish is teaching Innovation. You can read more about these later in the magazine.

LATERAL PUZZLE

A man lives in the penthouse of an apartment building. Every morning he takes the elevator down to the lobby and leaves the building. Upon his return, however, he can only travel halfway up in the lift and has to walk the rest of the way - unless it's raining. What is the explanation for this?



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Begin by understanding the value of the waste which you put in your dustbin.
- Develop a recycling mentality. Separate your household rubbish into glass, newspapers, aluminum cans, and plastics.
- Bring to the nearest collection point in your area.

Information Action Sheet!

- Seek the co-operation of your local authority.
- Draw up a directory of locations for recycling materials in your area and distribute it widely.
- Campaign for the economical packaging of goods.
- Encourage your neighbours and friends to recycle.

- Bring your own bags to shops instead of getting new ones each time.

Refuse to choose what you cannot reuse. Returnable containers are preferable and should be returned promptly.

Refuse a bag when all that is needed is a receipt.

Recycling saves on:

- Energy
- Raw Materials
- Waste Disposal Costs
- Import Bills
- Trees
- The Need for Landfill Sites

SO WHEN YOU ARE OUT AND ABOUT THINK RECYCLE!!!

Kerrian Storey

Technology for the Terrified

Youthreach MTI learners were given the opportunity to showcase their film making and photographic talents at Limerick's first Technology Fair in Thomond Park on November 1st. The learners' display featured two of their own short films and also a camera phone photo exhibition. The event was organised by Limerick City ICT Steering Committee in conjunction with City of Limerick VEC, to promote a positive attitude to all kinds of technology, from mobile phone use to music sampling. The fair was a huge success as exhibitors struggled to manage the bustling flow of enthusiastic visitors!



GETTING THE JOB WITH MARIE

The class is called "Getting the job". The object of the class is to go in depth about how to get the job you want. It also teaches you how to recognize jobs you might want! Another topic the class covers is how to make a C.V. It shows the key topics to include into your C.V to make it effective. We will also be doing interview training. This will be very useful for instilling confidence into the students when they go for interviews. We hope to video the interviews and replay them so that the students can identify for themselves where they may be going wrong and, equally importantly, what they have done right.

Exploring Social Issues with Ailish

This Projects involves exploring a social issue of choice. The aim is to increase people's awareness and encourage them to look after themselves, others and the world we live in. If you believe in it, Act on it and others will follow. Group one are aiming to help teenagers have realistic and positive feelings towards their bodies. A survey was taken and it confirmed that 84% of boys aged 14-21 prefer women with curves. Women don't have to be skinny or a size zero to be sexy.

Photography with Mark

The arts project on Wednesday involved the participants conducting a series of photographic workshops, and exhibiting them in the canteen. The project involved an introduction to digital photography and a series of workshops. We learned how to capture the moment and express our views of the picture and how to use a digital camera as opposed to a normal one. We did some outdoor photography by using the 'rules of thirds' meaning we learnt how to compose our pictures. We also took photos of outdoor activity.

Baking with Marie-Anne

Every week during the baking class we learn how to make different sweet things. So far we have made Viennese finger biscuits, Apple tart and ice-cream Chocolate caramel slices and fruit sponge. At the end of class we get to eat what we have made or bring it home. Everybody seems to enjoy baking class.

Transferable skills with Ina

This group is about looking at skills which may be of use to you at some time in your life - not necessarily now. What do you do when a friend has a problem?

What do you need to do when you have a problem yourself?
How can you mind yourself in these situations?
How to be a good listener?
Looking at anger and how to manage it – keeping your cool?
How to relax and take time for yourself when the world is falling down around you?
In this project we hope that you will learn the techniques to deal with all of the above.

Newsletter with Mary

This project involves learning how to use MS Word effectively. You learn how to participate in a group, share ideas, layout a magazine and look at other magazines to get ideas. You decide on the first week who your editor is going to be for the project. You get to write articles, edit, look for jokes, design the layout of the magazine, how many columns you need, numbers of pages, what articles you would like to see in the magazine. Some one gets to take some photographs for the magazine and decided with the editor where they are going in it. All together it is fun, fun, fun with some hard work so anyone who loves to write and see their name in print this is the project for you.. So why not join us for what is a fun 8-9 weeks.

Youthreach Drogheda Sponsored Kayak

One of the Leaving Certificate Applied groups in Youthreach Drogheda recently organised a sponsored Kayak on the Boyne as a task for their LCA. The sponsored kayak took place on Friday the 21st at 12:00 from the old fishmeal factory at Mornington to the Boyne Fishermen's River Rescue and Recovery Service boat house.

In total there were five participants taking part in the sponsored kayak who were helped along by a boat and three volunteers from the Boyne Fishermen's River Rescue and Recovery Service. As well as learning to Kayak, the students from Youthreach Drogheda raised funds for the Boyne Fishermen's River Rescue and Recovery Service. Through sponsorship cards the students have raised over €120 with money still coming in. In preparation for this event the students had been going to Clogherhead Pier regularly over the last couple of months with experienced teachers from the centre to train in the basic of kayaking and ensure the students were competent on the water.

It was possible to undertake this type of project because the Youthreach centre is lucky enough to have their own wet suits, safety gear, kayaks and mini bus.

Each student had their own role in this task such as, responsibility for safety, Warm ups, Media and also sponsorship. The Boyne Fishermen's River Rescue and Recovery Service have recently moved into their new purpose built premises on the Marsh road and the students of Drogheda Youthreach thought that this vital service to the community could do with a moving in present to help them on their way.

The students of Youthreach Drogheda would like to thank the Boyne Fishermen's River Rescue and Recovery Service for their co-operation and help, especially Sean Cahill who made the kayak possible.

Youthreach Drogheda is a programme for young people between the ages of 15 and 20 where they can get their education. Courses such as the Leaving Certificate Applied and FETAC level 3 and 4 are available.



Pictured are Level 4 learners at the launch of their DVD, including Breda Rodden, Letterkenny Youthreach Coordinator (left) and Mary Ross, Letterkenny Resource staff member (third from right).

Domestic Violence DVD 09 July 08: Letterkenny Level 4 Learners Launch Domestic Violence DVD

On 10 July 2008 Level 4 learners from Letterkenny Youthreach launched their DVD on Domestic Violence to a packed audience of fellow learners, tutors, family and friends. They had spent the previous few months exploring this issue as part of their Drama module with Resource Tutor Mary Ross, writing the script, rehearsing and filming the DVD. Level 4 learner Aisling McEntee and Resource Tutor Deirdre Gallagher also completed an extensive interview about the subject and the DVD with Highland Radio's Sean Doherty.

Not only has this work made learners more aware of this issue, but they have improved their writing and drama skills and the DVD also makes an excellent teaching resource for other learners and tutors. A copy of the DVD has since been circulated to every Youthreach centre in the country. If you have not received one, please contact Letterkenny Youthreach Coordinator Breda Rodden at bredarodden@donegalvec.ie.

Regional Art Competition Winners

Patrick Maughan, Monaghan, Shirley Maher, Athy, Laura Connolly, Castleblayney, Martina Connors, Bonnybrook, Laura Ward, Castleblayney, Kerrie Healy Blanchardstown, Andy Friel, Letterkenny, Shelly Bradley, Blanchardstown, Joseph Boyce, Letterkenny, Samatha Grant, Rush, Kathleen O Donnell, Buncrana, Various Students Ballymun, Ally Tiswell, Ballyfermot, Karen Commanes, YPP Ennis, Paula Trainer, Bray, Nicole Mounse, YPP Ennis, Michelle Jones, Shanagolden, Gary Mc Grath, Fennoy, Dean Ryan, Hospital, Ciara Hade, Letterfrack, Shauna Quinn Lawlor, Athy, Sara Delloul, Roscommon, Wilma Monaghan, Ballinrobe

JOHANNE A GERMAN WORK PLACEMENT STUDENT WRITES ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE OF A RECENT TRIP TO PISA WITH THE STUDENTS OF CRUMLIN YOUTHREACH

The first decision was to go to Edinburgh, but it was changed to Pisa, because it might be a better place for the kids. The weather is better and the leaning tower would be more amazing than whole Edinburgh. So we started on Wednesday the 26th of November with Ryanair. No complications at the flight even without the lads flying for their first time. They all were very excited about it. The Hotel in Pisa was very lovely. Very quiet too, because we were there off season.

On Thursday we went to the city with the local transport and walked through the city towards the leaning tower accompanied by the shining sun. You can say that everybody expected a leaning tower, but when you will see it, it blows your mind. You never expect that it is leaning that much. We had the chance to go up to the top of the 54 meters tower, which was build between 1173 and 1372. That was a great experience for all of us, not only the kids. You feel a bit drunk when you go up, while you are walking from one side to the other, and you have a great view above the very beautiful city of Pisa and the mountains around. We were about six hours in the city and at the tower and also the huge and gorgeous cathedral of Pisa.

On Friday we all slept long and we had to go to the airport at two o'clock so there was not much time to do anything that was far away. We landed at 6:30pm in Dublin and all of us were happy to return home, but for all of us it was a great time we spent in Italy.



Bray Drugs Awareness Art Competition Winner

Lee Meaney

Lee Meaney a full time trainee of Bray & North Wicklow Youthreach, received second place prize in the category of 18's and under, for the Bray Drugs Awareness Bookmark Art Competition, which had a total of over 800 entries.

Lee attended the Royal Hotel, in Bray on the 5th November to receive his prize. Lee's artwork with its detailed and colourful design had a catchy slogan, which gained him second place within his category. Well-done Lee.



Buncrana & Glengad Presentation of Certificates

On 5 December 2008 learners from the Buncrana and Glengad Youthreach centres in Inishowen were presented with a wide range of certificates by Senator Cecilia Keaveney. Senator Keaveney, along with the parents of former learner Stephen Fletcher, also presented the Stephen Fletcher Memorial Award for Trainee of the Year to Denise Moore (pictured).



Paris!!

Paris, four days in Paris, something we all waited for in hopeful anticipation. It all started at 7 o'clock, Monday morning dragging luggage from home to the Youthreach centre. Greeted by tired heads I put my case on the bus. Fags were smoked, everything on the bus and we headed off. First stop was for Katrina and as all ways we were greeted with a smile. Next stop Ennistymon. By this time I myself was sleeping. Woken by the good morning greeting in Ennis I started my music and drifted slowly off again. In Shannon I woke and proceeded off the bus to have a well-needed fag! We headed inside we checked in and by ten to ten we were lining up to board. On the plane I didn't feel too well but soon between Melvin and Chris they had made me forget my sickness. The flight was ok and I found it easy to drift to sleep again.

Finally after the tedious tired morning we arrived in Beauvais airport. Again we proceeded fast for luggage to reach the outside for yet another fag! A long boring bus journey brought us in to the hotel. We checked in and headed off for Gare l'Est which brought our first metro trip, scary before hand but proved itself fine. We went to 'flunch' for something to eat and then headed for the Montparnasse Tower (a whole lotta walking). 56 floors up, the view of Paris was beautiful, a collection of buildings and streets, it truly was a magnificent sight (being sick brought me down a little or a lot). 3 more floors up on the roof the sight was even more beautiful. We waited for the fireworks as it was Bastille Day (Pastille). There was much celebration around the city. Darkness fell and the view of the Eiffel tower was out of this world. The fireworks started which made the city more

beautiful than anything I have ever seen. We set about our walk and metro journey back to the hotel.

Next morning after breakfast we again headed for gare l'Est. A metro stop or so and a train journey later we were in Euro Disney! The weather was fantastic. Rides didn't interest me so it was the perfect time for shopping! We ate in Planet Hollywood, a really fun and interesting place. After we headed for the hotel. We changed and met outside the hotel. We walked a distance to Sacre Coeurs where it was yet again an unreal side of the city. Next morning a little later than planned (apologies again) we set for a walking tour! On the tour we seen sights of buildings that words couldn't describe. We also learned a lot of the history of Paris. Sight seeing was on the agenda for the day. So after getting lunch we headed for the Louvre. Even from the outside it was truly amazing. Visiting the museum was one of the best experiences of my life (so far). We then headed for the Champ-Elysees, yet another fantastic part of Paris. Then to the Seine for another tour of Paris, the boat trip was the perfect ending to our last night. The Eiffel tower was magnificent at night.

Next morning it was time to go home, another long tedious bus trip and a wait that really wasn't worth it. We boarded and my uneasy tummy reappeared but again was fixed by Melvin and



ID Projects

On Sunday the 30th of November fourteen Youthreach students from Miltown Malbay travelled to Galway to view the launch of the ID projects. The Miltown Malbay Youth Group received an invitation for the viewing of a series of short documentary films from six different groups including our Youthreach group Miltown Malbay.

In July 2007 the Youthreach Group began to film their first I.D project, including scenes in which identified their locality, school surroundings and what it means to be a teenager. The group finished filming in June 2008. The ID project has been nominated for a Star award with Aontas.

The Miltown Malbay Centre hopes to be successful in hosting a local viewing for members of the Miltown Malbay community.



Chris. Sleep wasn't easy to come by on the flight and I was glad to get off. Luggage reclaim and outside to miserable weather. Home sweet home!

All in all it was four days of fun (besides the walking). I enjoyed myself and I'm sure everyone else did too.

Collette Hogan 18/07/08

Crumlin Children's Hospital Craft Fair

The students of Youthreach Drogheda organised a Christmas Craft Fair in aid of Crumlin Children's Hospital in Dublin. This was done as part of an LCA task and involved a number of different subjects and activities.

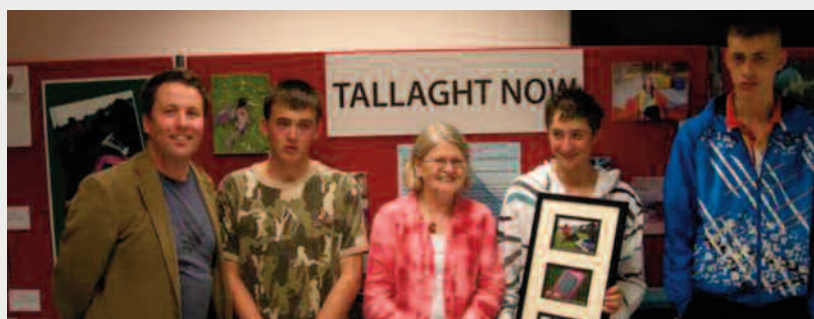
The students from Drogheda made a huge selection of cakes, tarts and buns for sale as part of a coffee morning run jointly on the day. On sale for the craft fair was an array of pieces made by students in art, computers and woodwork class including Christmas cards, calendars, Christmas logs and decorative pieces.

The day was a huge success with a great turnout from the public, raising over €1500 in total.



Tallaght Youthreach Snap up the prizes

Youthreach Tallaght recently won two awards for photography. The Tallaght Now photographic competition run by Tallaght Youth Service awarded Youthreach with third place. The theme that inspired the young photographers was the role of the mobile phone in dating in Tallaght today. Youthreach entered a series of three photographs depicting "THE DATING GAME" our winners were Noel Keogh, Joseph Mannering, Oliver Mulcahy, Nadia Madi and Donna Lavelle.



Pictured at the award ceremony in Tallaght Library were L to R Gerard Swift (Drama Teacher) Noel Keogh, Rita Hunt (Resource Person) Joseph Mannering and Oliver Mulcahy.

Oliver Mulcahy also won second prize in South Dublin County Councils Heritage Photography Competition for his picture "Church in flower". Which can be viewed on the SDCC website.

Tralee Youthreach Leaving Cert Applied Graduation 2008

Tralee Youthreach Leaving Cert Applied celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and marked the occasion with a Graduation celebration in Fels Point Hotel, Tralee in June. Thirteen students completed the programme having just finished their Leaving Cert Applied exams.

Shivaun Shanahan, the Adult Education Officer of Kerry Education Service (The VEC in Kerry) presented Certificates of Achievement to the students, who were complimented on their commitment and participation.

Bernie McCaffrey congratulated the staff and the students on behalf of Kerry Diocesan Youth Service, who are partners in the delivery of Youthreach in Kerry. Friends and family of each student also attended the event, which included a PowerPoint presentation documenting the different events and activities during the two years. The staff and members of the Steering



Committee were also present. The students received their results in August and three members of the group received a Distinction. Having completed their LCA the students have gone on to study at PLC level, to take up employment or to devote their time to their families. Tralee Youthreach Leaving Cert Applied has been delivering the LCA programme in Tralee since 1998, and has become a well-established part of education provision in the community. In 2008 two former students contributed to the programme by delivering sessions on the summer programme and supervising a work experience placement. Many former students continue to keep contact with the staff and the programme and have gone on to live happy, successful lives.



The Letterfrack Youthreach centre was recently the recipient of an award for receiving the highest result nationally in the 2008 Leaving Certificate Applied examinations. It was featured on both RTE 'Morning Ireland' and Connemara Community Radio.

Theresa McLoughlin, the course coordinator accepted the Fergal Quinn award on behalf of LCA student, Erinn Geraghty, the Letterfrack programme and County Galway Vocational Education Committee.

This National Leaving Certificate Award was presented by Conor Quinn. Conor is the son of Fergal Quinn, who was instrumental in the setting up of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme in the early 1990s.

US Deputy Ambassador Robert Faucher's Visit.

In September, Youthreach MTI was proud to welcome Deputy US Ambassador, Mr. Robert Faucher to Limerick. The visit was organised as part of the NTFE Initiative – a new programme of study in MTI which promotes a practical approach to Business and Enterprise for our learners. Mr. Faucher conducted an hour-long Q & A session with MTI learners, followed by a short lunch reception.



Youthreach West Shanagolden



Pic 1 Kayleigh Walsh and Michelle Jones and ponies Tommy and Bill taking part in an Equine Assisted Workshop (EAL)



Pic 2 Fetac level 5 students receiving their health certificates from Mary Mac Millan of HSE



Pic 3 Staff & students who took part in a fundraiser for the RNLI

Youthreach Credit Union

Youthreach MTI is proud to announce the opening of its own Credit Union, a sub-branch of Sarsfield Credit Union, on November 7th and is managed by the centre's Group 7 as part of their Enterprise Programme. The initiative is being well supported by learners and staff and is a great addition to the centre, educating all in the art of saving!



My first fight

It was the 20 November 2004.

I was going to my first fight in boxing.

I woke up at about nine o'clock and went down stairs.

I got my breakfast, ate two spoons and I wasn't able for any more.

I was so excited about my first fight at first but I wasn't so excited now.

My belly was rumbling and I was pale coloured in the face.

Then I woke up my mother to get ready to bring me to my Boxing club. She got up and said, 'Are you able for it?'

'III.....of course, I am,' I said, but I really wasn't.

I got my gear together, had a shower and went out to my shed and worked out for about fifteen minutes.

Then my mam called me!

'What?' I said.

'Come on!'

'Where?'

'To go to boxing.....'

'Oh ya, but I'm not fighting until half ten,'

'Hurry up, so,' my mam said.

My father came out to me when I was out the back and told me that all I had to do was try my best.

Then I felt like I was the boss.

So I took off to boxing with my brother, my mother and father.

When I got to the boxing club, my grandad and my aunt were there. There were two fights before mine and I was feeling good now.

I went into the changing rooms to change and my coach came up to me and said, 'You are fighting Johnson and he has been fighting for two years.'

'What!' I said.

'Hey,' Coach said, 'you will win this fight.'

I was worse then than this morning. I was shaking like a leaf.

Coach said, 'Are you ready yet?'

I said, 'Ya!'

'Come on so, what's keeping you!'

So I put my gloves on and banged them together. I walked over to the ring and my family was cheering me on.

I smiled at my opponent. He looked like he was in fear of his life.

But I thought wrong!

I got into the ring, put in my gumshield and the bell rang.

Referee said, 'Lads! Clean fight! Hands above the waist!'

Ding! Ding! Ding!

I bounced over and threw a left jab, then a right. Then he started flying punches at me and I started playing him at his own game.

The first round was a clean round.

I was shaking with fear, so was my opponent.

Second round!

'Fight!'

He ran straight at me swinging punches all sides. Then I did that too.

Bang!

I slipped upside down. I was out of breath and weak but the best thing I heard was 'Ding! Ding! Ding!'

I was weak. My coach said, 'Come on! You can do it!'

My family cheered me on.

Round three. Fight!

I ran at him with my hands swinging. Bang! Bang! Bang! He fell on the floor. He got up in a flash. We went wild! We started boxing each other like mad! I was very weak. I nearly walked away but I could hear my brother screaming, 'Go on Gerry! Go on!' so I turned and started swinging and so did my opponent. We were lethal. I was weak and so was he.

Ding! Ding! Ding!

Thank God, the fight was over.

I thought I won, so I went and shook hands with my opponent and went over to my coach. He gave me a drink of water and said, 'That was the best fight I've seen in the last two years!'

I was pleased and so was he.

The referee got my hand and Johnson

's hand. Johnson's hand went up! He beat me by one point, but I didn't mind because it was my first fight.

I came to do my best and I did.

Everyone was pleased with me but the person that was most pleased with me was my brother. He gave me a hug and said, 'Well done Gerry! You are the best of the best in the West!'

I was delighted!

I got a plaque with my name and second place on it.

That was even better because now I will remember my first fight any time I look at it.

Gerry Barry O'Halloran

YOUTHREACH CAPPWHITE

Summer Camp at Killary Adventure Centre

Wish you were here !!!

As part of the July summer programme, learners from Youthreach Cappawhite enjoyed all the fun and excitement of Killary Adventure Centre.

It may be a long way from Tipperary but the journey was well worth it. There is a fantastic sense of welcome, excitement and good fun at Killary. Great weather was a bonus and really made the holiday special.

The activities were a true test of spirit and stamina ! But we have successfully scaled the heights, dived the depths and met every challenge! Well done to all who took part. Our students were a credit to themselves and Youthreach !

We look forward to a return visit. Neil Quinn and Tommy Kelly's idea of a "winter challenge" might well be possible. It's on file in a filing cabinet !

Martin, Max, Serena, Willie, Neil, Tommy ,Jennifer, Adam, Steven, Rachel, Declan, Stuart & John say Hi to everyone !!



YOUTHREACH CAPPAWHITE

Looking Forward to 2008/2009

Willie Reilly, Eamon Murphy, Thomas Croke, William Tate receiving a FETAC Certificate and David Alexander who received FETAC Certificates

After the wettest summer in years, September shines for these students at Youthreach Cappawhite. The work has resulted in their FETAC awards. All the guys are looking forward to the formal presentation which will take place with their families at the VEC awards later in the year. Most are now doing LCA and enjoying it all so far.

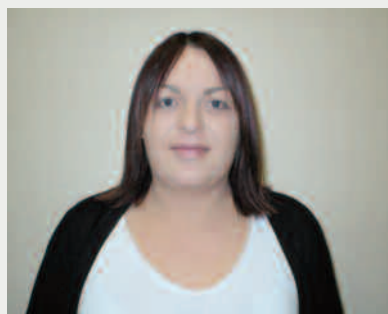
Apart from all the work there was also great fun. IT wasn't all about spreadsheets or data base!! There were excellent engineering projects from all these learners. They even cooked breakfast on more days than timetabled, raised money for telethon and played some cool pool too!
Well Done Guys!

Some of the new Learners in Youthreach Cappawhite: Jessie Collins, Michael Hogan, Lorna O Connell and Max Allen. Looking forward to the new year 2008/2009 After the summer holidays, learners are happy to be back in Youthreach. Believe it or not that's what they are saying!! They have also given good reports on the Summer Work Experience Programme and the Summer Camp in Killary Adventure Centre.

Good news is that facilities in the centre have been upgraded over the summer. We can now offer basket ball and tennis and have also acquired some health and fitness equipment. It is planned to develop a crazy golf area following the work that has been carried out on the site. This will be supported by students and staff of the wood and metal work room who are discussing the project in detail. In spite of the weather – some impressive basket ball has already been played. There is great hope that a worthy team will come out of this. Any challengers from the 102 other centres?

Blanchardstown Youthreach

In Blanchardstown Youthreach we decided to contact some of our students from 2006/7 and find out how they are were doing instead of wondering. Kelly Walsh was a student of Blanchardstown Youthreach for two years and received a major award in level 5 business studies and the Fasttrack to Information Technology (FIT). We asked Kelly how she has progressed since she left. When I left the centre I went to work for an architect who designed golf courses. This was a brilliant job but I really wanted to work in the IT sector. After a year I applied for a position as a sales administrator and I worked my way up the ladder. "I am now an IT technician which is a fantastic job that I love.. The job allows me to use the skills that I learned such as ECDL and I realised how important my qualification was. If I had not returned to education and got my qualification I feel that I would not be in the position I am in now. While I was in the centre I was always supported by staff in my education and other issues, that are part of life, I was able to talk to staff and work things through. Another important thing for me was when I was studying my child was in the crèche it made it a lot easier to focus on what I was doing and knowing that she was learning too.



Kelly Walsh

Another one of our students Kathleen has made a career for herself in the army. Like Kelly, her former classmate, Kathleen received a major award in level 5 business studies and the Fasttrack to Information

Technology (FIT). We asked Kathleen about her time in Blanchardstown Youthreach. "I had a great experience in the centre there was always a great atmosphere and staff were very supportive. I had my son in the crèche and Nicola, Anne and DebbieDebbie were brilliant with him, they set him up for school and helped him with his speech. My second year in the centre I was pregnant and became stressed about assignments and exams. My tutors gave me all the support I needed to get my work done and then I had to leave to have my second baby. My tutors sent home my notes and then I was able to come back and do my exams. After three years in the army I have began my training to become a corporal. I feel the skills and knowledge gained in communications, IT, administration and legislation have been of most benefit to me in the army. You need to have a lot of confidence in the army when directing people and giving lectures and presentations and also understanding legislation. For me the centre was a great place to be and get my education. I am setting up a return visit to the centre with three of my colleagues to give a lecture and discuss my time in the centre, the worth of my qualification and how it can help you get a career in the army.



Kathleen Brennan

The Blanchardstown area promoted Drug Awareness Week

The Blanchardstown area promoted Drug Awareness Week from the 17th until the 21st of November. It was a great opportunity for all initiatives to join together and give information to the young and old regarding misuse of alcohol and cocaine.

Two students of Blanchardstown Youthreach held a coffee morning for parents and presented an in-depth view of the affects of both substances.

Patrick McDonagh presented information on alcohol and Sandra Bagnall, resource manager, discussed cocaine. Sandra explains "some of the parents of our young people have hearing impairments and it was important that we could relay the information using different media's. We are so fortunate to have Karen Hanley's skills in sign language as she was able to translate information and questions and answers.

The morning was a great success not only for parents to gain an understanding of the affects of these substances but also helped identify initiatives in area for support". Equally successful was student Christopher Cahill who's poem *Stolen* came first in the poetry competition.

Karen Hanley, Patrick McDonagh and Sandra Bagnall

Stolen
He's dying slowly
Before my eyes
My heart hardens
With each tear he cries.

A young man.
My father I'm told
Once my dad!
Before alcohol took control

His skin is yellow
His body swollen
His liver is failing
His life stolen.

Living in fear
My sisters and I
Smiles on our faces
As inside we cry

For the dad we once had
A man long gone
Replaced by a stranger
A living time bomb

Our pain is real
Our anger and hate
A family now broken
That once was great.

His eyes of sadness
Shows his lose
His need for alcohol
Came at a cost.

By Christopher Cahill



Christopher Cahill

Briery Gap Theatre Macroom



The Briery Gap Theatre Macroom was host to the first Youthreach Film Festival on June 10th 2008. Nine films were entered, including dramas, comedies, musical videos and documentaries. An audience of nearly 100 Youthreach students and staff from ten centres watched the films and voted in a range of categories from best plot and best acting to best music and best overall film.

Supported by an Arts Grant from Cork County Council, the festival was hosted by David Cherniak of the Gaiety Theatre Cork, and the final Youthreach 'Oscars' were presented by Stella Majewsky, Artistic Director. The films were all made by Youthreach students in their centres, and each was an original piece of film making conceived, written acted and edited by the students as part of their study programmes.

Handing out the prizes at the end of the morning, Ms Majewsky praised the high standard of the work, and the feedback from the audience was very positive all round.

'Oscars' were awarded to Knockaconny for best acting in 'Scary Drug Movie', Mallow for best music in 'Keep it Hip Hop', Listowell for best plot in 'The Wedding dress', Mallow again for best comedy with 'Whodunit', Youghal for best action scenes in 'Mugged', and finally best overall film category went to Macroom for the autobiographical documentary 'Macroomies'.

A number of the films are going on to feature in other competitions around the country. The event itself was such a great day that entries are now very welcome for the 2009 Festival – please contact Coordinator Bev Cotton in Macroom on 026 43733 or email bevcotton@youthreachmacroom.com for details.

