



COMMUNITY LOAN FINANCE
FOUNDED 1996

COVID-19 UPDATE

APRIL 2020

Communities of Support

We are all making huge changes to the way we live, and these unprecedented times are extremely challenging for everyone. Our CEO, Paul O'Sullivan, has recorded a message of solidarity to the extended Clann Credo family – those we know already, and those we have yet to meet.

In his message Paul said that “the sector has responded magnificently...when we talk with the hundreds of projects we work with around the country, we hear story after story of community organisations helping neighbours, as well as actions to support our front-line heroes and those working in our essential services.”

This update highlights how Castlebar Voluntary Social Services has responded to a doubling of demand for their services in the past weeks.

“This is a time of great national unity, and we are all, justifiably, proud of the ways in which communities have rallied to protect our most vulnerable people. Clann Credo stands with all community organisations during this time.”



See the full message from Paul [HERE](#).

The Community
Foundation for Ireland



year celebration

Community Foundation Covid-19 Response Fund

The Community Foundation for Ireland has launched a *Covid-19 Community Response Fund* aimed at the immediate needs of organisations impacted by Covid-19 and focused on the following:

- People over 60
- People with respiratory illnesses or cancer
- People experiencing domestic abuse
- Isolated vulnerable people and families, particularly those living in rural areas
- Mental health issues for those affected by Covid-19

The funding is supporting organisations to continue to provide services over the next one to six months and to help in adapting services and methods of delivery.

Applications can be made to The Community Foundation for Ireland to continue or adapt existing work, or to pilot new work that will support those most vulnerable as a result of Covid-19.

Any organisations affected by Covid-19 and working with the groups of people listed above can apply for grants between €1,000 and €10,000. The Community Foundation for Ireland anticipates that organisations that are providing small scale emergency support will require funding of around €1,000 to €2,500. Those who are significantly enhancing their services at this time may require grants of up to €10,000.

All the information on the fund and how to apply can be found [HERE](#).

An Post Community Supports



An Post have added a suite of new services to help the nation get through this difficult time.

Request a check in – postmen and postwomen across the country will call to the front doors of older and vulnerable customers along their delivery route if you ask them to.

Help Elderly & Vulnerable stay connected - if an elderly person has a mail item they need collecting, they can put a sign in their window that says I HAVE MAIL and the postal delivery staff will collect it on their route.

Newspaper delivery service - An Post is working with newspapers to develop a delivery service for customers who cannot get to shops to get their daily newspaper. This initiative will be launched in the coming week.

Information on all these new services is [HERE](#).

Local Heroes! Castlebar Voluntary Social Services

Covid-19 restrictions have paused many, many community activities and services, but some community services have been pushed into overdrive.

Castlebar Voluntary Social Services was founded in 1973 to care for the older and more vulnerable people of Castlebar and surrounding areas. They run several services, central to these are their Meals on Wheels and Befriending Services.

Since the Covid-19 restrictions came into force, demand for both services has surged. Previously, they provided meals to about 100 clients. Now, they cater for over 200. Their Befriending phone calling service talked with 80 older people per week before the crisis, now they're speaking with about 150 people each week.



Photo courtesy of Michael McLaughlin Studios

Clann Credo is very proud to be working with Castlebar Voluntary Social Services to improve the accessibility of their building by providing a lift to upstairs rooms. This will make many more activities accessible to everyone in the community, from Bridge to Tai Chi and ICA activities along with many others. The added accessibility will also mean added income from room rentals.

Of course, building works have been stopped now and all hands are on deck to cope with the increase demand for Meals on Wheels and Befriending phone calls.

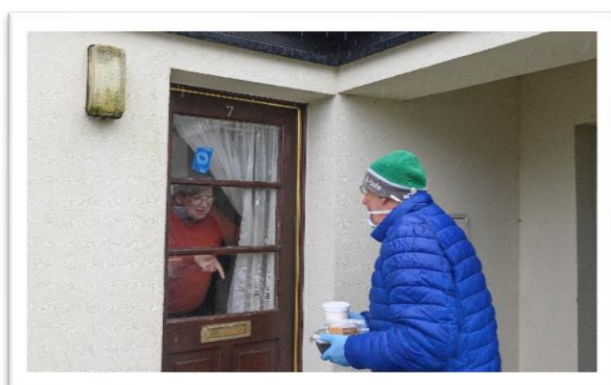


Photo courtesy of Michael McLaughlin Studios

Deirdre Waldron, the Centre's Manager has received great support from the GAA who have put her in touch with volunteers ready to put their hand to anything. And the community has been donating generously to their newly established [Go Fund Me](#) page, but the struggle to keep the show on the road financially is very real. "Without our rental income we won't be able to pay our ongoing bills – we still have to heat the

building so that we can provide the meals. Without our Flag Day and Church Gate Collections, finishing the building to the standard we need will be delayed for a long time."

Clann Credo salutes the work being done by Castlebar Voluntary Services in such difficult circumstances. This kind of resilience and adaptability is what makes the community sector so valuable.

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Clann Credo Company Limited by Guarantee is a self-financing not-for-profit organisation serving the community, voluntary and charity sectors. All its capital comes from private sources: religious charities and the retail banking sector through the Social Finance Foundation. The interest paid on its socially directed investments covers its operational costs.

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