



Clare Volunteer Centre

Annual Review 2024

www.volunteerclare.ie



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



**Clare
Volunteer Centre**
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach an Chláir

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Chairperson's Note:

The Centre continues to play a key role in the ongoing development of the volunteering infrastructure in County Clare and 2024 saw further strengthening of our operational structures and implementation capabilities to promote volunteerism, mobilise volunteers and support them in their work. The year saw significant advancement of our Strategic Plan 2025–2028, further development of our vital inter-agency relationships, innovative new media and traditional marketing campaigns and a particular focus on working with our key stakeholders around connecting communities. The latter, underpinned by volunteer recruitment, placement and volunteer management and support programmes.

I would like to acknowledge, once again, the continued invaluable support received from our partners, the Department of Rural and Community Development, Volunteer Ireland, Clare County Council, Clare Local Development Company, Clare Education Centre, Clare PPN, Clarecare, Employability Clare and all stakeholders in the community volunteering space. We are grateful to our CVC Team of Sharon, Dolores, Marguerita and Olena for their ongoing dedication to achieving organisational objectives. I remain particularly indebted to my fellow Board members for their unwavering support for the Centre.

Michael Foley

Chairperson Clare Volunteer Centre



Gerard Kennedy, Michael Foley, Fionnuala Moran, Brian McNerney

About Us

Summary of the Organisation's Purpose & Activities

A county-wide network of Volunteer Centres ensures equity, accessibility, and strong community support, making Ireland a more inclusive and compassionate society. The Clare Volunteer Centre is focused on building capacity within our communities and continuing to build and support a culture of active participation and social responsibility.

It is the role of the Clare Volunteer Centre to **deepen and strengthen existing volunteering infrastructure, develop and expand volunteering infrastructure at local and community level and promote volunteering amongst all sectors of the community.** The Clare Volunteer Centre team have a proven track record in the recruitment, support and management of volunteers for large scale events. They are an active member of the Community Response Forum an interagency group providing support to local communities. The Clare Volunteer Centre is focused on capacity building and volunteer management within these communities providing training, volunteer referral and support. 2024 saw the continuation of the 'Connecting Communities Initiative' a joint project between Clare Local Development Company and Clare PPN delivering workshops to volunteer involving organisations in Co. Clare. 2024 also saw the recognition of volunteers who had been engaged in multiple and diverse roles with the volunteer centre since registration – repeat volunteers, a true reflection of the impact of volunteering both on a personal and a social level and the value of volunteer centres within our local communities.

Organisation & Governance

Clare Volunteer Centre is a county wide volunteer support service funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

It is managed by a voluntary board, made up of representatives from the local community. Meetings are held once a quarter. CVC is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. It returns audited accounts to the Department of Rural and Community Development on an annual basis and has a sub-committee tasked with ensuring that all funds are spent in compliance with good governance. Clare Volunteer Centre was awarded the Quality Standards Award by VI in 2021 and has adopted the Charities Governance Code. A Quality Standards Review is scheduled for July 2025.

volunteer hours
for 2024:

10,998

registered
volunteers:

2,739

repeat
volunteers:

211

(84% of repeat
volunteers
placed in 2024)

registered
organisations:

352

placement rate:

49%

volunteer roles
in 2024:

92 roles

Involving 53
organisations

Charity Trustees

Clare Volunteer Centre is governed by a committed Board of Trustees. The role of the trustees is to guide the strategic direction of the organisation, to ensure that the organisation meets its legal and financial obligations and to oversee the management and staff of the organisation. Recruitment methods for the board of trustees include promotion through our own service, word of mouth / recommendations and the use of Boardmatch Ireland. The AGM for 2024 was held on the 11th December 2024.



Michael Foley, Olena Bondar, Verena Tarpey, Denis Bates, Fionnuala Moran, Catriona Lavelle, Gerard Kennedy Dolores O'Halloran, Sharon Meaney, Marguerita Heffernan, [Missing from photo – Brian McNerney]

our vision That every person who wishes to volunteer is provided with information, support and advice offering a diverse range of volunteer roles to suit all ages and abilities.

mission To promote the personal, community and societal value of volunteering; increase the range and quality of volunteer roles and volunteering supports in Co. Clare and raise awareness of the importance of people being able to connect with and feel part of their communities.

Clare Volunteer Centre Strategic Highlights

Partnerships:

In 2024, the Clare Volunteer Centre continued to be an active partner in the local Community Response Forum, attending meetings in all areas including Ennis, North Clare, West Clare and Shannon with additional meetings in 2024 being held in Scarriff in East Clare. The Clare Volunteer Centre hosts the Ennis Community Response Forum Meetings and continues to work closely with all stakeholders at county level. We have seen an increase in the number of Ukrainians and other people new to our communities look for volunteering roles to assist them in integration, improvement of their English and retaining or learning new skill sets. 50% of volunteers referred or placed with organisations in 2024 were people who did not identify as Irish. This has led to an increased workload with reference to 1:1 support of both volunteers and a strong advocacy piece with organisations. We have worked closely with organisations registered with the Clare Volunteer Centre during 2024 engaging them in 1:1 support, workshops and training on the benefits of having an inclusive and diverse volunteer base. We have also worked with Clare Local Development Company and Clare PPN on running events throughout the year with a positive focus on integration under the project heading of Connecting Communities.



The poster for the 'Expo Volunteer & Community' event features a large background image of a diverse crowd of people. At the top, logos for the Clare Volunteer Centre, Clare Public Participation Network, and Clare Local Development Company are displayed. The event title 'Expo VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY' is prominently shown in a mix of blue and white fonts. Below the title, the text 'Showcase your organisation, engage, connect, and recruit new volunteers.' is written. A blue banner indicates the event is on '4-7 pm Thursday, 23 May 2024'. Another blue banner shows the location as 'Woodstock Hotel Ennis V95 TR25'. A photograph of six women standing together is included on the right side. At the bottom, there are icons for a clock and an envelope, with text stating 'Deadline for applications - 17 May' and the email 'AoShaughnessy@CLDC.ie'. The phrases 'Register now!' and 'Host a stand!' are also present.

Clare Volunteer Centre
Local #ClareShineach on Clare

Clare Public Participation Network

Clare Local Development Company
Comhaltacht Forbartha Árainn an Chláir

Expo
VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY

Showcase your organisation,
engage, connect, and recruit
new volunteers.

4-7 pm
Thursday, 23 May 2024

Woodstock Hotel Ennis
V95 TR25

Register now!
Host a stand!

Deadline for
applications - 17 May

AoShaughnessy@CLDC.ie

Strategic Planning 2025 - 2028:

The Clare Volunteer Centre team engaged with an external consultant to draft a new strategic plan for the centre in January 2024. The planning process included consultation both internally with the Clare Volunteer Centre board and Clare Volunteer Centre staff and also externally with key stakeholders.

➔ External with key stakeholders – one to one interviews.

- ➔ Clare County Council
- ➔ Clare Local Development Company
- ➔ Clare Sports Partnership
- ➔ Clare Women's Collective
- ➔ Clare Youth Service
- ➔ Department of Rural and Community Development
- ➔ Employability Clare
- ➔ Tipperary Volunteer Centre
- ➔ Volunteer Ireland

- ✓ 235 registered volunteers via online survey
- ✓ 43 registered community and voluntary organisations via online survey
- ✓ 2 group facilitated meetings with 7 community and voluntary organisations and 10 volunteers.

Clare Volunteer Centre is deeply appreciative of all those who gave of their time and insights to help shape our strategic plan. Strategic goals have been identified for 2025 and the plan will be officially launched in the first quarter of 2025.

Our Quarterly Goals – 1st Quarter 2025

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
	<p>Advance the cause of social inclusion in Clare through facilitating meaningful volunteering opportunities</p> <p>Review of volunteer profiles volunteer roles demographics 2024</p> <p>Strategic planning meeting – CVC Team</p>	<p>Development of video clips sharing volunteer experiences</p> <p>Work with VIOS to consider diversity & accessibility when developing volunteer roles.</p> <p>Send out survey to VIOS to assess their needs-training/volunteers/supports</p>	
	<p>Increase Clare Volunteer Centre's social impact through enhancing the organisational capacity of VIOS</p> <p>Review of organisation profiles/ demographics 2024</p> <p>Contact all registered GV groups to renew SLA and determine level of support for 2025</p>	<p>Contact VIOS in East Clare re: training opportunity for volunteer management</p> <p>Contact all registered GV groups to invite to CVC for refresher training.</p> <p>Hold one training session in volunteer management in East Clare</p>	
	<p>Engage with strategic partners to advance volunteering supports and policy making at both local, national and international levels.</p> <p>Review of interagency work during 2024</p> <p>Distribution of i-Pads to Fáilte Isteach groups through the county through partnership with CLDC</p>	<p>Host Ennis Community Response Forum in CVC</p> <p>Attend meeting in Mallow-Munster VCs –response to funding allocation</p> <p>Hosting of National Volunteer Network Meeting in Cork-organised and facilitated by VCs in Munster</p>	
	<p>Build recognition of the role that Clare Volunteer Centre plays in advancing social Inclusion throughout the county.</p> <p>Review of communications and promotional strategy 2024</p> <p>Strategic planning meeting with Social Media Executive</p>	<p>Development of communications and promotional strategy for 2025</p> <p>Development of project for National Volunteering Week</p> <p>Implementation of social media content strategy promoting VC as a diverse and accessible service</p> <p>Review and update website to include a news information/ blog section</p>	
	<p>Futureproof the financial and organisational capacity of Clare Volunteer Centre to respond to opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>Review of budget spend for 2024</p> <p>Submission of budget application for 2025</p> <p>Development of report on spend for funding for Ukraine and New Communities</p>	<p>Development & Sign off – Annual Report 2024</p> <p>Attend funding review meeting with DRCD & VCs in Munster</p> <p>Sign off on Reserves Policy</p> <p>Explore opportunities to retain annual funding from Clare County Council</p> <p>Quality Standards Review-Volunteer Ireland</p>	
	<p>Build the learning and development capacity of Clare Volunteer Centre to enable it to remain agile and responsive to future needs and opportunities.</p> <p>Staff Review Meetings 1:1 to identify training needs</p> <p>Identify KPIs in line with National Volunteering Strategy</p> <p>Sign off on Social Media Policy</p>	<p>CVC Board Meeting- identify training needs</p> <p>Completion of Skills Audit – CVC Board</p> <p>Agreement of KPIs for reporting to CVC Board</p> <p>Organisation of training – CVC Board based on identified training needs.</p>	

Volunteer Recognition:

National Volunteer Week:

As part of National Volunteer Week in May 2024, we ran an Expo in conjunction with Clare Local Development Company and Clare PPN. The focus of the Expo was to raise awareness in the wider community of the diversity of volunteer led and volunteer supported groups in Co. Clare. Groups from across the county attended and it was an opportunity for peer to peer support and networking with other groups.



Volunteer Ireland Awards:

Through our social media channels and newsletter distribution, we encouraged organisations to nominate those volunteers they felt should be recognised at the national Volunteer Ireland awards. We had 9 nominations and 1 volunteer – Shanelle Waring-Woods (Ennis Hockey Club) was shortlisted in the Sports & Recreation category. Ennis Hockey Club has been in existence for 5 years and Shanelle leads on the development of programmes for individuals with disabilities, both adults and children. These programmes have not only promoted inclusivity within the club but have also provided meaningful opportunities for participation, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment for all involved.

Shanelle Waring-Woods

Ennis Hockey Club

Volunteer
Ireland
Awards:



International Volunteer Day:

On the 5th December 2024, with the support of Clare County Council, we held a Volunteer Recognition Event for volunteers who had been placed in multiple and diverse volunteer roles since registering with the Clare Volunteer Centre and who had actively volunteered in 1 or more roles in 2022 / 2023 or 2024. Syl O'Connor (MC) reflected on the evening as an opportunity for people to see the impact that volunteering has on the individual and not just the organisation that the person volunteers with. A video was commissioned highlighting the stories of some of our volunteers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8JIBKWkpKE&t=16s> including interviews with volunteers who were new to our communities and those volunteers who had experienced loneliness and isolation.



National Volunteering

Strategy: As part of our commitment to the National Volunteer Strategy, the Clare Volunteer Centre continued to focus on investing in the capacity building of local organisations. We continued to work with Clare Local Development Company and Clare PPN through the Connecting Communities Initiative with events held in January, May and September in Ennis and West Clare. By using an interagency approach we could share the costs and maximise on the shared skills and expertise. It is our aim to run more of these events in 2025, dependent on resources in other parts of the county.



Key achievements for 2024

Core Objective 1: To increase access to volunteering by offering support services to the public and volunteer involving organisations.

Response: Increase in diversity of volunteer roles across the county and promotion of the engagement of volunteers with the service.

2024 saw 69% of people moving from initial registration to engagement with the Clare Volunteer Centre. This reflects the commitment and work of the Placement Officer, Dolores O Halloran in following up with 100% of volunteers who register with the centre, through email and phone. Our placement rate was 49% well above our target of 40% for the year. There were 40 different nationalities represented in the 2024 volunteer registration figures, an increase from 24 different nationalities represented in the previous year. This statistic has prompted a promotional campaign led by Olena Bondar our Social Media Executive to provide resources in various languages and involve volunteers from different cultural backgrounds in our campaigns.

With reference to volunteer roles, 49% of our volunteer roles are in Ennis, with the remaining 39% available outside of Ennis. 12% of our new roles were virtual roles, an action directly from the National Volunteering Strategy.

Core Objective 2: To increase the quality of volunteering

Response: Provided access to training/workshops and worked 1:1 with organisations who needed support in developing volunteer programmes.

In partnership with Clare Local Development Company and the Clare PPN, three events were held in West Clare and Ennis, with a focus on training, peer-to-peer support, networking and information sharing. There was attendance from a wide range of organisations and individuals at all three events. Two evening workshops were held for Shannon Tidy Towns and Ennis Lions Club, looking at targeted recruitment campaigns and volunteer role identification. 5 Community Clinics were held in Ennis, East Clare, North Clare and West Clare targeted at organisations and individuals, providing information and networking opportunities. Garda Vetting Training was delivered online to 11 groups, with a refresher training session scheduled for all registered Garda Vetting groups in Q1 2025.

Core Objective 3: Increase the awareness of volunteering by marketing and promoting volunteering.

Response: A number of high-profile events with local and national stakeholders

The social media platforms of Clare Volunteer Centre demonstrated excellent results in 2024, with a strong focus on organic growth. Facebook and Instagram continued to serve as key channels for engaging with the audience, achieving solid reach and interaction metrics over the year. On Facebook, total views reached 100,772, with a reach of 56,210 people and 6,945 recorded interactions.

Instagram, which became an active channel for the first time this year, achieved a strong start with 66,786 views and 3,816 interactions. Stories were particularly effective, generating almost twice as many views as regular posts, highlighting the importance of interactive and visually dynamic elements in capturing audience attention.

A demographic analysis revealed that male followers account for 20% of the audience on Facebook and 25% on Instagram. While this highlights potential opportunities to create content appealing to this demographic, it remains part of a broader strategy aimed at engaging a diverse audience and supporting all segments. The results achieved this year, entirely through organic efforts without paid advertising, reflect the strength of the current strategy and the quality of the content. Looking ahead, it will be important to continue leveraging effective formats such as carousels, stories, and emotionally compelling posts, while exploring new ways to engage different audience segments, strengthen connections with existing followers, and attract new ones.

Offline activities included a countywide school art competition – launched on the 23rd September. This year's theme, **'Connecting Communities Together: Celebrating Art, Inclusion, and Unity,'** encouraged students to express their ideas of togetherness and inclusion through a variety of artistic forms. We received almost 200 entries, representing 11 national schools and 6 secondary schools. Learnings from this event, included checking with teachers on the timing of the event. September to December is a busy time for schools and we were competing with other larger well-established competitions being run through the schools. The finalists were presented with their award at the Volunteer Recognition Event held in the West County Hotel on the 5th December.



As part of the volunteer recognition event, we recognised those volunteers who had repeatedly engaged with the volunteer centre. We highlighted some of the volunteer stories, through a video compilation and interviews on the evening, hosted by Syl O'Connor highlighting the impact of volunteering not only to our communities but also the benefits to the volunteer themselves.

Core Objective 4: To ensure the organisation is sustainable through Good Governance and Management.

Response: Recruitment of new board members, compliance with Governance Code and development of a new strategic plan.

Along with the three new board members recruited in 2023, Verena Tarpey (CEO – GOSHH) joined the Clare Volunteer Centre Board in 2024. Building on the existing capacity of the Clare Volunteer Centre Board, work was done on reviewing the Charities Governance Code and ensuring that the Clare Volunteer Centre remained compliant. Q1 2024, saw an external consultant employed to lead the board and staff team in development of a new strategic plan. Surveys, focus groups and 1:1 interviews with key stakeholders contributed to the strategic vision moving forward with launch date in Q1 of 2025.

Ongoing work

Our focus for 2025 is to continue to work collaboratively with organisations and agencies to deliver supports, training and programmes to build capacity within communities.

We will continue to work with both the Ukrainian community and other new communities raising awareness of the benefits of volunteering and will continue to attend outreach events and workshops targeted at supporting local communities.

2024 saw the introduction of the National Volunteer Centre Network (NVCN) replacing the Volunteer Centre Managers Network (VCMN). This new network aims to bring about a stronger network and information sharing platform for all members of the network, with the first meeting being hosted by the VCs in Munster in Q1 2025.

With the launch of the new strategic plan, the board and staff team will work together to identify key strategic goals for 2025 and ensure that reporting is transparent and responsive to local community need.

We will continue to provide a Garda Vetting service, updating all Service Level Agreements with our registered groups and pushing for more training with the Garda National Vetting Bureau to ensure that we are providing guidance and support in line with the legislation and compliance requirements.

Attending the Volunteer Recognition Event at the West County Hotel on December 5th was truly inspiring. It was an opportunity to celebrate and honor the tireless dedication of volunteers who make such a profound impact in our communities. Their selfless contributions are the heart of our collective success, and it was a privilege to recognise their efforts. Thank you for creating such a memorable event that highlights the importance of volunteerism.

Cathaoirleach, Alan O'Callaghan

Based on the success of the volunteer recognition event in December 2024 with local partners –Clare County Council, further recognition events are planned for Q3 of 2025 to acknowledge and recognise the contribution of volunteers to our local communities.

We will continue to focus on increasing our reach through Instagram and Facebook, raising awareness of volunteering and the Clare Volunteer Centre, along with engaging with local media to raise the profile of the centre.

Dolores, I am slow in catching up after our "working weekend". Overall, the volunteers were SPECTACULARLY engaged and helpful. It was a delight working with them. THANK YOU for your support again this year—it made a very positive impact for our planning and running of the event! Cheers,
Paul, Clarecastle Regatta

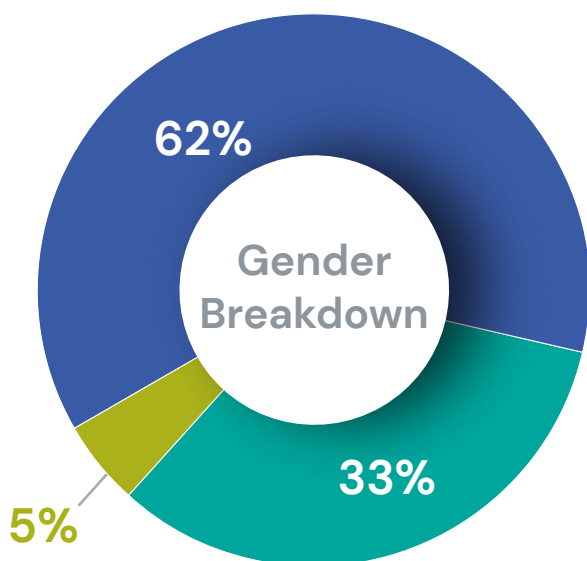
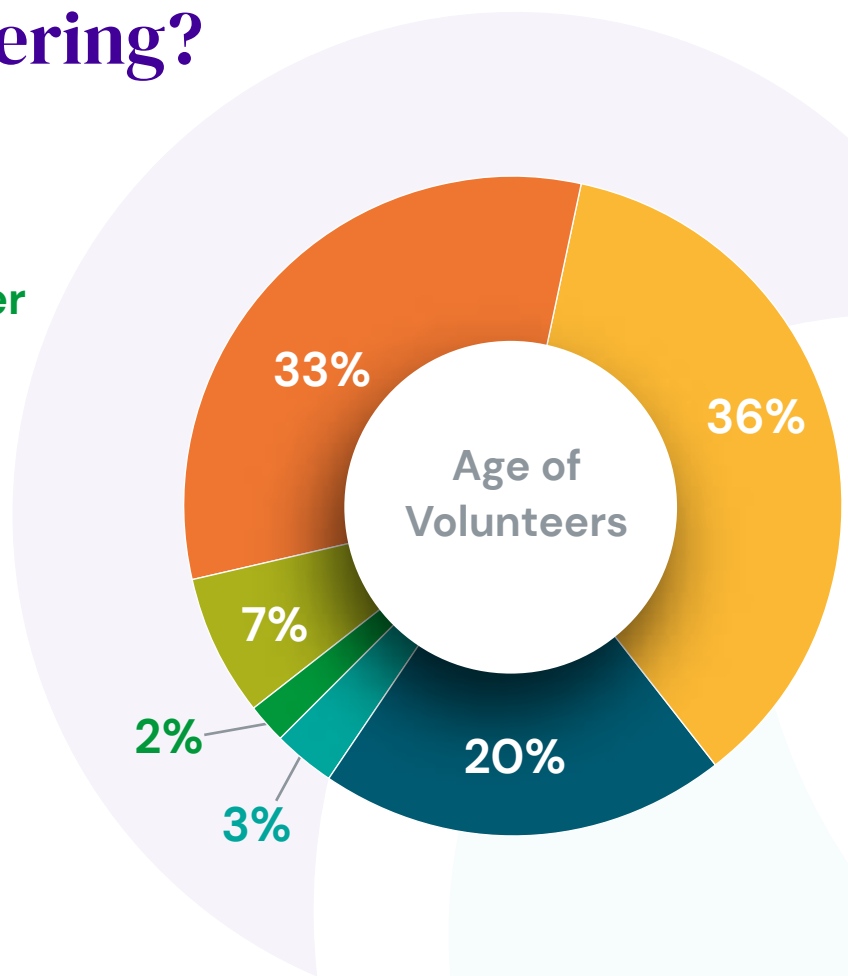
Some of the organisations we work with...

- ✓ Carrigoran Health and Wellness Centre
- ✓ Ciúnas Centre for Complementary Care
- ✓ Clare County Council
- ✓ Clare Crusaders
- ✓ Clare Immigrant Support Centre
- ✓ Clare Leader Forum
- ✓ Clare Local Development Company
- ✓ Clare Public Participation Network
- ✓ Clare Suicide Bereavement Support
- ✓ Clare Youth Service
- ✓ Clarecare
- ✓ Clarecastle Day Care Centre
- ✓ Community First Responder Groups
- ✓ Ennis Lions Club
- ✓ Employability Clare
- ✓ Fáilte Isteach Groups
- ✓ Family Resource Centres
- ✓ Irish Guide Dogs
- ✓ Irish Heart Foundation – Clare branch
- ✓ Lisdoonvarna Fáilte
- ✓ Sanctuary Runners – Clare branch
- ✓ Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy
- ✓ St. Vincent de Paul
- ✓ Tidy Towns Groups

Who is volunteering?

**322 new volunteers
registered in 2024**

2%	17 years & under
7%	18 – 22 years
32%	23 – 35 years
36%	36 – 49 years
20%	50 – 64 years
3%	65+



62% Female

33% Male

5% Prefer not to say

**57% of volunteers
registered in 2024 had
not volunteered before**

211 volunteers re-engaged with the Clare Volunteer Centre in 2024 – 84% of these volunteers were placed in a new role.



Olivia O'Leary

Clare Community Heroes Celebrated

Clare Volunteer Centre
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach an Chláir



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



Marie Urquhart, Joe Garrihy & Anastasia Blashchynska



Cathaoirleach Alan O'Callaghan and Caelainn Reynolds with Lorelai Ryan



Bishop of Killaloe, Fintan Monahan and Denis Bates



Overall winner of the Clare Community Art Competition, Kateryna Dobrovolkska, with Councillor Alan O'Callaghan and Caelainn Reynolds



Jean O'Halloran



Conor, Hugh, Theresa and Cormac Mahon



From left to right, Jason Murphy, Director of Social Development, Clare County Council, Syl O'Connor, event MC, Sharon Meaney, Manager of Clare Volunteer Centre, Dolores O'Halloran, Clare Volunteer Centre, Cllr Alan O'Callaghan, Cathaoirleach and Brendan Boyce (Integration Support Co-Ordinator), Claire O'Leary, Fiona Cahill and Padraig McMahon (Integration Support Workers – Clare County Council)



The St Michaels Villa Community Choir performing at the Volunteer Recognition Event



Joe and Concepta Lillis and John O'Sullivan

How do we work with you?

At the Clare Volunteer Centre you can:

- Find out about volunteering opportunities throughout County Clare
- Talk in confidence with our team about volunteering and how it can work for you
- Receive information without having to make a commitment
- Get ongoing advice and support

How do I use the Clare Volunteer Centre service:

You can register with us for free on our website, on the phone or by calling into our office. Once you have registered, we can meet with you to find a suitable volunteer role for you. We will meet with you either online or in person.

What is involved in volunteering?

Organisations in County Clare are looking for volunteers to do a whole range of different things. Some roles may require specific skills but many don't.

Some roles may require a regular commitment over a number of months while others are as short as a few hours or days. So depending on what you would like to do and the time you have available, we are sure there is a volunteer role for you!

Types of volunteer roles

- ☎ Activities Assistant
- ☎ Admin Support
- ☎ Administrator
- ☎ Befriending
- ☎ Bus Driver
- ☎ Charity Shop Driver
- ☎ Children Activities
- ☎ Christmas Card Call Out
- ☎ Coffee Morning
- ☎ Calendar Admin
- ☎ Computer Tutor
- ☎ Event Coordinator
- ☎ Fashion Store Assistants
- ☎ Gardening
- ☎ Girl Guide Leader
- ☎ Homework Assistants
- ☎ Listening Volunteer
- ☎ Meet & Greet
- ☎ Online Sales
- ☎ Secretary
- ☎ Shoebox Collectors
- ☎ Shop Assistants
- ☎ Support Volunteer
- ☎ Teddy Washers
- ☎ Telephone Support
- ☎ Tidy Town
- ☎ Tourist Information



What do our supporters say...

There is little doubt in many peoples mind that a vast majority of things that happen everyday of the week, are things we take for granted, "Just think."

The light always came on when you hit the switch, the kettle always began to boil when the little red light came on, and moments after the cooker was switched on, the aroma of the cooking smell began to fill the room, it always happens... until Storm Eowyn arrived, and we all know what "happened then".

Volunteerism is something I always took for granted, why not, it was always there, people were always available to guide you in a particular direction at an event, a Homecoming, a sponsored walk, fundraising venture, special events in a town or a village.

A few months ago, I was requested to MC an event in recognition of Volunteers in Clare, and my knowledge of this association was to be honest, very limited, because I took it for granted "it was always there".

As the evening faded away, and the Music, Song and Dance, which was brilliant, ended, the people who we spoke with, and to, on the night were the people who left us with memories, many stories, and banter as well.

The Clare Volunteer Centre which provides a platform for organisations to call on their services, for those big events like, Homecomings, Festivals, and Parades, are more importantly providing an outlet for people from home and far away, to come together and become part of a different family called "Volunteers".

Fabulous occasion, led by a Fabulous Committee.

PS: Don't take them for "Granted" Support them, and join them, in every way you can.

Syl O'Connor



Dear Sharon, On behalf of the Elected Members, Staff and management of Clare County Council, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to you and your network of volunteers from across the county, who gave so generously of their time and energy to support the screening of the All Ireland Hurling Final on Sunday 21st July and to mark our Champions Homecoming in Tim Smythe Park on Monday 22nd, Having this volunteering spirit available in our County to support the coordination of large scale events, such as the Homecoming, is inspirational and testament to the pride and passion the people of Clare have for their County.

Pat Dowling Chief Executive Clare County Council

Clare Volunteer Centre Board 2024

Michael Foley (Chairperson)

Gerard Kennedy

Fionnuala Moran

Brian McInerney

Denis Bates

Catriona Lavelle

Verena Tarpey

Staff 2024

Sharon Meaney, Manager

Dolores O'Halloran, Placement Officer

Marguerita Heffernan, Garda Vetting & Admin

Olena Bondar, Social Media Executive

The Clare Volunteer Centre CLG

Financial year ended 31 December 2024

Financial Information year ended 31 December 2024

Income and Expenditure

Summary Income

	2024 €€	2023 €€
Department of Community & Rural Development: Funding to Strengthen and Support Volunteering	156,090	130,075
Funding to Support Ukrainians and New Communities	71,758	51,304
Training and Volunteer Recognition Funding	2,800	-
Clare County Council	3,990	-
Garda Vetting and Other Income	2,490	1,840
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>237,128</u>	<u>183,219</u>

Summary Expenditure

Wages, Salaries and Pensions	160,917	135,318
Ukrainians and New Communities Support	19,955	19,652
Volunteer Recognition and Project Events	10,851	511
Administrative Overhead Costs	17,864	16,696
Rent	6,000	6,000
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>215,587</u>	<u>178,177</u>
Surplus/Deficit	<u>21,541</u>	<u>5,042</u>

Thank You

There is a Volunteer Centre in every county in Ireland, and across the country we continue to see a steady rise in the number of people stepping forward to volunteer, alongside increasing demand from organisations that depend on volunteers to deliver and support essential services at the heart of our communities.

In the quiet strength of rural towns and villages, where the challenges of isolation and loneliness can be felt most deeply, it is volunteers who quietly and consistently help weave the threads of connection.

Their actions—often small, always significant—create spaces of belonging, hope, and resilience. Whether it's a friendly visit, a local initiative, or a helping hand at a community event, volunteering offers a powerful antidote to the social isolation that can so often go unnoticed.

Volunteering is more than service; it is the essence of community. It builds the kind of trust and capacity that keeps communities strong during times of uncertainty. It is through volunteering that people find purpose, build relationships, and foster a culture of shared responsibility—cornerstones of any thriving community.

The effects are not just local. The positive ripple of volunteering spreads far beyond individual actions, shaping a more compassionate, connected society. In rural Ireland the spirit of volunteerism is a powerful force for inclusion and belonging.

To all the volunteers who continue to show up, to listen, to act, and to care—thank you. Your presence is a reminder of what community truly means, and your impact will be felt long after the task is done.

Sharon Meaney – Manager of Clare Volunteer Centre

Funders & Supporters

Clare Volunteer Centre was funded in 2024 by the Department of Rural & Community Development and supported in its work by Clare Local Development Company, Clare County Council, Clare PPN and Volunteer Ireland.



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development





Contact Us

Clare Volunteer Centre

c/o Clare Education Centre
Kilrush Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
V95 F782

P: 065 68 455 17

E: info@volunteerclare.ie

W: www.volunteerclare.ie



www.facebook.com/clarevolunteercentre



www.instagram.com/clarevolunteercentre