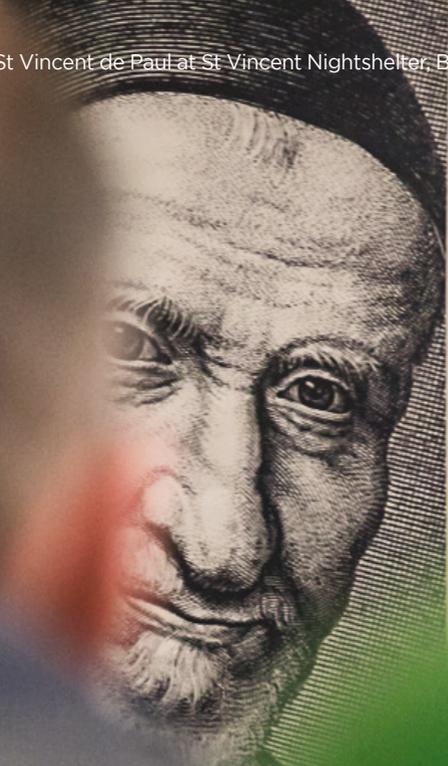




**Depaul International**

**Impact Report 2018-19**





### Our Mission

We aim to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it.

### Our Vision

Our vision is of a society in which everyone has a place to call home and a stake in their community.

### Our Values

Our key values underpin all of the work we do:

- We celebrate the potential of people
- We put our words into action
- We aim to take a wider role in civil society
- We believe in rights and responsibilities

### Our Roots

Depaul International takes its roots from the 17th century French social reformer St Vincent de Paul who started a movement that responded to the needs of the 'poorest of the poor' in a practical and non-judgemental way. All of the Depaul charities continue to work in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul, responding to need through action and innovation.

## Chair and Group CEO's Statement

The work of the Depaul Group to support homeless and marginalised people around the world continued to expand in response to new calls from those most in need during 2018.

Our first response to the challenge will always reflect the needs and priorities of homeless people themselves and will be met by the respective Depaul charities in each of the seven countries where we work. The provision of shelter and food for men and women on the streets will be a common theme, as is the focus on simple, primary health care in much of our work. But these are complemented by more structured solutions to homelessness, including Housing-Led approaches in the USA, UK and Ireland.

During the past year, our work in partnerships and collaboration with both DePaul University in Chicago and the worldwide Vincentian Family has continued to build momentum to tackle structural issues around homelessness. Under the auspices of the Institute of Global Homelessness, the Place to Call Home campaign, which aims to end street homelessness in 150 cities by 2030, has seen 13 Vanguard cities commit to concrete steps to achieve real change by 2021.

In collaboration with the Vincentian Family, the Famvin Homeless Alliance launched the 13 Houses campaign to source new homes in each of the 156 countries where the Vincentian Family has an active presence. With a goal to provide homes for 10,000 people, the initial response will see 1,000 people housed by the end of 2019.

The three interconnected strands of our work as the Depaul Group thus comprise the direct provision of homeless services; advocacy and support for homeless people in each of our seven national charities; the provision of expertise, best practice and leadership training in response to homelessness, coupled with global campaigns, in our partnership work through the Institute of Global Homelessness; and our collaborative work on the ground with members of the global Vincentian Family.

Two important themes run through these three strands. Our work starts by addressing the needs of the homeless child, woman or man and the steps we can take to best meet those needs. And our work is underpinned by the Vincentian Values which provide guidance in all our activities.

In this way, the work of the Depaul Group – in each of its strands and directions – continues to follow the great example set down by St Vincent de Paul some 400 years ago: the value, dignity and respect to be afforded to each human person, and the organisation of charity to support those most in need.



*John Darley*  
**John Darley**  
Chair of Trustees



*Mark McGreevy*  
**Mark McGreevy OBE**  
Group Chief Executive

# Spotlight on the difference we have made



## The Institute of Global Homelessness

signed 13 cities to its campaign coordinating measurable reductions in homelessness, and trained 15 leaders on its leadership programme in Chicago

## Depaul UK

kept over 200 young people safe by providing 2,674 bed nights through its innovative, community-run Nightstop service



## Depaul Slovakia

launched its Street Outreach Service, helping 245 entrenched rough sleepers connect with essential services - the first step towards a life off the streets



## Depaul Ireland

helped over 4,000 men, women and children and provided 2,530 healthcare interventions



## Depaul Ukraine

launched its innovative Prisons Pathway Project in Kharkiv and Odessa, helping over 290 prisoners prepare for independence



## Depaul USA

supported over 450 people to secure a source of income - an important step towards moving out of homelessness for good



## Depaul France

provided 5,561 hygiene sessions in its day centre - vital shower, laundry and healthcare sessions for Paris' street sleepers



## Depaul Croatia

had 13,420 visits to their day centre - providing clients with over 19,800 nutritious meals





# Our work

## Humanitarian and emergency response

Depaul addresses the most vital needs of homeless people across currently seven countries. Our subsidiaries step in when urgent action is required, often on short notice, to ensure homeless people have access to life-saving provision including shelter, food, sanitation and medical care.

**Depaul Croatia** launched its Outreach Service to ensure the most entrenched rough sleepers receive support. Many homeless people in Rijeka are excluded from state services due to addiction or other issues - the most in need are the least provided for. The team of Depaul Croatia goes directly to the poor so they are given the support they need.

**Depaul Ireland** provided 200 emergency beds every night of the year to ensure homeless people had a warm place to rest their head at night. Service users were further supported through Depaul Ireland's Assertive Engagement programme which helps people to take steps towards more permanent accommodation. The programme provided a total of 6,350 engagements last year.

**Depaul France** brought showers, fresh clothes and care to 117 homeless people through its volunteer-led Mobile Shower Service. For many rough sleepers, this is the only opportunity to get clean as municipal showers are not available in all Parisian districts.

**Depaul UK** opened an emergency winter night shelter for men of all ages in Oldham, Greater Manchester. The shelter gave 12 men at risk of sleeping rough a safe bed every night over winter. The shelter also provided shower facilities, a hot meal and hot drinks from 9pm to 9am. People stayed at the shelter for a maximum of three weeks before being rehoused or placed in more permanent accommodation. Depaul UK also used the shelter as a way of signposting the men to other services and organisations offering help, including a local doctor's surgery.

## OUR IMPACT - Depaul Slovakia

Stefan came to Bratislava at a young age, having been unable to find employment in his home town. After repeated job rejections, his hope for a better life disappeared and he joined a group of homeless street drinkers.

Being young, a life seemingly free of responsibilities was appealing and he became blind to the dangers that came with living on the streets. Years of coming and going from our services passed before Stefan finally realised that he was critically damaging his body. He was admitted to hospital and the doctors presented him with a choice: quit drinking or die young.

He chose life.

Upon being discharged, he came to our St. Vincent's Nightshelter with a motivation to change. Stefan stopped drinking, and stopped staying out socialising with anybody who might tempt him to consume again. With the support of our team, Stefan found employment and, today, he earns enough to live independently, without needing any additional social support. He is now a self-confident young man succeeding in his new life.



# Our work

## Supported accommodation and services

Depaul offers a wide range of accommodation and support programmes to homeless people or those at risk of homelessness. As well as homes, we run day centres and community floating support – projects that help people to identify and move towards their personal goals.

**Depaul USA's** first Dax House for homeless students moved from the Pilsen neighbourhood of Chicago to a larger home in the Ukrainian Village. The Dax House provides housing for six homeless DePaul University students at any time and a house manager. In 2018, the team served 19 students: 3 graduated, and 16 remain enrolled in university.

**Depaul France** had over 4,700 visits to its day centre, providing their guests with access to a wide range of support services. These include healthcare and hygiene services as well as one-on-one social support sessions. Their dedicated team of over 40 volunteers all work towards providing dignity, care and hope for the future.

**Depaul Ireland** advocated on behalf of their service users and as a result, their emergency shelter, Little Britain Street, was converted into fully

supported temporary accommodation. This ensures those experiencing homelessness have 24-hour access and receive the help required to move out of homelessness for good.

**Depaul Ukraine** opened accommodation projects in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Odessa. This was an important step for their service provision as they are now able to offer homeless people a safe place to live alongside intensive, individualised support from social workers.

**Depaul UK** supported more than 2,000 people in Depaul accommodation or in the community last year. 79% of those who needed to improve their ability to live independently reported that they were better able to manage their own finances and gained practical life skills such as cooking, cleaning or using public transport.

## OUR IMPACT - Depaul USA

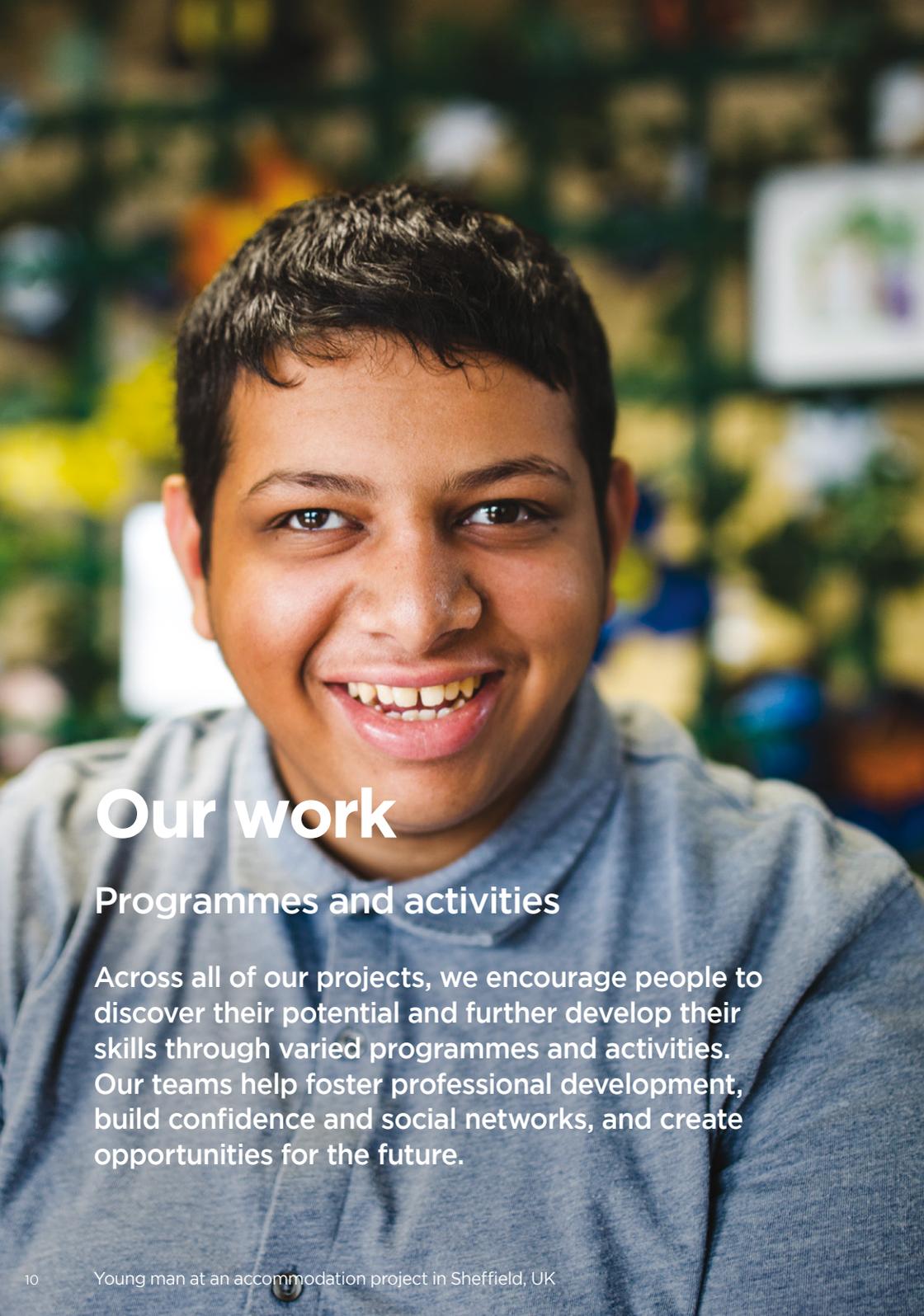
"I've come a million miles from eating out of a dumpster to eating supper at my own kitchen table."

These are the words of Vincent after moving into Depaul USA's first affordable housing unit in Little Rock, Arkansas. His new home was purchased and refurbished as part of the 13 Houses Campaign of the Famvin Homeless Alliance – a global initiative coordinated by Depaul International.

And the impact of having a home is palpable. Vincent is no longer homeless. He is employed full-time

and loves his new home. He says, "Having a house means I don't have to worry about the winter. Jack Frost can do what he wants!"

His words are a reminder that for our neighbours experiencing homelessness, bad weather is more than an inconvenience as we commute to work or school. Bad weather means suffering and discomfort. Vincent now has a safe place to stay and Depaul USA is committed to making this a reality for many more homeless people over the next year.



# Our work

## Programmes and activities

Across all of our projects, we encourage people to discover their potential and further develop their skills through varied programmes and activities. Our teams help foster professional development, build confidence and social networks, and create opportunities for the future.

**Depaul Slovakia** continued its pioneering Integration Programme, helping entrenched rough sleepers reintegrate into society through securing employment. The programme offers participants the stability and social support needed to start making positive changes. Of the 130 people involved in the programme last year, 34 have moved away from the streets already.

**Depaul USA's** Daybreak day centre in Macon, Georgia, expanded its free health clinic to include dental and chiropractic care. The day centre was accessed over 22,900 times in 2018 - testimony to the need for the services and activities provided.

**Depaul Ukraine** continued its rehabilitation programmes in the Zaluchye orphanage to ensure that children with complex disabilities

receive the best care possible. The programme also helps to break down stigma around disability by enabling children to be part of the community.

**Depaul Croatia** extended the opening hours of its day centre to allow homeless people access to its services and activities throughout the day. Over 150 people made use of the wide range of support on offer, including the reading corner, IT room, social support and healthcare services, a mentoring programme and employability training.

**Depaul Ireland's** volunteer-led Befriending Programme engaged with 33 service users throughout 2018. Providing one-to-one meet ups and group activities, the programme ensures those experiencing homelessness are not left feeling isolated or alone.

## OUR IMPACT - Depaul UK

When James arrived at Depaul UK, he was extremely introverted and socially isolated. He was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and had only recently been discharged from hospital. He had been the victim of a stabbing in his previous accommodation.

Depaul staff learned that he had an interest in the outdoors and so, to bring him out of his shell, matched him with a mentor who had experience in outdoor activities. James and the mentor worked together on a number of goals to improve his maths, social skills and confidence.

Thanks to an Engage grant of £50, James was able to join the Ramblers Association - a charity promoting walking and outdoors pursuits - and buy a sleeping bag and mat. He's become noticeably less socially anxious and is now seen initiating conversation and making others feel included socially.

James has been able to further nurture his passion for the great outdoors having since successfully gained a year long paid internship at The Wildlife Trust. He's also living independently now.



## Looking Forward - Vision of the CEO

The next year promises to be an exciting time for Depaul International.

Following the establishment of our latest projects in Croatia, we continue to look to expand our work in Europe and beyond. We have been asked by the Romanian government to help them develop services for young people leaving care to prevent them becoming homeless. We will take this work forward with our partners FARA. Our work with the IGH Vanguard cities has led to countries as diverse as India and Chile seeking our advice and support.

We will continue to broaden our response to homelessness in the countries we currently work in. To help people move away from a life of homelessness, we have new housing projects in development in the UK, Ireland, the USA and Croatia. In Slovakia, we hope to finish the refurbishment of the only low threshold

homeless shelter in Bratislava. We will also work closely with the IGH on the next phase of their Vanguard Cities programme and continue to roll out the 13 Houses campaign of the Famvin Homeless Alliance.

Importantly, we will continue to advocate for an end to homelessness on a national and global level. As members of the UK Government's Advisory Panel on Rough Sleeping we will push for increased efforts to address the major surge in street homelessness in the UK. On a global level, 2020 will see an IGH sponsored debate on homelessness at the United Nations - for the first time ever.

We are very excited about what lies ahead and look forward to sharing this with you.

**Ian Brady** - CEO Depaul International

## THANK YOU

We would like to use this opportunity to thank our donors, friends, staff and volunteers across the world for their continued support over the past years. Due to your generosity and dedication we are able to work towards making our vision a reality: A society in which everyone has a place to call home and a stake in their community.

Your engagement helped us to welcome over 132,000 of the poorest of the poor over the past 30 years - making sure they had a place to

turn to in their most desperate times. Your involvement allowed us to develop new services and innovative approaches - reaching more people at the margins of society. And your enthusiasm and warmth meant our values were brought to life in even the harshest environments.

Together, we remain unwavering in our commitment to the most vulnerable people across the communities in which we work. Thank you to all who have made and continue to make this possible.

## Depaul Croatia - Marija's Story

For the past few years, Marija has been coming to the day centre to pick up lunch for herself and her partner – never really making use of any other available services. Both of them were homeless, staying in an abandoned, derelict warehouse in the centre of the city. Marija's partner had a criminal record and was often abusive towards her – effectively treating her like a slave.

The only way to get away from him was by drinking and acting violently herself from time to time; which led to her being admitted to hospital for short periods.

But whenever she was discharged, it would all start again.

All of this made it extremely difficult to talk to her - with all the pain she had experienced, Marija had no reason to trust us. But the team refused to give up on her and eventually found a way to get through to Marija: by offering her clean clothes and hot showers.

Then, one day, her partner was sent to prison for an extended sentence – leaving Marija alone and caring for his two dogs. After about a month, Marija finally came to us and asked for help to change her life. She wanted to escape her abusive relationship; she was committed to living independently, finding a job and starting a new life.

And we were ready to help.

The team secured hospital treatment for Marija as her health had deteriorated over the years due to intermittent alcohol abuse. Whilst she was away, we looked after the dogs and stayed in contact with her – supporting her throughout recovery.

But the real challenge was to come after she was discharged: finding a safe home. There are no systems in place that allow us to help her move into independent accommodation and start a new life away from violence. The social care system would only provide Marija with a room in the 'barracks' –social housing units that are only marginally better than a derelict building. Staying there would place a vulnerable woman like Marija at risk of further abuse and would not protect her from her violent ex-partner.

The only safe option for Marija was a women's refuge.

And after countless obstacles, our persistence eventually paid off. We managed to secure a new home for Marija in a refuge; a place that enables her to build a new life and, most importantly, a place where she is safe.



Depaul International is the parent organisation of a group of charities that works to support homeless and marginalised people around the world. The Depaul Group currently works in Croatia, France, Ireland, Slovakia, the UK, Ukraine and the USA.

Depaul International is committed to transparency in its activities. We welcome requests for information and feedback on our work.

To find out more, visit: [int.depaulcharity.org](http://int.depaulcharity.org) or email [info@depaulinternational.org](mailto:info@depaulinternational.org)

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