



volunteer centre

Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Cheatharlach

CARLOW

Carlow Volunteer Centre
Annual Report

2015

FOREWORD

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”

-Gandhi

2015 was once again another productive year for Carlow Volunteer Centre. The work of Carlow Volunteer Centre has been vital in increasing awareness of volunteerism in Carlow and in supporting individuals to engage in volunteer opportunities in their local community. Carlow Volunteer Centre plays an integral role in working with individuals and organisations engaging with volunteers and supporting their path to volunteerism. It has also engaged very well with groups and networks such as the Carlow Integration Forum, Carlow Women’s Network, Carlow Age Friendly the Older Persons Network and County Carlow Sports Partnership from which we hope will forge the path to many opportunities.

Also during 2015 Carlow Volunteer Centre has strengthened its participation in the changes in Local Government by its active membership on the Secretariat of the Carlow Public Participation Network and is a lead agency to deliver an action in the Carlow Local Community Development Committee’s 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan. This allows Carlow Volunteer Centre to branch out further into capacity building for Volunteers in all walks of life and ventures. Most importantly it embeds volunteering in the heart of the planning to deliver better services for the people of Carlow and highlights its critical role in the functioning of sustainable communities.

The work of Carlow Volunteer Centre is a testament to the staff and their tireless commitment to offering a quality service that is second to none and this is underlined by the support they receive from sponsors and volunteers.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, for their continued contribution and invaluable guidance, support and advice throughout the year.

Finally I would like to give a special mention to Unum who generously sponsored the 2015 Volunteer Thank You Event held in May, and to acknowledge all the hard work that was done by Unum staff members on various projects, this year, as well as in previous years. In particular their work on An Gairdin Beo project where staff kindly gave their time for the betterment of the community.

CHAIRPERSON

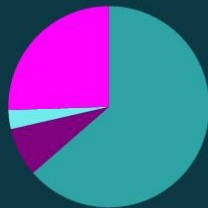


Margaret Moore

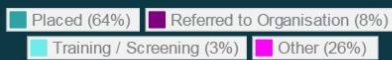
VOLUNTEER STATS FOR 2015

Impact of Carlow Volunteer Centre

Carlow Volunteer Centre is an independent, Carlow based organisation forming part of a network of 22 volunteer centres from all across the country and are affiliated to Volunteer Ireland. We offer a range of services to volunteers and organisations alike, including a free Volunteer Placement Service, Volunteer Management Training, support and Garda vetting.



In 2015, we met with 305 new Carlow Volunteers who expressed an interest in volunteering in Carlow. 187 of these people were placed with local organisations, while 32 are still in the process of being placed.



Why people chose to volunteer in 2015



RECRUITMENT STATISTICS 2015

Recruitment Method

New Organisations

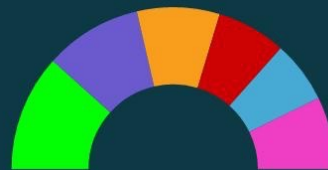


■ 2015 ■ 2014

Carlow Volunteer Centre registered 25 new organisations in 2015, a rise from the 12 registered in 2014.

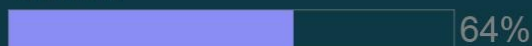
Means of Recruitment

The recruitment breakdown shows that Schools & Colleges and Internet are among the most popular means of recruitment in 2015.



■ School / College (23%) ■ Internet (19%)
■ Word of Mouth (17%) ■ Media/Newspaper (14%)
■ Events (12%) ■ Other (14%)

Carlow



64%

National



34%

Volunteer Placement Rate

In 2015, Carlow Volunteer Centre successfully placed 64% of Volunteers in Carlow. While nationally, 34% of volunteers were placed. Carlow Volunteer Centre believes in directly meeting and engaging with all people interested in volunteering.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS 2015

MANAGER



Regina Duane

PLACEMENT OFFICER



Aisling O'Rourke

PLACEMENT OFFICER



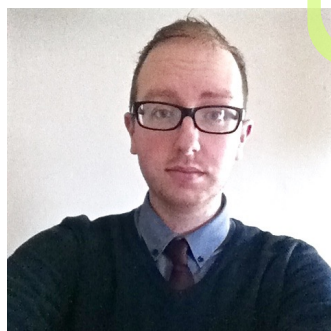
Natasha Akerele

Intern



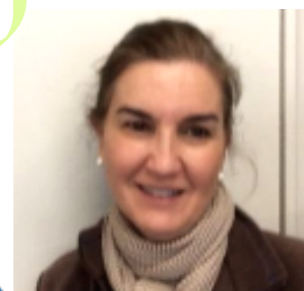
Fanny Tosca

Social Media Intern



Adam Lacey

Volunteer



Rosario

Volunteer



Clare Kearns

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

MARGARET MOORE - Carlow County Council - Chairperson

FRANK COMERFORD- Volunteer & Company Secretary

COLETTE LANE - Unum

MARTIN MEAGHAR- IT Carlow

FIONA DUNNE - Carlow & Kilkenny ETB

KARL DUFFY- Co. Carlow Development Partnership

MARTHA JANE DUGGAN - Carlow Sports Partnership

COMPANY DETAILS

REGISTERED ADDRESS: Carlow Volunteer Centre Ltd.
c/o Carlow County Council
Athy Rd.
Carlow

PHONE: 0599173033

EMAIL: info@volunteercarlow.ie

WEBSITE: www.volunteercarlow.ie

FACEBOOK: Carlow Volunteer Centre

TWITTER: @VolunteerCarlow

LEGAL STATUS: Carlow Volunteer Centre is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

COMPANY REGISTRATION No: 426131

CHARITY No: CHY 17313

CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 20064167

SUMMARY OF CARLOW VOLUNTEER CENTRE OUTPUT 2015

Working Within The Community

In addition to our organisational support work and placement service, in 2015, Carlow Volunteer Centre helped organise and recruit volunteers for numerous projects with the voluntary community such as:

Integration Forum Festival with An Ghairdin Beo and UNUM,
Youthreach & O'Brien Day Care Centre,
St Leo's TY Students & St. Fiacc's House,
An Taisce Neat Street Litter Pick & 3 Local Secondary Schools,
Meals on Wheels & Delta Card Making

VOLUNTEER EXPO

Carlow Volunteer Centre hosted a Volunteer Expo in the Fairgreen Shopping Centre, where 25 Voluntary groups showcased their work and explained to the public what volunteering opportunities they offer. Transition Years from Knockbeg College, CBS and Youthreach attended the event, while students from St. Leos College helped out on the day.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2015

Thank You Event

Carlow Volunteer Centre hosted its first open Volunteer “Thank You” event in the Seven Oaks during National Volunteer Week, sponsored by Unum. There were over 30 organisations and in excess of 200 volunteers in attendance. While guest speakers Marcus Lawlor and John Loneragan spoke on the virtues of volunteering. The Thank You event was also used to launch the Volunteer Discount Card.



Volunteer Discount Cards

Carlow Volunteer Centre launched the Volunteer Discount Cards in May 2015 in association with Unum, Carlow County Council and the Nationalist Newspaper. The card’s aim was to give people an incentive to volunteer by working alongside local businesses to offer volunteers special discounts. 23 businesses are currently offering discounts to volunteers. To date approximately 1,100 Discount cards have been distributed.



SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2015 with the help of our social media intern Adam Lacey, we developed a strategy for our social media. Scheduling regular content, and creating an Events Calendar on our website so that various organisations can advertise their upcoming events!

WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

In 2015 Carlow Volunteer Centre registered 111 volunteers under the age of 22. Out of these, 95 were successfully placed with a VIO, with 91 being students of either secondary or third level. We delivered workshops to 5 local secondary schools reaching a direct audience of 414 people, mainly transition year students but also some LCA classes. The schools involved were St. Leos College, St. Mary's CBS, Presentation Carow, Knockbeg and Bagenalstown Vocational.

We presented to 20 students in Carlow's Institute of Further Education and to 11 young unemployed people in ETB.

Outreach stands were held in St Patrick's College & Carlow IT for their Welfare Day and for International Registration Day where we would have directly reached over 600 students.



BE INVOLVED PROGRAMME

The “Be Involved Programme” was developed in conjunction with St. Leos College, to incorporate volunteering into the TY timetable, allowing students to actively get involved in their community. The programme’s aim is to “promote the personal, social, educational & vocational development of pupils and to prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative & responsible members of society.



The Be Involved Programme is split into 2 blocks of 14 weeks. September - December and January - May. With Students Volunteering Wednesday afternoons from 2 - 4pm. We placed 52 students into volunteering placements in 2015.

VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS TREE

A massive Christmas tree was on display in the Fairgreen Shopping centre for December, decorated with the names of the many different organisations that support volunteering in Carlow. The names of 1000 Volunteers were displayed for the month on a pop-up stand beside the tree. The young pupils of St Fiaccs’s National School returned for a second year for the Christmas Tree launch, with over 100 supporters to add a twinkle of festive cheer with a medley of christmas songs.



GARDA VETTING

Carlow Volunteer Centre's authorised signatory service had the busiest year to date in 2015. The centre provided support to 47 voluntary groups and 15 community employment schemes, processing in excess of 500 Garda vetting forms.

CONCERNS FOR 2016

Going forward we have two main concerns for 2016 and beyond:

1. Permanent office space - Despite efforts by Carlow County Council, we still do not have a permanent secure office space. Due to budget constraints, commercial rent is not a viable option and as we require a central and accessible location, this uncertainty about our future continues to be a major concern.
2. Funding levels - We continue to field the the impact of previous budget cuts prior to 2014. The lack of funding available for new volunteer projects, promotional and marketing material continues to impact negatively on the service and restrict our growth capabilities.

To conclude, we would like to thank all the organisations who have also greatly contributed to the success of Carlow Volunteer Centre in 2015 include the Carlow Local Authorities, Fairgreen Shopping Centre, Carlow County Development Partnership, Carlow Sports Partnership, Carlow People Newspaper, the Carlow Nationalist, and of course the Dept. of Community, Equality & Local Government.