Where the heart is
YOUR THRESHOLD SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

Threshold
preventing homelessness

The life-changing difference you make

FEBRUARY 2025

Home again... thanks to your kind heart

Laura is a mam with young children. She and her husband work hard to support their family. But like too many young parents in Ireland today, Laura worried about the skyrocketing cost of rents. How would she care for her family, including her son with autism, without a home?

"I tried to be 'happy mammy' during the day but then the stress would come again at night, and I would be in floods of tears."

"Sean saw me upset one night and he remembered that. So he started to sleep downstairs until I went to bed – so he could 'mind mammy.'"

Then, her fears were realised. Their landlord told them he was selling the property.

In tears, but determined, Laura went to every office she could think of. Over and over, she explained that she and her little ones were about to be put out of their home.

You're a generous supporter of Threshold, so her story won't surprise you. A family afraid of losing their home… it's become all too common in Ireland. But your compassion is the answer. Because once Laura contacted Threshold, we were able to help.

Because of you, we were able to negotiate with her landlord to arrange for the family to remain in their home until they found a...

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Your questions answered!

Alex is an Assistant Services Manager at Threshold. We sat down with him to learn more about the rental crisis across Ireland. And how you're helping.

Alex, please explain Threshold's work

We're an information service. We help renters understand their rights and responsibilities and navigate complex housing laws and regulations.

It's a lot of stress for renters. We hear it in their voices.

What is happening now with housing?

The housing sector in Ireland is stretched right now. There are fewer properties available. So for renters who receive an eviction notice, finding a new place to live is extremely difficult.

Can you share some examples of clients you've helped?

There was one family – a mother with two young kids. Her landlord had given a notice but hadn't gone through the proper process.

We let the landlord know that if they did want to remove the tenant from the property, they had to go through the proper dispute process.

All of this meant the tenant had that bit more time in the property. And then she actually was housed by the council. She's able to make sure her kids are enrolled in schools. And the family can be involved in the local community.

What worries you going forward? And what gives you hope?

We're now seeing a huge cohort of older people who are struggling to pay rent as they reach retirement. And they don't know where they're going to stay.

But thanks to our supporters, we're here. And by the end of a conversation you feel that at least the calm is there. They know they have someone to turn to. They understand the next steps.

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...new home to rent.

Sometimes, all it takes is a letter from us – reminding landlords about their renters' rights – to solve the problem. And to ease a family's fears.

"My housing advisor was the nicest, kindest human being I have ever met in my life. She fought all the way for me. She couldn't have done any more."

Today, Laura and her family are living in their home. She doesn't wake at night, worried about being homeless. That's thanks to you.

Because of you, we can help frightened people like Laura find the home and security they deserve.

Thank you!

The girls were able to have a proper christmas

The joy you gave at Christmas

This Christmas we shared Patrick's story with you. You'll recall that Patrick suddenly found his family's safety and warmth shattered when their landlord handed them an eviction notice.

They had less than three months to find a new place to live... but nothing worked. They'd even put down a deposit on one promising rental. But it fell through. They had to face it: their family had joined the growing number of families depending on emergency accommodation in Ireland.

But I'm happy to share with you now that Patrick and his family have recently moved into their own home. They had a very different Christmas this past year – a happy one! The kids are in a new school with a lovely playground.

Your kindness means we can answer when a frightened family calls.

Generous gifts from lovely people like you made all the difference to Patrick, his wife and his two little ones. You were truly a Christmas angel!

OWN YOUR RIGHTS

Own Your Rights is a campaign to raise renters' awareness of their rights and of the support available to them. Our recent Client Engagement Survey had 1,349 respondents.

77% felt their awareness of their rights had increased after contacting Threshold.

75% felt their confidence had improved when dealing with a housing issue.

Your gifts are making a difference. Because of you, more people are aware of their rights and of the help they can receive at Threshold. Thank you!

Between 23rd December and 2nd January:

144 **New Households** turned to Threshold

These households came to us from across **Cork, Dublin, Galway,** and **Limerick**

The Households included:
95 **Children**
175 **Adults**

1070 **Actions** were taken by Threshold Advisors during this period

Every call answered, every breath of relief... is because of you

Thanks to you...

We're spreading the word!

Recently, we hosted our first conference on renting in Ireland. During the conference, Jasmine, one of our Threshold Advisors, gave a useful update on the housing situation. Here are the highlights for you.

- We're facing a **crisis of housing affordability** that affects every aspect of their lives.
- **Many people work** in good industries and receive a fair wage. But prices are high, the supply is measly, and their hopes are low.
- Those who can save against the backdrop of an inflating cost of living are **drawing down large mortgages** they struggle to repay.
- For those unable to save, **the wait is lengthy.**
- The government continues to build, lease, and acquire more stock. But there is **still a massive shortfall** between supply and demand.
- **The good news:** Those moving into cost rental homes have been able to breathe – sometimes their first sigh of relief in months.

If you'd like to hear Jasmine's presentation, you can scan the QR code here.

Cost Rental Housing explained

Cost rental housing is aimed at people who are above the threshold for social housing but have difficulty affording private rented accommodation.

It's called "cost rental" because the rent you pay is based on the cost of building, managing, and maintaining the homes. It doesn't include any profit for a developer.

This makes the rent cheaper than standard rents – the rent for cost rental homes must be at least **25% below regular market rents** in an area.

Will you help us spread the word?

If you know of someone who may need our help, please send them to us! **You can learn more here:** https://threshold.ie/get-help/.

Thank you

Every call answered, every breath of relief, every family still in their home... ***it's all because of you.***

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preventing homelessness

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