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MissionAid
August 2015
Issue 95

Welcome to the August Issue!



Viatores Christi Volunteer Aisling Foley has worked as Project Manager at Amathemba (Home of Hope) for more than four years. Home of Hope (HOH) is based in the Western Cape of South Africa. It provides community based foster homes for neglected, abused and abandoned children; a special needs school for children suffering from Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD); distributes donations of clothes and furniture; offers support to caregivers of children with FASD; and operates a training program on FASD for professionals. Photo: Cape Times.

A Message from our CEO

During the last few months, we have been undergoing some exciting changes. We have welcomed two new staff members - Learning and Development Officer Jenny O'Connor, and Finance Officer Kathleen Gately. Jenny joins us from Gorta-Self Help Africa, and Kathleen joins us from Age Action. I'm sure you will agree that they will be great assets to our team.

Our other Learning and Development Officer Liz Kennedy is moving onto pastures new. Whilst we are sad to see her leave us, we are excited for her new opportunity in the sector. Liz has made very significant contributions to our work, and working on Misean Cara during her 2 years with us. In particular, she has done a lot to enhance, and develop Misean Cara's systems in relation to monitoring and evaluation, research and capacity development, and with a passion to contribute to improving the lives of vulnerable and marginalised communities for and with whom all of us are involved in this work. I know you will join me in wishing her all the best in her future endeavour.



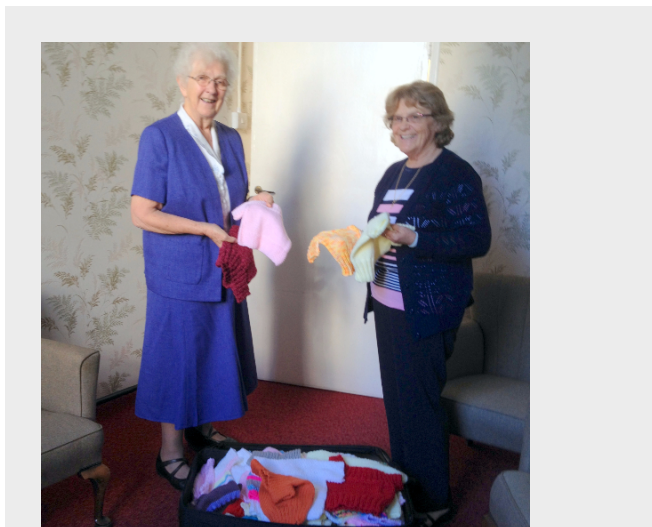
CEO Heydi Foster

News Stories

[Shalom's Intervention Into A Troubled Land](#)

[VIDEO -- Journey to Self-Reliance](#)

[Podcast -- Re-Building Haiti](#)



Random Act Of Kindness

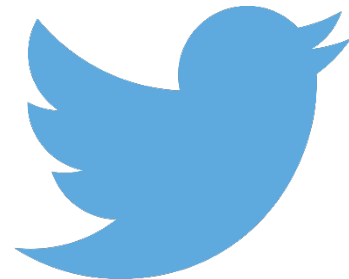
Recently we received a donation of hand knitted baby clothes from a group of women in Dublin, Ireland. Sr. Peig O'Brien and Sr. Geraldine Henry from the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul accepted the donation, which will go to the DREAM project in Kenya. Sr. Peig runs an empowerment programme for women living with HIV who live in the slums in Western Nairobi. Stay tuned for more updates on this story.

Send us your photos and videos!

We want to help showcase the work of our members by sharing photos, stories and videos of the wonderful work you do on our website, Facebook Page and MissionAid. If you have a photo, story or video to share then please email Tara Finglas finglas@miseancara.ie

As we near the end of the Summer, I hope you are all well rested after the break and are heading into the Autumn with renewed energy.

Kind regards,
Heydi



Funding Deadlines

MPSS (greater than €10,000) Round 2 2015 – Friday, 1 September.

PSS (grants between €20,000 - €100,000) Round 1 2015 – Friday, 27 November.

We're now on Twitter!

That's right Misean Cara is now on Twitter. Follow **@miseancara** or check out <http://www.twitter.com/miseancara> for updates.

We Want To Promote The Wonderful Work You Do!

We want to help showcase the wonderful work you do by sharing stories; updates; photos; and videos on our website, Facebook and LinkedIn Pages, Twitter account, and in our monthly e-newsletter MissionAid.



LIKE our [Facebook Page](#) for all of the latest news and updates.

If you have a story, update, photo, or video to share then please email our Communications Officer Tara Finglas tfinglas@miseancara.ie

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Stories from the field A Beacon Of Hope In the Darkness



More than five years after the catastrophic earthquake struck the island nation of Haiti, it is struggling to escape the cycle of poverty that has created an 80 per cent unemployment rate. The 7.0 magnitude earthquake didn't just shatter buildings, and livelihoods, it crumbled the already fragile infrastructure bursting at the seams.

"If you were born in Ireland, you get up in the morning or your mother gets up in the morning, and she can turn on the light and it comes on," says Gena Heraty, Viatores Christi volunteer working with Nos Petits Frères et Soeur (Our Little Brothers and Sisters), "if she wants to boil some water she puts on the gas or she plugs in the electric kettle.

Read how volunteers like Gena Heraty are making a difference with a special report by our very own Communications Officer Tara Finglas in this month's Justice Magazine.[Read now.](#)

Discovering New Ground

Special Report by Project Officer Don Lucey.



The first ever members' meeting in South-East Asia was held in July. In combination with a monitoring visit to Myanmar and Thailand, Learning and Development Officer, Liz Kennedy and I travelled to six projects, meeting many missionaries and beneficiaries in each location. In recent years, Misesan Cara has invested €579,730 in projects in Myanmar and Thailand.

On the outskirts of Mandalay city in Myanmar, we visited the Archdiocesan Higher Education Centre run by the Columban fathers. The centre has 90 students in total. The centre aims to help the "poorest but brightest" Myanmar students to achieve their

potential, gain employment and become leaders in both their civil and church communities. The school is the only one of its kind in Myanmar. [Read now.](#)

Foreign Affairs Committee Visit South Africa



Last month, members of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade (JCFAT) visited Eastern and Southern Africa to review the impact of Ireland's aid programme. The Mercy Sisters welcomed the JCFAT delegation to the Mercy Centre in Berea, South Africa which provides temporary accommodation and skills training to homeless women to gain their independence, and seek employment. [Read now.](#)

VIDEO -- Ane Moriam Mission



In 2002, Edmund Rice Development (ERD) started a community-based development project 'Ane Moriam' in Sangram in the Arunachal Pradesh region of India. The project provides a basic school, evening classes for local women, advocacy and awareness programmes, a credit society, vocational training and a community health project. Misesan Cara support ensures that 10,000 people annually access life-saving health care, 500 under-privileged children go to school, and 200 adults support their families with income generating activities. [Watch now.](#)

Meet the Misesan Cara Team

Members have expressed an interest in knowing more about the staff at Misesan Cara. This is the seventeenth in a series of introductions to our team in the Dublin office.

Jenny O'Connor

Jenny O'Connor is a Learning and Development Officer with Misean Cara. She is from Ireland, and has spent the last number of years living, working and studying abroad. Jenny moved back to Dublin in October 2014 and, before joining Misean Cara in June 2015, worked developing Gorta-Self Help Africa's next 5-year strategic plan.



Jenny's role as Learning and Development Officer means she is responsible for research, monitoring, evaluation and capacity development.

In the past, Jenny has worked coordinating volunteers with an education project in the Guatemalan highlands, evaluating a Trocaire funded female empowerment project in rural Nicaragua, leading a consultancy project to set up a monitoring and evaluation system for a Cambodia-based livelihoods NGO and researching EU policy to assist in the production of advocacy materials to lobby for Colombian labour rights. She speaks Spanish, and has had articles on political and human rights issues published with a number of media outlets including Al Jazeera, The New Statesman and The Council on Hemispheric Affairs. In December this year, she will be travelling to Nicaragua on a Simon Cumbers Media Fund grant to research and write an article for the Irish Times on community approaches to forest conservation in the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve.

Jenny completed a Masters Degree in Sociology, with a focus on research methods and the sociology of religion in Latin America, from the University of Oxford in 2014 and a First Class Honours Bachelors Degree in International Relations from Dublin City University in 2010.

Jenny has a passion for world travel, the great outdoors, international politics, human rights issues and Latin American culture, politics and sociology.

Events and Training Courses

Register For The Next Income Generating and Livelihoods Sector Interest Group Meeting

The next Income Generating and Livelihoods Sector Interest Group (SIG) meeting will take place on Thursday 17th September from 10am - 1pm.

The Agenda is:

1. A special guest will share best practices from their Income Generating and Livelihoods projects.
2. Knowledge Bank: A presentation on Business Plan Templates will be presented by MDOs Sr. Margaret Lynch and Michael O'Sullivan.
3. Misean Cara Learning & Development Officer Jenny O'Connor will lead a session on sample key result area indicators for Income Generating and Livelihoods. Jenny will present the draft key results area indicators that Misean Cara has developed.

If you, or a member of your organisation is interested in attending this meeting please contact Don Lucey at dlucey@miseancara.ie

Upcoming MDO Induction Course

Misean Cara will be facilitating the second of two MDO inductions in 2015, the first took place in May and the second one will take place in October. These courses will be co-hosted by Misean Cara and Kimmage Development Studies Centre. The induction course aims to support new Mission Development Officers (MDOs) entering into this role, provide information about Misean Cara and the support we offer, and to give an introduction to project cycle management and managing for development results.

The course is open to MDOs who would also like a refresher on the above subjects! Tentative dates are: Tuesday 6th October – Friday 9th October 2015. We may add an additional day based on feedback from participants back in May, we will confirm this in early September. If you are interested in registering please email Learning & Development Officer Jenny O'Connor joconnor@miseancara.ie

Upcoming Events & Training Courses:

- [Enrol on the Viatores Christi Overseas Volunteering Preparation Programme](#)
- [European Year for Development #EYD2015](#)
- [Kimmage Open and Distance Education \(KODE\)](#)
- [Child Safeguarding - Organisational Self Audit Tool \(Free\)](#)

- [The International NGO Training and Research Centre \(INTRAC\)](#)
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Misean Cara is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. It is registered in Dublin, Ireland, No: 381117. Its registered office is: 563 South Circular, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. It has been granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland and has a charitable tax exemption number: CHY15772.