volunteer centre
Ionad Saorálaithe Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL

Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council

Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall

Can you help?

Donegal County Council in association with the Donegal Volunteer Centre will be holding the first of a series of Volunteer Fairs planned for the county on Thursday 10th June 2010. This event will be held in the Cathedral Hall in Raphoe, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. A number of organisations that have volunteer opportunities will be present at the event to tell those attending about the opportunities available.

Some of the organisations confirmed for the event include:
The Irish Wheelchair Association
Good Morning Service, Co. Donegal
Finn Harps Football Club
St Johnston and Carrigans Family Resource Centre
Donegal Donkey Sanctuary
Raphoe Family Resource Centre
Tidy Towns
Springboard Raphoe
Donegal Mountain Rescue Team
The Irish Red Cross
Civil Defence

The volunteer opportunities on the evening range from participating in one off events to see if volunteering is for you to becoming involved with a group on a more permanent basis. Some of the areas where opportunities are available include: working with young people, the elderly, people with disabilities and within the community. Other opportunities available with organisations include working with animals and for sporting clubs.

Volunteering has many benefits including the opportunity to meet new people and develop new interests. Donegal County Council is keen to promote and encourage volunteerism throughout the county as a way of ensuring good community relations and assisting integration within communities. Volunteerism can also offer those who are currently unemployed a pathway in to work by developing new skills and adding to their curriculum vitae.

The Donegal County Development Board's Peace and Reconciliation Partnership have highlighted the area of volunteerism in the Donegal Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan 2008 – 2010. The plan aims to initiate a range of interventions around encouraging volunteerism in order to support active participation in civil life in the county. Anne Marie Conlon, Peace III Secretary and Administrative Officer for Social Inclusion has stated that *"The Peace and Reconciliation Partnership believe that voluntary opportunities can create an opportunity to support minority and marginalised groups to become more involved in their communities. Volunteering is a great way to get to know people who may have the same interests as you or may live close to you. We would encourage anybody who has some spare time to get involved and come along to the event on Thursday 10th June to see what opportunities are available."*

Donegal Volunteer Centre staff will be in attendance on the evening to speak about how they can assist those wishing to volunteer to find a suitable placement and also to assist organisations who seek to involve volunteers in their work. Gearóid Ó Maonaigh, Manager of the Donegal Volunteer Centre said *"The Donegal Volunteer Centre is here to help people who have decided to 'make a difference'. People want to 'make a difference' for their area, their communities, their causes, their local organisations and their clubs by giving their time and their ability. We are also here to help Community Groups, Clubs and*

Organisations get the maximum benefit from the time and efforts of the people who volunteer with them."

Sarah Lapsley, Peace III Good Relations Officer at Donegal County Council commented that they were delighted to be involved in the promotion of volunteerism throughout the county. *"There are a lot of organisations in Donegal who rely on volunteers and we are keen to encourage those living in the county to become involved with these groups. Working with the Donegal Volunteer Centre we hope to increase the number of volunteers throughout Donegal and to support organisations that wish to place volunteers. With the increasing diversity of the county it is important that community and voluntary organisations have a diverse workforce that reflect the diversity in the community. We hope that these Volunteer Fairs will provide opportunities for all in the community to become involved with community enterprises."* Further Volunteering Fairs are planned in other electoral areas later this year.

Anyone requiring any further information on this or any of the planned volunteer events should contact Sarah at Donegal County Council on (074) 9172586 or e-mail ***slapsley@donegalcoco.ie***

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann Na daoine!

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An dtig leat cuidiú?

Beidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, i gcomhar le hIonad Saorálaithe Dhún na nGall ag reáchtáil an chéad cheann de shraith d'Aontaí Saorálaithe atá beartaithe don chontae **Déardaoin 10 Meitheamh 2010.** Beidh an ócáid seo ar siúl i Halla na hArdeaglaise i Ráth Bhoth, ó **7.00in - 9.00in**. Beidh roinnt eagraíochtaí a bhfuil deiseanna acu fá choinne saorálaithe i láthair ag an ócáid le eolas a chur ar fáil don phobal faoi na deiseanna atá ann.

I measc cuid de na heagraíochtaí a dúirt go mbeidís i láthair tá:
Cumann Cathaoireacha Rothaí na hÉireann
Seirbhís *Maidin Mhaith,* Contae Dhún na nGall
Cumann Sacair Chláirseacha na Finne
Ionad Acmhainní Teaghlaigh Bhaile Suingean agus an Charraigín
Tearmann Asal Dhún na nGall
Ionad Acmhainní Teaghlaigh Ráth Bhoth
Bailte Slachtmhara
Lingchlár Ráth Bhoth
Foireann Tarrthála Sléibhe Dhún na nGall
Cros Dhearg na hÉireann
Cosaint Shibhialta

Beidh réimse deiseanna ar fáil ag an ócáid, ó pháirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí aon-uaire le feiceáil an bhfóireann obair dheonach duitse, go dtí páirt a ghlacadh i ngrúpa ar bhonn níos buaine. I measc cuid de na réimsí ina bhfuil deiseanna ar fáil tá: obair le daoine óga, seandaoine, daoine faoi mhíchumas agus taobh istigh den phobal. I measc na ndeiseanna eile atá ar fáil in eagraíochtaí, tá obair le hainmhithe agus le clubanna spóirt.

Tá cuid mhór buntáistí ag baint le hobair dheonach, ag bualadh le daoine úra agus ag cur spéise i rudaí úra, mar shampla. Ba mhaith le Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall go mór an saorálaíochas a chothú agus a spreagadh ar fud an chontae mar dhóigh le dea-chaidrimh phobail a cinntiú agus le cuidiú leis an phróiseas imeasctha taobh istigh de phobail. Is féidir leis an saorálaíochas fosta deis a thabhairt dóibh siúd atá dífhostaithe san am i láthair bealach a aimsiú ar ais chun oibre trí scileanna úra a fhorbairt agus trí bheith ag cur lena gcurriculum vitae.

Tá Comhpháirtíocht Síochána agus Athmhuintearais de chuid Bhord Forbartha Contae Dhún na nGall i ndiaidh béim a chur ar ar réimse an tsaorálaíochais i bPlean Gníomhaíochta Síochána agus Athmhuintearais Dhún na nGall 2008-2010. Tá sé de chuspóir ag an phlean tús a chur le réimse gníomhaíochtaí chun obair dheonach a spreagadh chun tacú le rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach sa tsochaí shibhialta sa chontae. Dúirt Anne Marie Conlon, Oifigeach Riaracháin agus Rúnaí Síocháin III maidir le Cuimsiú Sóisialta go gcreideann an Chomhpháirtíocht Síochána agus Athmhuintearais go dtig le deiseanna deonacha deis a chruthú chun tacú le grúpaí mionlacha agus imeallaithe a bheith níos rannpháirtí ina gcuid pobal. *Is dóigh iontach é an obair dheonach le aithne a chur ar dhaoine a bhféadfadh na suimeanna céanna a bheith acu is atá agat féin nó a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ina gcónaí in aice leat. 'Mholfaimis go mór do dhuine ar bith a bhfuil roinnt ama le spáráil aige nó aici a bheith páirteach agus teacht chuig an ócáid seo Déardaoin 10 Meitheamh le feiceáil cad iad na deiseanna atá ar fáil'*

Beidh baill foirne ó Ionad Saorálaithe Dhún na nGall i láthair ar an oíche le labhairt faoi na dóigheanna a dtig leo cuidiú leo siúd ar suim leo obair dheonach a dhéanamh chun áit a fháil agus cuidiú le

heagraíochtaí ar mian leo oibrithe deonacha a aimsiú dá gcuid oibre. Dúirt Gearóid Ó Maonaigh, Bainisteoir Ionad Saorálaithe Dhún na nGall go bhfuil Ionad Saorálaithe Dhún na nGall ansin le cuidiú le daoine a bhfuil cinneadh déanta acu difear éigin a dhéanamh. *'Ba mhaith le daoine difear a dhéanamh ina gceantar féin, dá bpobal féin, dá gcúiseanna féin, dá n-eagraíochtaí agus dá gclubanna tríd a gcuid ama a chur ar fáil agus tríd a gcuid cumais a chur ar fáil. Tá muid anseo fosta le cuidiú le Grúpaí Pobail, le Clubanna agus le hEagraíochtaí an buntáiste is fearr agus is féidir a fháil ón am agus ó na hiarrachtaí a thugann a gcuid saorálaithe dóibh'.*
Dúirt Sarah Lapsley, Oifigeach an Dea-Chaidrimh Síocháin III le Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, dúirt sí go raibh lúcháir orthu a bheith páirteach i gcur chun cinn na hoibre deonaí ar fud an chontae. *'Tá cuid mhór eagraíochtaí i nDún na nGall atá ag brath ar oibrithe deonacha agus tá muid ar ár ndícheall iad siúd a bhfuil cónaí sa chontae a bheith páirteach sna grúpaí seo. Trí bheith ag obair le hIonad Saorálaithe Dhún na nGall tá súil againn go mbeidh muid in ann cur le líon na saorálaithe ar fud Dhún na nGall agus tacú le heagraíochtaí ar mian leo saorálaithe a mhealladh. Agus an contae ag dul chun éagsúlachta i rith an ama tá sé tábhachtach go bhfuil lucht oibre éagsúil ag na heagraíochtaí pobail agus deonacha le bheith ionadaíoch ar an éagsúlacht sin atá le fáil i measc an phobail. Tá súil againn go gcuirfidh na hAontaí Saorálaithe seo deiseanna ar fáil do gach duine sa phobal a bheith páirteach i bhfiontair phobail.'*
Tá sé i gceist tuilleadh Aontaí Saorálaithe a reáchtáil i dtoghcheantair eile níos moille sa bhliain.

Má tá tuilleadh eolais de dhíth ar éinne faoin ócáid seo nó faoi imeachtaí eile atá beartaithe fá choinne oibrithe deonacha, ba chóir dóibh dul i dteagmháil le Sarah ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar (074) 9172586 nó trí ríomhphost ag slapsley@donegalcoco.ie

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine!

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Tá an tionscadal seo á pháirtmhaoiniú ag Ciste Forbraíochta Réigiúnach Eorpach an Aontais Eorpaigh trí Chlár an AE um Shíocháin agus Athmhuintearais arna bhainistiú ar son Fhoras Chláir Speisialta an AE ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall.