

Serving up Smiles

It is with sadness that at the time of going to press, we here in Meals on Wheels and indeed the larger community of Co. Longford and surrounding areas have lost a great friend and true gentleman, Dessie Brennan - RIP.



Dessie gave tirelessly of his time – since the inception of Meals on Wheels some 43 years ago when Dessie was “headhunted” by Sr Calasancius RIP, such was his dedication that on his day-off (where he worked for the Longford Leader) he accompanied Sr.

Calasancius, serving up smiles whilst delivering Meals on Wheels and with visitation throughout the Town and County of Longford.

Ironically, Dessie left us on Thanksgiving Day, we give thanks to the Lord for such a wonderful person.

Dessie - you will indeed be singing on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with the Cathedral Choir - from the highest star – You are Home now – With Our Father in Heaven .

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Meals on wheels is often the first service that is offered to older people as they become more dependant, but are still capable of continuing to live in their own homes. The benefits of the service are many.

It can improve the nutritional status of clients, it provides clients with a measure of social contact, particularly important for those who are socially isolated or living in remote areas, and it can enable the early detection of problems that require further interventions. In addition the meals on wheels service is a local response to local needs.

Meals on wheels service is provided in the town and county of Longford on a seven day per week basis including Christmas day and other public holidays. At the moment we are delivering over 150 meals daily. The meal consists of hot soup, main meal and dessert and the total dinners delivered for 2013 was 40,314. Thankfully this year we were successful in our application for funding from the National Lottery and were able to put in place a new refrigerated van.

While the service is not in a position to provide individuals with a choice of meals each day for financial reasons, the menu is regularly rotated to ensure a good variety of meals.

The meals are reasonable and affordable and we rely on subsidy from the HSE, direct payments from clients, fundraising, donations, flag days, church gate collections and Lottery Funding.

Earlier this year we opened a new kitchen at the rear of Harmony House Community Centre with the aid of a grant received from Pobal and Bishop Colm O'Reilly blessed it together with our new Shop 'Change of A Dress' on Dublin Street.. This was necessary to help with the recent reduction to the grant from the H.S.E.

It provides an outlet for pre-owned designer clothes and accessories. It sells quality gently used clothing which is often well known designer brands. The clothing is in excellent condition and is priced at a fraction of its original sale price. **Sell it, and you receive 50% of the agreed price.**

We wish to thank our dedicated volunteers who give so generously of their time during the year. Our Church Gate Collection takes place 20th & 21st December; The 6th Aaron Hagan Memorial Hunt (which in 2013 raised €6,000 for Meals on Wheels and Tupperpatrick Cemetery Restoration) will take place Saturday 31st January 2015 - All enquiries can be made by contacting the office on 043.3350114 or visit the website www.mealsonwheelslongford.ie or e-mail: longsocserv1@eircom.net Charity No: CHY 7291