

## The Voluntary Sector 1966-2017

The year 2016 was a very special milestone in the history of Western Care with our celebration of 50 years of service to the people of Mayo and also a celebration of the magnificent support and dedication of so many of our volunteers over those 50 years.

We are now at the beginning of our sixth decade of providing services to people with intellectual disabilities and autism in County Mayo. The ethos of the Organisation has always been based on the unselfish support of our volunteers who have consistently given of their time and talents, especially in the promotion of the Door to Door collection, which has become the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts over the past 50 years. Through their dedication and commitment, our volunteers continue to make a **REAL difference** to families and their loved ones throughout every community in County Mayo.

## Mayo Based Charity

Apart from the vital range of services that we continue to provide here in Mayo, it is worth noting that Western Care is indeed a very significant contributor to the economy in County Mayo, currently employing 800 people. Western Care is now a widely respected organisation with a well-deserved reputation, which is a testament to the outstanding support that it continues to receive from the people of Mayo and beyond. Out of respect and gratitude to all our patrons we always try to demonstrate transparency in how we use our much needed fundraising monies (see inside cover, Use of Fundraised Monies). With the ongoing support to Western Care from the people of Mayo we will strive to ensure the best possible service to the people we support.

## Thank You

Each year the response from the people of Mayo to the Annual Door to Door collection has been nothing short of outstanding and we are extremely grateful for this continued generosity. As we embark on the first year of our next 50 years, we humbly ask our volunteers and supporters to continue with their generosity of spirit in support of Western Care.

## The Mayo News / O'Neill's Club Sports Star Awards

I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank The Mayo News for choosing Western Care as their charity of choice for the 2016 Club Sports Star Awards. The Mayo News and their loyal sponsors presented Western Care with a cheque for the sum of €5,000. May I take this opportunity to wish them continued success with this initiative recognising club players throughout County Mayo. The door to door collection was modelled on the G.A.A. structures based on local communities and parishes in Mayo.

## Branch Activity – Dates for Your Diary

21st July 2017	Enniscrone Golf Competition
December 2017	Lourdie's Annual 25 Card Drive Achill
December 2017	Ballyhaunis Christmas Social
10th February 2018	Valentine Candlelight Ball

## Door to Door Collectors

If you feel you would like to give a little of your voluntary time and help with our Annual Door to Door Collection, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please Contact: Teresa Ward, Development Officer  
Tel: 094 90 29174/120 Mobile: 087 2467857 Email: tward@westerncare.com

2016 Branch Income, Door to Door Collection, Donations & Other Branch Fundraising are outlined in the table to the right:

Branch	Totals
Achill	€ 12,987
Ardagh	€ 2,472
Balla	€ 1,898
Ballina	€ 12,850
Ballinrobe	€ 7,997
Ballintubber/Ballyheane	€ 1,607
Ballyhaunis	€ 5,942
Belmullet	€ 3,535
Bohola	€ 802
Bonniconlon	€ 4,853
Burrishoole/Newport	€ 3,858
Carnacon	€ 300
Carracastle	€ 515
Castlebar	€ 24,320
Charlestown	€ 1,147
Claremorris	€ 6,790
Cooneal	€ 828
Crossmolina (Plus EGC)	€ 6,823
Currane	€ 915
Drummin	€ 702
Foxford	€ 220
Islandeady	€ 3,105
Kilawalla	€ 1,381
Kilfian	€ 470
Kilkelly/Kilmovee	€ 5,074
Killala	€ 998
Kilmaine	€ 3,472
Kilmeena	€ 300
Kiltane	€ 267
Kiltimagh	€ 5,995
Knock	€ 3,476
Knockmore/Rathduff	€ 6,803
Lacken	€ 825
Louisburgh	€ 1,290
MayoAbbey/Facefield	€ 2,365
Murrisk	€ 1,034
Robeen/Roundfort	€ 244
Shrule/Glencorrib	€ 5,425
Swinford	€ 786
Taugheen/Crossboyne	€ 1,480
The Neale/Cong	€ 1,885
Tourmakeady	€ 3,957
Westport	€ 6,977
<b>Totals</b>	<b>€ 158,967</b>

Hi Everybody,

Welcome to the Western Care newsletter. Last year was a really busy year for the organization, as we celebrated our 50th anniversary.



As part of the celebrations, a mass was held in Knock, celebrated by Archbishop Michael Neary and attended by almost 2,500 people. We had a full house for a special conference held in Westport and attended by the Minister of State for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath TD.

We were afforded a civic reception by Mayo County Council. This is the greatest honour that the County Council can give to any individual or organization.

Western Care Association is a limited company and I take the opportunity to encourage any one interested in the work of this great organization to apply for membership.

Western Care Association will continue to strive to provide the best possible support for people with disability in Mayo going forward into the future. I want to thank the staff, all the volunteers and my fellow directors for all of their great work and support over the last year., and I take this opportunity to wish everyone well in the future.

*Anthony McCormack*  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2016 there continued to be increasing need for services and supports in Mayo and fundraised monies were essential to maintaining direct service provision by Western Care Association. These monies were used in a variety of ways which are described elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition to the direct impact of fundraising itself, the activity of fundraising highlights the work of the Association and reminds the community of the place that people with disabilities have as members of the community.



We publish this newsletter annually, and circulate it to almost 20,000 homes in Mayo, to demonstrate what monies were raised, and how, and to report on their use. We do this to be transparent and to maintain the confidence of the public in what we do with community resources. This newsletter is also published on our website [www.westerncare.com](http://www.westerncare.com).

I want to thank the people of Mayo for their continued support to the Association and to express the hope that you will continue it into 2017 and beyond. I also want to thank the many people who took part in a wide range of fundraising events, from cycling to dancing to running to bingo. It would not be possible without you.

*Bernard O'Regan*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Western Care Association Board of Directors 2015/16 Back Row: Joe Gibbons; Anthony McCormack; Pat Higgins; Ciaran McGloin; Pat Geraghty; Bernard O'Regan; Ed Rose; Philip McKiernan. Front Row: Marie Munnely; Helen McHugh; Annette Dillon; Mary Hegarty. Unavoidably Absent: Noelle Gallagher.



Pictured left to right are: Colin Cronin SuperValu Kiltimagh; Damien Hall SuperValu Castlebar; Kevin Kelly SuperValu Claremorris; Tia Crowley Western Care Association; Liam Campion SuperValu Westport; Noel Kavanagh, Chairman The Kavanagh Group; John Page SuperValu Castlebar; Bernard O'Regan, Executive Director Western Care Association; Martina Walsh Western Care; Anthony McCormack, Chairperson Western Care Association; Teresa Ward and Naomi Tiernan Western Care Association.

## "Help us to help others..."

This was the slogan chosen by the Kavanagh SuperValu Group who came on board to support Western Care Association in a bid to raise €50K for our 50th Anniversary in 2016.

Western Care was honoured and privileged to have worked alongside such a professional group of people who gave so generously of their expertise and time to help us achieve this target. A sincere thank you to all of the people in the local communities who got involved with the projects and events throughout the year and to all those who supported you in doing so.

A special thanks to all the management and wonderful staff we were fortunate to have met and engaged with along the way in the four Kavanagh SuperValu Stores in Westport, Castlebar, Claremorris and Kiltimagh.

The target of €50,000 was reached, and a cheque for this amount was presented to Western Care in December 2016. All funds raised will go directly to benefit the people who avail of our services and supports.

**"Help us to help others!" Thank You SuperValu!**

## Use of Fundraised Monies

Western Care Association provides a wide range of supports and services to those with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism and their families living in County Mayo. This is done through residential, respite, day and various community and home supports. We also provide a door-to-door transport service between home and our centres, and almost all of the vehicles used for this are wheelchair accessible.

All monies raised through fundraising and our Annual Door-to-Door collection are spent within Mayo, and enhance the necessary provision of supports to those that use our services.

In 2016, in addition to the use of monies outlined elsewhere in this newsletter which were contributed by Cairde Cranmor, fundraised monies were also used for the following purposes:

- In some instances, monies are donated or given for a specific purpose or service. In those situations that money is ring-fenced, and kept for the purpose or service that it is donated for.
- To maintain and support the direct provision of services and supports to people with an Intellectual Disability. This includes the provision of short-term supports to those who come into crisis from time to time, and need an immediate service response.
- Minor repairs and capital works to our centres and homes. These included minor refurbishments, upgrades to heating systems and necessary boiler repairs, floor coverings, etc. In 2016, this included works carried out in Barrack Hill Newport, Cois Na Roba Ballinrobe, Lower Lakelands Manulla, Belmullet Day Service, Ballyhaunis Day Service, VTC Castlebar, and also minor repairs carried out in a number of individual services throughout the county.
- Purchase of transport for direct service use by our centres and houses, which facilitates social opportunities, outings, breaks, etc for the users of our services. In 2016 vehicles were purchased for Crossmolina, Ridgpool Ballina, The Acres Foxford, and St Francis and Garryduff Residential services in Castlebar.
- Necessary lifting equipment, aids & appliances and wheelchairs were purchased to support those availing of our services in Barrack Hill Newport and St Huberts Castlebar.

The continued financial support of the people of Mayo assists Western Care in maintaining the level of service that we provide throughout the county. It would not be possible to continue to do what we do without your support, financial and otherwise, and we value and thank you most sincerely for this

*James Roche* FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

## Cairde Cranmor Ballinrobe

Cairde Cranmor is a group made up of volunteers, branch members and friends of Western Care Association, who fundraise on behalf of and support services in the Ballinrobe and South Mayo area. They run a number of fundraising initiatives throughout the year, and in 2016 these included:

- Annual Bingo which was held in Breaffy House Resort & Arena
- Annual Golf Classic in Ballinrobe Golf Club
- McWilliam Park Hotel Cabaret & Concerts
- Ashford Castle donation
- Shrule & District Vintage Club
- Contributions from Bridge Club, Al Anon, Whist Club & Yoga
- Individual donations
- Other local fundraising events.

In 2016, Cairde Cranmor contributed €95,331 to Western Care Association, which was used for the following purposes:

- Aisling Ghael Service – necessary painting, maintenance & electrical work.
- Suaimhneas service – maintenance and painting.
- Cosi na Roba service – maintenance and refurbishment of building.
- Cranmor Day Service – materials, equipment and refurbishments.
- Rathkelly Close – electrical and boiler repairs.
- Funding of the purchase of a new house at Castlebar Road, Ballinrobe. Cairde Cranmor will continue to fundraise for refurbishment and maintenance works which will be required to ensure this house meets all regulatory and safety requirements.

All monies raised by Cairde Cranmor are spent on services in Ballinrobe. Cairde Cranmor would like to express their gratitude and thanks to the businesses and people of Ballinrobe and the surrounding area, who give tremendous support to the various fundraising initiatives that are undertaken. This support, both financial and otherwise, makes a very positive difference to lives of those supported by Western Care in the Ballinrobe area.

## Volunteering in Western Care Association

Noreen McGarry, Community Inclusion Coordinator

Our Volunteer project is based on the concept of matching people together who have a shared interest. It is very much community based and connected to what's happening locally. Volunteers have been supporting individuals within the organisation to get more involved in their communities and take part local events. It is a great way to broaden people social networks and try out new activities.

We would like to thank all our Volunteers both past and current for the difference you have made in people's lives and for all the time you have committed to community involvement. There are many opportunities available across the county if new volunteers are interested in getting involved. Becoming a registered volunteer involves an Application and Vetting process. Following this, volunteers are matched to a role that they are interested in.

If you would like to find out more about Volunteer Opportunities in your area, please contact: Noreen McGarry, Community Inclusion Coordinator  
Tel: 094 9029193 Email: nmcgarry@westerncare.com Applications can be downloaded from our website on: [www.westerncare.com](http://www.westerncare.com)

## Fundraising Department

During 2016 the people of Mayo raised €202,263 in support of Western Care Association Local Services through fundraising events and projects, donations, grants, etc. In addition Cárde Crann Mór raised substantial funds for the Association's Services in the Ballinrobe and South Mayo area, and details of this is included separately. This fundraising income is vital as it provides the Association with critical extra resources to fund training, social and sporting opportunities for our service users. It also funds transport and some maintenance projects. In addition fundraising activities play a vital role in raising the profile of the Association in the Community and the great work it does throughout the County. Western Care is greatly indebted to the many volunteers and benefactors who give so much of their time, energy and money to support Mayo people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

If you would like to help in any way in participating in or organising a fundraising event or would like to make a donation please contact the Fundraising Department (details below) or call to the fundraising office at John Moore Road, Castlebar, County Mayo.

Joe Brett, Fundraising Manager  
Tel: 094 9029136/144 E-mail: fundraiser@westerncare.com

Full details of these and other events not listed above will be available on [www.westerncare.com](http://www.westerncare.com) and on Western Care Association - Fundraising on Facebook.



## Income from 2016 Fundraising Events and Projects

All Ireland Ticket Raffle	€3,000
Battle of the Bands	€5,465
Be a Player for Western Care (Castleconnor GAA)	€6,700
Bikers Run for Autism	€4,910
Christmas Cards	€9,480
Christmas Development Draw & Card Games	€9,850
Concerts, Plays, Socials, etc.	€9,600
Corporate & Personal Donations	€18,405
Grants	€2,000
Kathleen Conneely Memorial Walks - Clare Island	€16,025
Lr Lakelands (Darby's Fashion Show, Christmas Table Quiz, etc)	€7,925
Marathons, 5 & 10Km's	€5,703
Mayo Four a Side Darts	€6,800
Pier to Pier Swim (Roonagh - Clare Island)	€3,422
Staff Deductions/Standing Orders	€1,545
Strictly Beauty & The Beast (Shared with Irish Cancer Society)	€26,715
Sundry Fundraising Events	€32,061
Textile Recycling	€10,692
VTC Fundraising Events (Christmas Trees & Shop, Raffles, etc.)	€6,774
Westport Golf Classic	€5,191
Westport House Open Day	€10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€202,263</b>

## 2017 Fundraising Events

Fri., May 12th	Michael English in Concert, Ballyhaunis Parish Church
Sat., May 27th	Ireland West Airport 2nd Annual Charity 5Km Runway Run
Thurs., June 1st	Cárde Crann Mór Singles Stableford Competition, Ballinrobe Golf Club
Mon., June 5th	The VHI Dublin Womens Mini Marathon
Sat., June 24th	The Tenth Annual Kathleen Conneely Charity Walk on Clare Island
Fri., June 30th	Annual Michael John McDonnell Am Am, Westport Golf Club
Wed. July 19th	All Star Summer Cabaret, McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris
Sun., Sept. 10th	Tour of Mayo Charity Cycle
Sun., Nov. 26th	Annual Cárde Crann Mór Bingo, Breaffy Events Centre, Castlebar