

St. Joseph's Foundation



Newsletter Winter 2008

St. Joseph's Foundation Celebrates its 40th Anniversary 1968 – 2008



Dr. M. B. O'Donnell
40 Years as
Honorary Chairman and
Medical Officer of
St. Joseph's Foundation



Wishing all our readers a

In the beginning . . .



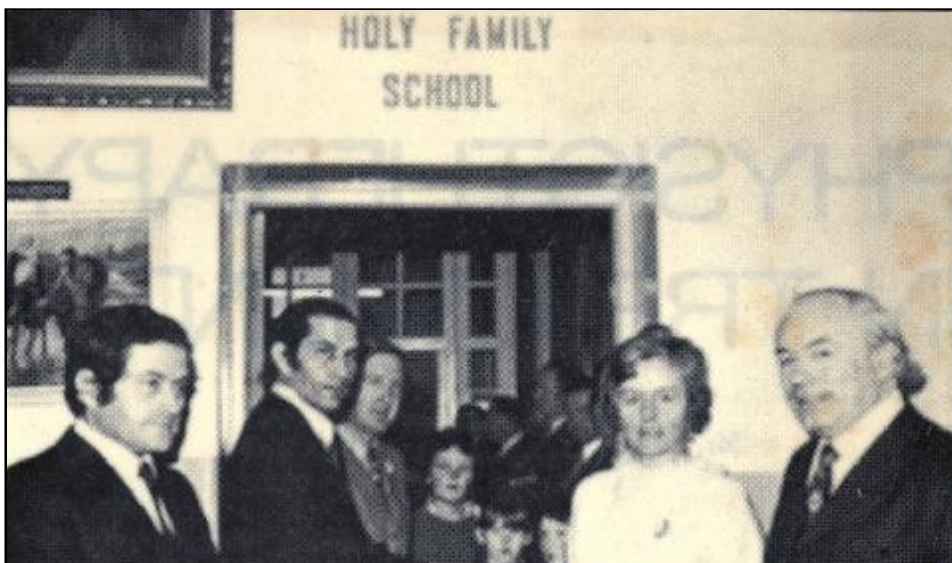
Parochial Hall, Chapel Street, Charleville.



Community Centre, Main Street, Charleville

Charleville & District Mentally Handicapped Children's Association was formed in December 1968. The Directors were: Dr. M. B. O'Donnell, Ms. Maureen McCarthy, Ms. Rosario Sheehan, Ms. Eileen Lyons, Ms. Betty Micheletti-O'Brien and Mr. Maurice Dillon R.I.P.

One of its first functions was a Christmas Party for children of the area with learning disabilities, thirty five children attended. Many of these children were not attending school and had no immediate prospect of doing so. A day school was established in Charleville in April 1969 when the Association was opened in the Parochial Hall, Chapel Street, Charleville and twenty children attended the school. The Association moved to the Community Centre on the Main Street in 1971. In June 1973 the Department of Education fully recognised the school. It was officially opened on the 25th March 1974 by Mr. Tom O'Donnell, Minister for the Gaeltacht.



THANKS

As we celebrate forty years of service provision we would like to acknowledge a great debt of gratitude to all who worked tirelessly over the years to bring us to the current level of service. I refer, in particular to the founder members, the parents, the board members, fundraisers and voluntary helpers. I include also those who have made monetary contributions and those who have given of their expertise.

The staff members are a key element in the provision of a service such as St. Joseph's. They contribute enormously to the happiness and well-being of the service users. We are fortunate in having recruited personnel of the highest calibre. We take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the pivotal role they play.

The celebration would not be complete without reference to the Hon. Chairman for all of the forty years, Dr. Martin O'Donnell. His inspirational leadership has been the driving force behind the developments over the years. While striving to improve facilities he never loses sight of the individual service users and their families. The best testimony to his achievements is the Foundation and all it stands for. His philosophy can be summed up in the Foundation logo "To Care" and in the quotations he uses on special occasions such as the recent launch of the Fás scheme and the opening of the Therapy Pool. He quoted from Group Captain Leonard Cheshire who said: *"It is in identifying with other people's needs and involving ourselves in their struggle against adversity, that we achieve our own fulfilment"*

Another quotation used by Dr. O'Donnell is taken from Jean Vanier's book entitled *"Becoming Human"*. It says, *"Those who are weak have great difficulty finding their place in our society. For me, society must, by definition, be inclusive of the needs and gifts of all its members. I also believe that those we most often exclude from normal life of society, people with disabilities, have profound lessons to teach us. When we do include them, they add richly to our lives and add immensely to our world"*.

Dr. O'Donnell has often spoken of the very supportive role of his wife Veronica over the years and also of the interest taken by his family in St. Joseph's. We thank them for this support. To "The Doc" himself – thank you from all whose lives you have touched and who continue to benefit from your work. God Bless!

–Maureen Verling, Board of Directors.

Cover photo l. to r.: Miss O'Sullivan, Timmy Collins R.I.P., Paschal Hennessy, Joe Conway, Mary McCarthy, Connie Mortell R.I.P., Michael McCarthy, Margo O'Leary



Mary McCarthy, Mrs. M. McCarthy, Dr. O'Donnell, Siobhan O'Keeffe and Pat Bourke working on Golden Vale contract work.

CHARLEVILLE AND DISTRICT MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

BRO. STEPHEN RUSSELL

IN HIS OWN ONE MAN SHOW

"Keep Smiling"

Variety - Songs - Impersonations
 Monologues - Comedy - Drama
 Reminiscences and "Why I know that God exists"

Accompanist :
 MRS. BRIDIE CONNOLLY.

on Thursday, 6th July, 1972

IN THE
 Parochial Hall, Charleville

ADMISSION ADULTS 40p (Reduction for Families)
 In aid of Holy Family School.

In July 1972 Brother Stephen Russell presented his one man show "Keep Smiling" in the Parochial Hall, Charleville in aid of the Holy Family School. This was very successful and the late Brother Stephen was a great friend of the Association.

In July 1973 St. Joseph's Industries was established to cater for adults with a learning disability. It was located in the Community Centre and later on the Main Street, Charleville. It was officially opened by Mr. Dick Barry, Parliamentary Secretary, to the Minister for Health in March 1974.

From 1974 to 1978 the Association launched: a lottery which ran for over 10 years, The "Brick and Block" campaign and a Cook Book - "The Community Spirit". All were very successful fundraisers.



In London a very active group "Charleville and District Emigrants" were responsible for donating



Dr. Mannix Gaelic Sportsfield Committee

Special Bingo

WITH :
£500 IN PRIZES

Proceeds in aid of Charleville and District Mentally Handicapped Association
 Holy Family School - Day Care Centre - Sheltered Workshop.

PAROCHIAL HALL, CHARLEVILLE

FRIDAY, 8th MARCH, 1974

AT 9 p.m.

Books : £1



Cheese Festival Cheque presented by Mr. Michael Murray, President of the Charleville Cheese Festival presenting a £1,000 cheque to Dr. O'Donnell, for the Charleville and District Mentally Handicapped at the President's Night at Deerpark Hotel. Centre is Miss Phil Madden, 1976 Cheese Queen.

CHARLEVILLE & DISTRICT MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ASSOCIATION

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL FOR MODERATELY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.
 DAY CARE CENTRE & PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY.
 ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIES WORKSHOP.

The Charleville Cheese Festival Committee worked hand in hand with the Association over the years and were also responsible for donating considerable funds. One of the events that the Association organised in conjunction with the Charleville Cheese Festival was a sponsored walk from Charleville to Kilmallock and back. Brother Stephen Russell led off the



Hannah Brown, Margaret Jacob, Michael Geary, Sr. Monica, Patrick O'Sullivan, Nora Cronin, Betty Barrett, Eileen O'Callaghan and Kathleen Murphy



CHARLEVILLE & DISTRICT MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDRENS ASSOCIATION

An Open Evening, Exhibition and Function
 will be held on
Monday, 25th March, 1974 at 4 p.m.
Blessing of Holy Family School and Day Care Centre
 followed by Official Opening by Mr. John Bruton, T.D.
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education.
Blessing of St. Joseph's Industries Workshop
 followed by Official Opening by Mr. Richard Barry, T.D.
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health.
 SHERRY RECEPTION AND BUFFET MEAL AT DEERPARK HOTEL
 at 6 p.m.



Sr. Gerard, Edward Healy, Dr. M. B. O'Donnell, Mr. Denis Henebry, Fr. D. O'Driscoll, Pat O'Keeffe and Peadar Sommers at the blessing of the workshop.

The Association purchased land in Baker's Road in 1977 from Mr. Pat Connolly to build a workshop to cater for 35 adults with learning disabilities.

In 1979 the building of the Holy Family School and Padre Pio Pre-School and Day Care Centre began in Baker's Road. The current logo of the Foundation was designed by Tom Lyng, the first manager of the workshop.

In 1981 Mrs. Eileen Desmond, Minister for Health, officially opened the Workshop and Day Care Centre and Mr. Donal Creed, T.D., officially opened



Staff and pupils of the Padre Pio Preschool and Holy Family School circa 1987



Sir Matt Busby sitting in the Variety Club coach with Dr. O'Donnell, and Pat O'Shea, Manager, St. Joseph's



1982 – The Variety Club of Ireland, Manchester Group, donated a Mini Bus to the services. Sir Matt Busby, Manager of Manchester United Soccer Team, made the presentation on behalf of the Club.

The Ballyagran Rag Committee was set up in 1981 and they held their first charity Rag to raise funds for the services. This committee led to the formation of the Greyhound Benefit Committee and they have raised in excess of



"ARDFERN", Smith's Road, Charleville

Our first residence "Ardfern", Smith's Road, Charleville was opened in April 1983 to provide residential accommodation. From then on the Association was committed to providing accommodation as and when necessary and today has eight residences and two retirement homes for adult service users. The Association also has two residences for children and a house for respite care.



President Mary McAleese speaking to the crowd when she came to open "Santa Maria", Ballylanders in November, 1998.

1981 was designated the "International Year of the Disabled" and the Association went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes to coincide with the world pilgrimage for people with learning disabilities headed by Jean Vanier. Over 300 went from our services.

In 1998 a very memorable occasion took place when Dr. O'Donnell was presented with an award by President Mary McAleese to honour his 30 years voluntary commitment as Honorary Chairman and Honorary Medical Officer of the



Jack Charlton, Dan McCarthy, John Mulvey and Fr. Wrixton at the opening of a Spring Fair.

One of the Foundation's most successful fund raising events is the annual Spring Fair, which started as an Autumn Fair in 1979. An extension to the workshop commenced in 1984, which was Phase 2 of the original plan. This was further extended in 1995.

Over the years many famous people have attended our services either to perform official openings or just to visit, namely President Mary Robinson, President Mary McAleese, Jack Charlton, Tony Cascarino, Jean Kennedy Smith, Ray Darcy, Colm





JP McManus Invitational Pro-Am 2000, winning team representing St. Joseph's Foundation, Pat Nagle, Pat Hartigan and Nicholas Hayes.

J.P. McManus Invitational Pro-Am

In 1990 J. P. McManus hosted the first J.P. McManus Invitational Pro-Am and has held one every five years since then. These have been very successful and have helped with new developments, the most recent – 2005 - being responsible for building the new



Service users Donal Moloney, Edel O'Shea, Neilus Vaughan, Geraldine Walsh, Joan Hickey, Catherine O'Flynn, and Dolores Murnane.

OFFICIAL NAME CHANGE

In April 2004 the name of the Association was officially changed to St. Joseph's Foundation. Colm Murray officially launched the new name at a function in The Forge Restaurant.



FUNCTION TO MARK THE NAME CHANGE AT ST. JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION
Colm Murray, R.T.E., Rosario Sheehan, Dr. O'Donnell, Maureen McCarthy and Denis Henebry

40th Anniversary Celebrations

OPEN DAY - at St. Joseph's Foundation, Baker's Road, on Friday, 5th December from 1 to 7 p.m.

MASS - at Holy Cross Church, Charleville, on Sunday 7th December at 3 p.m.

BREAKFAST CLUB MORNING at the Charleville Park Hotel, on Friday, 12th December, 8 to 9 a.m.

40th ANNIVERSARY BALL at the Charleville Park Hotel, on Friday, 16th January 2009.

OPENING OF THE FORGE

A major highlight for the Foundation was the opening of The Forge in Broad Street Charleville. The official opening was performed by President Mary McAleese in July 2004.





Local members of the Irish Special Olympic Team 2003

One of the most important highlights over the years has been the participation of several of our service users at the Special Olympics World Games, they have visited the U.S.A., Beijing, China and the most notable one of all, the World Games in Ireland in 2003. They have been great ambassadors for the services and for their country and have won many gold, silver and bronze medals. We are all very proud of their achievements and they have brought honour and glory to the services.

2007 saw the commencement of the building of a new state of the art Holy Family School. This is now completed.

2008 marks the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the services.

We wish St. Joseph's Foundation continued success for the future.



Official Opening of the Hydrotherapy Pool by Mr. Billy Kelleher, T.D., Minister for Labour Affairs with Dr. and Mrs. O'Donnell and sports staff, P. Kelleher, Mary Loughran O'Connor, D. Shine, J. Burgess.

