

SJOG Liffey Services

New Directions Newsletter

Happy
Easter

April 2023



Hello everyone and welcome to the April 2023 edition of the New Directions newsletter. We are excited to share with you all a new design and layout to the newsletter as we strive to make the document more user-friendly going forward. This month's topic focuses on the support for 'Accessing Education and Formal Learning'. We will be sharing many good news stories from across Dublin and Kildare Day Services which highlights the importance of having access to formal learning in line with an individual's needs, abilities and interests. This will ensure the person will have the confidence in bringing new found skills into employment opportunities if they so wish. From computer classes to learning about our Country's history and meeting with the US President, this newsletter has something for everyone so please enjoy.

April's Topic



Support for Accessing Education



and Formal Learning

Hazelwood DS News



A story from Barry; "My name is Barry Kavanagh and this month was very special to me as I got to meet the US President Joe Biden. I work at the American Embassy in Ballsbridge 3 days per week under Supported Employment at Hazelwood Day Service. I was invited to meet the US president with my work colleagues. It was so exciting, we were collected from the Embassy in 5 coaches and taken to the airport to welcome the US President.



When I was introduced to him, President Biden shook my hand and said the Embassy is in good hands with me working there, I will never forget it. My only regret is that my dad was not there to see me but my mother and friend were with me, celebrating my story. I love my job there and hope to stay on for many years to come, hopefully more opportunities will come my way down the line. For now, it's back to the day job!"

Ash Tree Day Service.

Chloe, Ethan and Sean from Ash Tree Day Service in Tallaght recently began a computer training course in the local ETB. The aim is to upskill with a view to entering employment at a later stage with more improved tech skills. Well done!



Pathways, Maynooth

Budding artist Brian McHugh who attends Pathways Day Service in Maynooth entered the Callan Art Competition in 2020. Brian won the Senior level of the competition but then went one step further this year. Brian went on to win the overall competition this year with his entry “Minding our Bees, Trees & Butterflies”. The theme of the competition was reduce, reuse and recycle. Brian used various items such as wood bark, recycled glass and recycled napkins for his masterpiece of art, promoting the importance of environmental preservation. Great job!



Well Done Brian

Green Gables Day Service

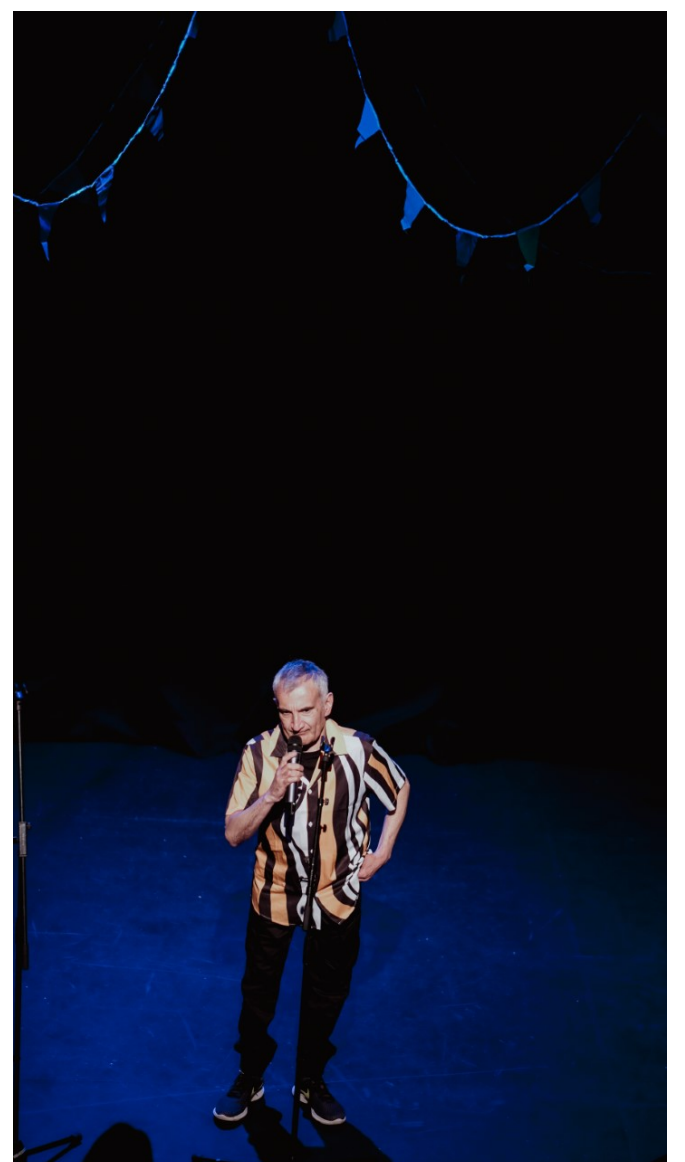
In relation to this month's topic around support for accessing education and formal learning. We wanted to say a big well done to Jason from Green Gables in Tallaght. Through all of his hard work and dedication, Jason has secured employment with Viking Splash tours in Dublin City Centre. A special thanks to Pam for training Jason in his new role.



Well done Jason

Choices, Celbridge

Sastri Boodoosingh attends Choices Day Service in Celbridge and is a member of Run of the Mill drama group. They practice every Monday evening and have been working on a play over the course of the last few months. The play took place on Tuesday 11th of April 2023 in the Riverbank Theatre in Newbridge and was a huge success. Well done Sastri, keep up the great acting career.



Crossroads Day Service

This is Laura, she began her travel training last April, 2022. Roger from Dublin Bus supported Laura at the time. He met Laura at Crossroads in Celbridge and would shadow Laura with her travel training. He supported Laura to and from crossroads, she also had further support from staff at Crossroads. After some time, Laura decided she did not feel ready to start travelling independently and she was supported with her decision.



Back in February this year, Laura revisited the idea of travelling to and from Crossroads on Dublin bus. Staff supported Laura every Wednesday for 3 weeks and on Monday 6th March, Laura arrived to Crossroads having taken Dublin bus unsupported and returned home. This was a huge achievement for Laura, and she wishes to share her success with everybody.

Liffey View Day Service

Jane Ryan and Jade Slattery attend a Music session in Clondalkin library on the second Thursday of every month. People from the community of Clondalkin give up their free time to play music, recite poems and even add a little dance into their agenda. Both ladies thoroughly enjoy the sessions and get actively involved in learning how to play certain instruments. These outings capture so many of the supports which underpin New Directions. A special thank you to staff member Aine McGrath for always keeping us in the loop regards Islandbridge and we adore the pictures.



Avila Day Service

The Men and Woman enjoyed a Heritage trip to the Arbour Hill prison cemetery. Ronnie Daly, a local historian, gave them all a fascinating talk about the history of the site and the nearby church. David Garland, who is very passionate about Irish History, gave his own insight and was able to tell the group that the men of 1916 were first kept in Richmond Barracks before being sent to Kilmainham Gaol for execution. The group ended the day with a visit to Lilliput stores, a local café and the Lilliput Press, a bookstore with a connection to the famous Irish Author Jonathan Swift, of Gulliver's Travels and Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral. Looks like a day full of learning and discovery.



Connections Day Service

World Autism Day

The parents of Danial Moylan organised a coffee morning in their own home and raised €800. They gifted the large sum to Connections Day Service and asked what was needed to add to the sensory garden. Connections have a sensory garden project in the Poly tunnel already, so they added the Pergola making class to enhance training around horticulture. The Moylan's donated the garden materials as well as other sensory inducing items and Connections decided to showcase their finished project in time for World Autism Day. There was finger food, cakes, chocolates and delicious drinks for all to enjoy. Paul Wells provided music on the day and local families attended the event. In the pictures you can see all who took part in the event and helped in making the banners, posters and other decorations. Ryan Wade particularly enjoyed the company of his other peers on the day.



Re Nua, Celbridge



Re Nua hosted a party for Liz McGuinness on her Retirement. Liz worked with the Men from Balfe Gardens when it first opened in the 1990's. They chatted, reminisced and shared funny stories of their times in St Raphaels.



The Men and Lady in Re Nua always like to celebrate the achievements and life events of their peers and staff alike. All enjoyed celebrating Liz and her time in the organisation and everyone involved would like to wish Liz a very happy retirement.

The Revival project was a two year project where partnered with eleven other St John of God Services across Europe to create accessible eLearning resources to support Drama and Theatre skills for all.

The last few weeks of the project have been a busy time for the project and over 35 participants from across Europe got the opportunity to meet up and work together for a week in Murcia, Spain. This learning event was an excellent opportunities for the teams to come together and share their experiences of the project and learn from teh creative partners.

David Deane, Ger Gibbney, Kevin Wynn supported by Eoin reardona dn Sarah Boland travelled to Murcia and they have produced this video about the experience <https://vimeo.com/815661833>



We hosted 40 people from ten different organisations at our Multiplier event at our HeadQuarters in Stillorgan on the 13th April for four hours and everyone was impressed with the resources and the over all project. Thank you to all the men and women and support staff Veronika, Eoin, Fatima and Sarah for all the work on the project.

Go to the REVIVALProject.eu webpage to find all the resources and videos about the project

Thanks

FOR EVERYTHING

Thank you all for sending in such amazing stories and a special shout out to Kieran O' Neill on his last week working alongside me (and sharing an office with someone as colourful as me). Kieran has been working in the admin department these past two months and has been an amazing support in encouraging and gathering good news stories in line with New Directions.

New Directions

Just to recap, this month's newsletter for April has focused on the support 'Accessing Education and Formal Learning' and the importance of same. The main benefits of formal education are the knowledge and skills learned to improve your lifestyle and the chances of advancing are greater. Through formal education, you get to learn about your dreams, talents, and skills. You get to explore your likes and dislikes and formal education helps with your personal growth. You get opportunities to interact with people who have different views and thoughts about things. You get to learn about subjects that interest you and subjects that do not interest you. Formal education provides educational opportunities. Learning new things makes you feel confident as you get to know and understand new skills and improve on the old ones.





If you have a good news story for me then please link in with a staff member and request that they send it onto me at;

Donna.hughes@sjog.ie

I will do my very best to get in touch as soon as possible.

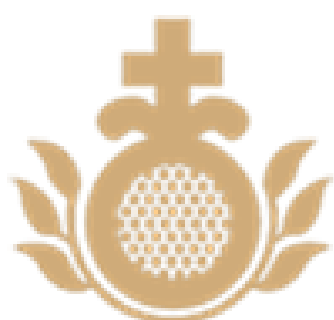
Also, please keep your wonderful wall displays coming in and I can feature your Day Service in my next newsletter.

Don't forget to tune
into my Online Engage
Sessions the first
Thursday of every
month!

*Thank,
you!*

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Saint John of God Community Services
Liffey Services

Hospitality ~ Compassion ~ Respect