



# Northside Partnership Newsletter

Issue 15—December 2015

## Story Time Graduation Ceremony Held in Marino

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December parents, teachers and early years educators from nine schools and early years settings in the Northside Partnership area attended their Story Time Graduation in Marino Institute of Education. 54 parents took part in the six-week programme which supports parents to read with and to their children at home.

The programme begins with an information meeting with Joan Kiely of Marino Institute of Education where parents receive tips on how to

read with their children. Over the next five weeks, parents then read a selection of books with their child which they collect from their local library in Donaghmede, Coolock or Raheny.

At the graduation ceremony, parents gave feedback on their experiences during the programme and were presented with their certificates of completion together with a book, "The Day the Crayons Quit" (*continued on page 2*)



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## Story Time Graduation Ceremony Held in Marino (contd)

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Speaking at the Story Time event, Claire Bligh from Kilbarrack described how the programme had worked for her and her daughter Bella, "Bella really enjoyed it and it was great for me to have even a few minutes of guaranteed quality time with her every evening. I would have already read to Bella at least five nights per week but the way we read together has changed thanks to Story Time. Before, I read to her but now she is much more involved in reading with me. When we went to the library and she got her card, she told me that she didn't need me any more which was funny but it shows she seems more independent now too."

Story Time is delivered in north east Dublin by a partnership that involves Marino Institute of Education, Northside Partnership and Dublin City Council Libraries and Archives. The programme is the subject of doctoral research by Joan Kiely of Marino Institute of Education. The book presented to parents was provided thanks to a donation from the Eden Giving Circle. For more information, please contact [emma.byrne@nspartnership.ie](mailto:emma.byrne@nspartnership.ie).

## Young Community Leaders Programme—Changing of the Guard

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On 21<sup>st</sup> December, our Young Community Leaders programme will wrap up for Christmas with a special session to welcome its new coordinator Róisín Liston who has joined Northside Partnership's Local Development team. At the event, the team will also bid a fond farewell to Carol Conway who has been involved since the very beginning of the Young Community Leaders programme and who has coordinated it over the past five years. As always with the Young Community Leaders, there is little time to sit still. The current group of 29 young people have been working very hard throughout their first term as they progress towards achieving their Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action.



## Hilton Hotel Donates Christmas Hampers for Local Families

As is tradition at this time of year, the staff of the Hilton Dublin Airport Hotel have once again very kindly prepared 13 beautiful Christmas Hampers for local families. The hampers were collected on 8<sup>th</sup> December by Noel Kelly and Sarah Jane Leonard from our Preparing for Life programme and distributed to families living in the Preparing for Life target area.



## Challenger Students Wrap Up For Christmas



On 30<sup>th</sup> November, Challenger students in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year finished their Conversational Irish course. Attendance was strong during the 6-week course with over 50 pupils present each week in St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. The course gave our students an opportunity to improve their Irish through fun games and to spend time in a third level college.

Meanwhile, our exam year students in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year began their grinds on 16<sup>th</sup> November in a range of subjects including Maths, French, Biology, Science, English, Irish, History and Geography. The students will get a well deserved break for Christmas on 18<sup>th</sup> December and will resume on the 11<sup>th</sup> January. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> year students will also finish their 4-week Presentation Skills course on the 18<sup>th</sup> December when they will present on their chosen topic to their peers.

## Want to Quit Smoking in the New Year? Check Out These Courses!

**You Can Quit Drop-in Service** every Monday, 10.30—12 in St Luke's Parish Centre. Call Bernie on 085-8478960 or Michael on 085-8478961 for more information.

**We Can Quit, 12-week smoking cessation courses for women** start in January 2016, morning and evening groups available. Contact Bernie on 085-8478960 for more information.



## Local Politicians Out In Force For Hands Up For Children Event

On 9<sup>th</sup> November our Preparing for Life programme hosted an event to raise awareness of the national Hands Up for Children Campaign which is calling for preventative and early interventions for children and families to be a priority in the next programme for government. A coalition of organisations from around the country, Hands Up for Children is seeking political parties and Independent candidates to adopt its 5 Thriving Childhood Principles which set out a case for increased investment in early intervention and for realigning resources from crisis to prevention. For more information see [www.handsupforchildren.ie](http://www.handsupforchildren.ie).



Local representatives in attendance at our roundtable event included Minister Aodhán Ó Riordáin TD, Terence Flanagan TD (Renua), Finian McGrath TD (Ind), Senator Averil Power (Ind), Fine Gael election candidate Stephanie Regan and local councillors Michael MacDonncha, Denise Mitchell (SF), John Lyons (PBPA), Alison Gilliland (Lab) and Deirdre Heney (FF). Following inputs from Preparing for Life programme manager Noel Kelly, Preparing for Life parents and local schools and early years settings, each of the politicians presented their positions and were asked to publicly commit to prevention and early intervention as the one thing that they would do to make the greatest difference for children, and to endorse the Hands Up for Children campaign.

## Another Busy Year For Our Local Employment Service

2015 was another very busy year for our Local Employment Service with over 3,000 new clients registered with the service. In the course of the year the service placed 600 people into employment and 1,500 people into education or training opportunities. For more information, [click here](#).

**3,000 clients**

**600 progressed into work**

**1,500 progressed into  
education and training**



## Mondelez Staff Work Their Magic on Local School Projects

Staff from local company Mondelez (formerly Cadbury) have been busy helping out in local schools this Autumn / Winter with a number of volunteering projects. In Our Lady Immaculate JNS in Darndale, Mondelez volunteers painted and created a brand new kitchen for the school whilst in Scoil Ide in Kilmore West volunteers began work on a magical Alice in Wonderland courtyard garden which will be completed in the New Year when weather conditions improve. Northside Partnership is always happy to hear from local companies who would like to contribute to the communities where they are based and we will do our best to connect you with schools and community groups who need your help.



## Exploring 1916 Workshop with Caitriona Crowe



With interest in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1916 building, our Northside Education Support Network hosted a workshop on the topic for teachers on 24<sup>th</sup> November in Marino Institute of Education with Caitriona Crowe, Head of Special Projects with the National Archives of Ireland. Caitriona went through a range of primary sources that teachers can use to help their students connect with the theme of 1916 including census records and The Bureau of Military History. The network also hosted a workshop on Social Media and Cyberbullying on 10<sup>th</sup> November. To see details of the NESN workshops planned for 2016, please [click here](#).



## Preparing for Life Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Family To Join ABC Home Visiting

Our Preparing for Life programme recently hosted a special event to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> family to join its Home Visiting Programme as part of the Area Based Childhood Programme. Participating parents came along to the Bell Building for tea, cake and games for the children to mark this special occasion.

Speaking at the event, programme participant Carmen Chiriac (pictured right) said that:

"It's great, my mentor comes to the house and gives me information on what I should be feeding David and what's next in terms of his development. My friends from other areas always ask how we managed to get this programme, they would love to have it. I also take part in all the classes and groups—it's good to meet other mums."



## Cool Dudes Course Now Available for Local Primary Schools



Do you work with children aged 10—12? Our Healthy Food Made Easy programme is now looking for groups in local primary schools to take part in its new Cool Dudes course. It is a 5-week course that introduces children to nutritional theory and also has a practical cookery element each week too. The course is suitable for children aged 10—12 years old. Healthy Food Made Easy will also continue to run its regular nutrition and cookery programme for adults in 2016. A 6-week public course will run in our new building Kish House, Greendale starting on 12<sup>th</sup> January, from 10am—12.30pm. Please contact Linda Scanlan on 01-8320995 for more information or to book your place.



## Healthy Communities Event in Donaghmede Shopping Centre

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On 29<sup>th</sup> October we held our final Healthy Communities Festival in Donaghmede Shopping Centre with a Halloween Samhain theme. Our Healthy Food Made Easy and Stop Smoking programmes showcased their services with interactive displays at the event whilst our new Healthy Communities online map was available on a laptop for shoppers to explore the services in their area.



## Our New Offices in Kish House Are Open For Business

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Northside Partnership have moved offices in Kilbarrack from the Contact Point in Greendale Shopping Centre to Kish House on Greendale Road. The new building will host our Local Employment Service, Greendale Jobs Club, Local Development team, Tús team as well as our Young Community Leaders and Healthy Food Made Easy programmes. The contact number for the new premises is still 01-8320995.

## Communiversities Programme is Now Recruiting

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Do you know somebody who is unemployed? Has time on their hands? Would be interested in doing a FREE university course? We are now recruiting for participants for the Communiversities programme which offers adults the chance to do a university level 7 course through their local library - without the need to do exams or projects.

The programme was set up by NUI Maynooth, Northside Partnership and Dublin City Council Library Service to offer adults the chance to try education at this level without the pressures associated with assessments. The course is held in Coolock Library and lasts for 17 weeks, with classes taking place one morning per week. The course is discussion led which means no projects, no assignments and no exams. The course covers four subjects: Local History and Genealogy; Politics, Power and People; Psychology; and The Economy & Us.

There will be an information morning and taster workshop on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 from 10am in Coolock Library that is open to all adults living in the Northside Partnership area. You can also contact Paul Hayes to find out more: 01-8485630 / paul.hayes@nspartnership.ie. Places are limited and priority will be given to long-term unemployed and groups supported through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).



## Language for Life Graduation

On 15<sup>th</sup> December, Preparing for Life's Early Years team hosted a special end of year event in the Hilton Hotel where Professor Noirín Hayes presented certificates to early years educators who took part in our most recent Language for Life training programme. The certificate presentation was followed by an end of year cluster meeting for staff of all Preparing for Life's partner settings where they looked back and celebrated the work completed in 2016 in the areas of planning and assessing, oral language and leadership.



## Find Out More About Northside Partnership

To find out more about the employment, education, children & family, youth, enterprise and local development programmes and supports that we offer, please visit our website

[www.northsidepartnership.ie](http://www.northsidepartnership.ie).

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Northside Partnership is a local development company. We work to improve the opportunities for people and communities in north east Dublin to bring about positive changes in their own lives and the life of their community. We offer a range of programmes and services to support individuals, local organisations, groups and communities in Dublin 3, 5, 13 and 17. Our work is funded by the Irish Government, charitable organisations and private sources.

A full listing of our funders can be viewed [here](#).

**For more information on the articles in this newsletter, please contact Sinead Murphy by emailing [sinead.murphy@nspartnership.ie](mailto:sinead.murphy@nspartnership.ie) or call 01 8485630.**