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# Alzheimers seek help to expand their care

By DEARBHLA ACHESON

**VOLUNTEERISM** is one of the keys to the support the Alzheimer Society provide for those who suffer from the illness and their carers.

The team of volunteers and paid staff at the Alzheimer Day Care Centre and on the home support team, give 100 per cent to the care of the



patients, but want the services they provide to be available to a larger group of people.

"A majority of our 18 paid staff are FAS workers. Along with that we have a number of volunteers. The more workers we have, whether they are paid or volunteers, means support can be given to more Alzheimer's patients and their families." Marilyn Sheehan - chairperson of the Limerick branch of the



Staff of the Alzheimers day care centre, Linda Purcell, 5th year, Ard Scoil Mhuire; Jennifer O'Leary, Home support, Majella Hennigan, Home support, Marlyn Sheehy, chairperson, Limerick branch; Chris Carroll, day care centre carer; and Emma Peters, 5th year, Ard scoil Mhuire (L1)

Alzheimer Society said. The Alzheimer Home Support Team have been nominated by one of their

FAS workers for the Limerick Leader/Combined Insurance Make it Happen Community Give-

away for a share of the €20,000 prize pool.

Majella Hennigan, a home support worker, nominating the team said: "The Alzheimer Society in Limerick are the best of the best where care is needed, for the home support they give to clients, the Day Care Centre in Garryowen and the respite

the particular needs of people with Alzheimers. The philosophy operated in all their services is one of person-centred care. The workers give stimulation and care to the patient and a break for the primary carer. We offer guests at the Alzheimer Day Care Centre a wide range of activities including ther-

sites, and are continuously fundraising towards this respite centre.

"Any cash boost we'd get with go towards that centre, or efforts to bring our services to more people. We get grants from the Department of Health, but the society is not by any means state-funded. We do our own work fundraising, and we have a fantastic