

## Pobal COVID-19 Stability Fund Q4 2021 grant total €11,651 ref URN: 183650Q

### Summary Report on volunteer led and run DIY project activities in Dublin Galway & Limerick titled: “Doing Good – Feeling Good”

Serve the City Ireland CLG (STC) was awarded the above grant agreement 7Oct21 ending 31Dec21. These practical serving and community-based activities were targeted at Addressing Poverty and Social Exclusion. This was aimed at both marginalised and vulnerable persons living within their homes and simultaneously, the volunteers engaged in delivering these practical services. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone within Ireland. From the elderly or those with chronic illness or shielding and isolated, to those that are normally fit but under lockdown(s) and isolated.

Prior to the pandemic, STC had been active in mobilising volunteers for practical serving opportunities within the community. The entire national organisation<sup>1</sup> pivoted Mar20<sup>2</sup> and in response to the Government’s Community Call. Early on in the pandemic, these activities included grocery shopping for those shielding; Meals on Wheels deliveries; urgent practical helps at home for persons recovering from the virus returning home after hospitalisation home, to a food bank<sup>3</sup>. Later in the pandemic STC volunteers focused on outdoor gardening type project activities targeting the same cohort as above: marginalised and vulnerable persons living in the community with volunteer teams.

The specific practical DIY activities achieved with this grant funding in Dublin Galway and Limerick included outdoor gardening; indoor dehoarding and painting; CAREboxes containing stable food items and Christmas treats for 40 Dublin DIY clients (direct beneficiaries); beanie hats for the volunteers (indirect beneficiaries); out-of-pocket volunteer expenses and multimedia production, all as set out in our submission. All activities included COVID-19 precautions such as masks; gloves; hand sanitisers etc. and STC is not aware of any community transmission arising from these activities. The activity achieved was 60% higher (16 rather than 10 projects) than projected in our submission, on a pro rata basis.

#### STC Ireland DIY ReStart (Q4) – Doing Good, Feeling Good

Thanks to funding from the Pobal COVID-19 Stability Fund, in Q4, in Dublin, Galway and Limerick we were able to undertake:

- 11 Outdoor Projects (Gardening/Clearance)
- 5 Indoor Projects (Dehoarding/Painting)
- 108 Volunteer Shifts Completed

A special thank you to Pobal, our City Leaders, Coordinators/Project Leaders, SERVE Day Volunteers, Service partners including the HSE and ALONE and our Media/Outcomes Partner Dublin South FM for your support.



<sup>1</sup> STC Dublin active since 2006; STC Galway 2010; STC Cork 2018 and STC Limerick 2015 & restarted Aug21

<sup>2</sup> STC Cork regrettably lost it’s leadership team Mar20 as the lead couple had to return to the USA for personal family reasons due to the pandemic

<sup>3</sup> The Food Bank was run by STC Dublin for 14 weeks Summer 2020 for both Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Co. and South Dublin Co. Co.

1. DIY clients (direct beneficiaries) based on client's own feedback and sense of wellbeing both on the day and afterwards plus in some cases from the social worker or key worker referring the client to STC
2. Volunteers (indirect beneficiaries) based on volunteer's own feedback and sense of wellbeing and nascent civic empowerment both on the day and afterwards plus the results from an anonymous survey
3. The six Values of STC are sensed or evidenced across all stakeholders

HUMILITY  
COMPASSION  
RESPECT  
COURAGE  
LOVE  
HOPE

The outcomes or short-term impact was overwhelming positive, from both clients and volunteers. Clients had practical challenges resolved within their homes and in a way (reflecting STC's Values) that lifted their physical and mental wellbeing. The volunteers were part of a team that overcame these challenges for their clients and all in a way that lifted their personal sense of wellbeing. Volunteer feedback from the survey demonstrated overwhelming satisfaction re wellbeing both during and after the voluntary activities with STC (summary survey results below). Some of these personalised stories of enhanced wellbeing are set out in multimedia format to follow this report, including videos; podcast and social media posts (STC Dublin; Galway and Limerick). These personalised stories of some clients; social workers and volunteers clearly demonstrated that Doing Good leads to Feeling Good, for all parties, in a tangible and real way.

All of the granted funds were exhausted in the delivery of this project. A set of management accounts, setting out the associated expenditures in Q4 (Oct-Dec 2021), is available in the financial statement below. The average spend of €66 per client and volunteer combined (see numbers below), in enhancing their sense of wellbeing, represents good value for money at a grass-roots level.

Finally, STC would like to thank all of its clients and social workers; volunteers; partners; suppliers (including their charity discounts received) and funder, who all made this project happen. A list of all stakeholders participating in this project is available in the appendices that follow this executive summary report.

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On behalf of Serve the City Ireland CLG

Feb22

A list of all stakeholders participating in this project are as follows:

- 108 general volunteers mobilised and engaged
- 69 clients and their social workers served
- 7 volunteer leaders and coordinators
- ALONE
- Health Services Executive
- Tallaght University Hospital – Social Work Team
- Dublin City Council
- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
- Focus Ireland Tenancy Support Services
- Dublin South FM as our media partner curating stories and post-production work
- EVERYTHIING Branded Ireland
- Devine’s Hardware Rathfarnham
- The Rediscovery Centre (reused paint shop) Ballymun
- Chadwicks Limerick
- Woodies Galway
- Dublin City Volunteer Centre
- DLR Volunteer Centre
- Galway Volunteer Centre
- Limerick Volunteer Centre
- University College Dublin’s Social Sciences Department – Internship Programme
- 9 voluntary Board members of STC IRL CLG
- Pobal COVID-19 Stability Fund 2021

## Q4 DIY Management Accounts incl Dublin Galway & Limerick

### Income & Expenditure Pobal COVID-19 Stability Fund

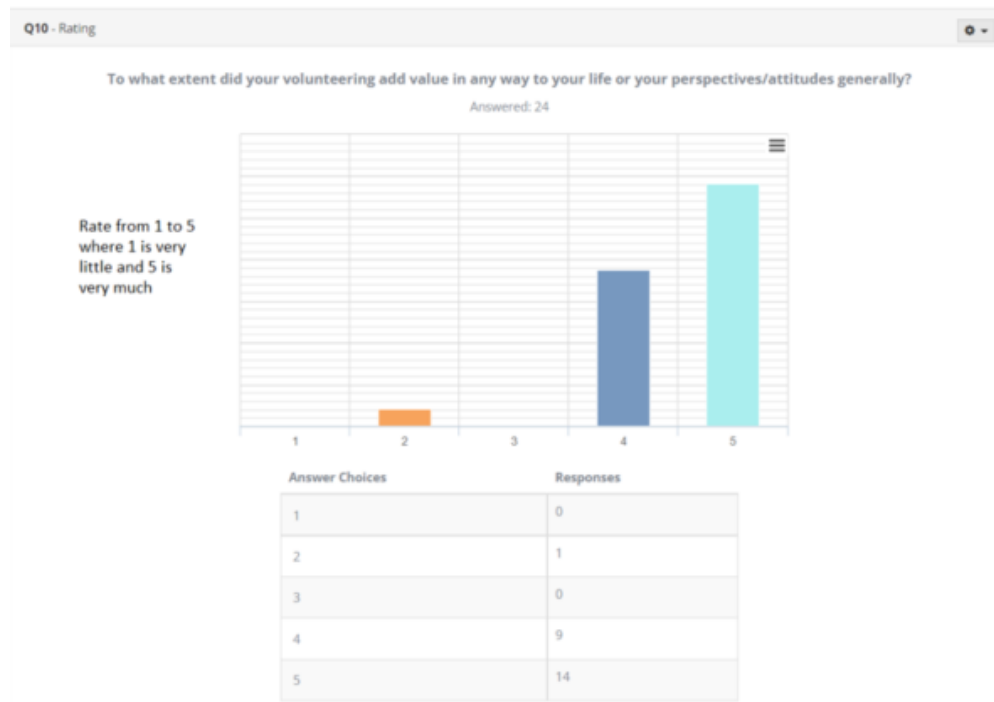
1 October 2021 to 31 December 2021

€

Income		Notes
<b>Serve Projects Income</b>		
Grant Income - Pobal Stability Fund	€11,651.00	
<b>Total Serve Projects Income</b>	<b>€11,651.00</b>	
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>€11,651.00</b>	
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<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>		
<b>Serve Projects Expenditure</b>		
Administrative Services	€860.40	7.4%
Care Boxes	€1,560.74	40 # total for DIY clients 18Dec21
Promotional Costs	€2,482.89	Multimedia output & volunteer beanie hats
Skip Hire	€2,249.89	
Tools and Materials	€3,830.52	
Volunteer Expenses	€666.56	
<b>Total Serve Projects Expenditure</b>	<b>€11,651.00</b>	
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<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>€11,651.00</b>	
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<b>Underspend</b>	<b>€0.00</b>	
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## Summary of the anonymous volunteer survey results

The overwhelming responses are very positive with a selection of key questions re wellbeing below as well as a copy of the full survey:



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

Multimedia storytelling features from this DIY project are available from the links below

- Video [HERE](#)
- Pictures and posts on social media
  - Facebook STC Dublin [HERE](#)
  - Facebook STC Galway [HERE](#)
  - Facebook STC Limerick [HERE](#)
  - Twitter STC IRL [HERE](#)

**Cairdeas** **serve the city.ireland**

**HOW CAIRDEAS HELPED 230 PEOPLE INTEGRATE INTO**

# Irish Culture

2021

**HELPED PARTICIPANTS FROM OVER 27 COUNTRIES**

This includes Botswana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Togo, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Congo, China, Palestine, Algeria, Albania, Sudan, Afghanistan, Morocco, Bolivia, Cameroon, Russia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Malawi, Egypt, Eritrea, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana and Uganda.

**HOSTED A VARIETY OF CULTURAL EVENTS**

- High tea with the Lord Mayor of Dublin.
- Three group visits to Portmarnock beach, including a circular economy event.
- A group visit to St. Anne's animal farm, including an information session on the circular economy.
- Two group tours of Dublin Castle.
- A group tour to the EPIC museum focused on Irish history and emigration.
- Three Workshops at the Baleskin reception centre on urban gardening.
- Hosted 'Dishes of Diversity', an outdoor cooking event celebrating Nigerian cuisine.
- Two group visits to Bunratty castle.
- A group visit to the Wildlife Rehabilitation hospital.
- A group visit to The Rediscovery Centre, the national centre for connecting people, ideas, and resources to support a greener low carbon living.

**WORKED WITH OVER 40 VOLUNTEERS**

This includes 11 project leaders from Irish, Polish, American, South African, Arabian, Asian and Ukrainian nationalities.

**INTRODUCED A MENTORING PROGRAMME**

43 mentor-mentee relationships were established with 17 coaches and mentors.

**Irish Culture 2021**