



Awards night helps 'Make It Happen' for 35 community groups in Galway



Pictured at the Make it Happen Awards presentation at the Courtyard By Marriott Hotel were, from left: Dave O'Connell, Group Editor, Connacht Tribune Newspaper Group, Maureen Cunniffe-Daly, Caring for Carers (award winner), John P. Hughes, General Manager, Combined Insurance, Ireland, John Blake and Mary Forde, both of Caring for Carers, and Deputy Eamon O Cuiv, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.



John P. Hughes, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv, and Galway minor football team players Damien Reddington and Tomas Fahy at the Make it Happen Awards.



Paula Nolan, Donna Murphy and Elaine Power, representing Osterly Lodge, Salthill, a recipient of a Make it Happen award, pictured with Dave O'Connell, John P. Hughes, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



The Cortoon Lavally Golden Age Club were the recipients of an award at the Make it Happen Awards. Pictured at the presentation were, from left: Dave O'Connell, Mary Ward, Golden Age Club, John P. Hughes, Mary Flaherty, Golden Age Club, Minister Eamon O Cuiv, and Ann Burke, Golden Age Club.



John P. Hughes, General Manager, Combined Insurance, Ireland, presenting Monica Gannon with her award at the Make it Happen Awards ceremony at the Courtyard By Marriott Hotel. Included in the photograph are Dave O'Connell, Group Editor, Connacht Tribune Newspaper Group, and Deputy Eamon O Cuiv, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.



Pictured during the presentation to the Galway Head Injury Support Group at the Make it Happen Awards were, from left: Dave O'Connell, Martin Moran and Norah Murphy of the Support Group, John P. Hughes, Marie Griffin, Support Group, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Sara Murphy, Sales and Marketing Executive, Combined Insurance, Natacha Diaz, Graphic Designer, Combined Insurance, and Linda Joyce, Regional Manager, Combined Insurance, at the Make it Happen Awards.



Dave O'Connell, Group Editor, Connacht Tribune Newspaper Group, and Brendan Murphy, Financial Dynamics, at the Make it Happen Awards presentation at the Courtyard By Marriott Hotel.

Six winners of last week's Connacht Tribune/Combined Insurance Make It Happen Awards, received €1,000 each towards their work in the community.

CD's Helping Hands was formed in October 2006 with a view to helping the families of children suffering from cancer. They are a charity that offers services to these families, such as helping with cleaning, errand running, cooking and other day to day activities that allow the family to function as they cope with treating their child's illness.

GRA helps children with autism and their families. They are a group of parents who have come together to advocate on behalf of their children and raise awareness of autism and autism related issues. They are in the process of raising funds to purchase a Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy unit which will help with the treatment of their children.

Osterly Lodge provides crisis accommodation for homeless women. They are hoping to purchase a computer with internet access and they would use this to provide training for the women and help them to develop computer literacy. In turn this will provide greater training and employment opportunities to these women.

The Cope Waterside House Child Care Unit offers an invaluable service to children during difficult times. Their service caters for children whose mothers are escaping domestic violence and who need accommodation or support. Last year they service helped 357 children.

The Cope Fairgreen Hostel wanted to use their €1,000 to

purchase a computer for their residents to use.

The Sonas Day Care Centre cares for older people in Mervue. They offer advocacy, laundry facilities, meal delivery, social activities and other services. They hope to create a secure and comfortable atmosphere for older people which will ease their anxieties and offer peace of mind.

The Gort Youth Project received €500 to help fund Nitrogen 07, a talent show with all of the profits going to local charities.

The Hope House Addiction Centre received €500 to help in retraining for those who are making the difficult journey back to sobriety.

The Ballinasloe Active Retirement Group received €500 to go towards a new club night for their 195 members.

Dunmore Macra na Feirme received €500 to help them in their continuing efforts to provide a cultural and social outlet for rural youth.

The Galway Head Injury Support Group received €500 to help in their efforts to make life better for those who have suffered such dreadful and life threatening injuries.

Monica Gannon from Lettermore was awarded €500 towards her fundraising for and work with street children in the city of Kiev, where she helped provide them with food, shelter and emergency aid.

St Patrick's Scout Group was awarded €500 towards the cost of new equipment for their activities for more than 100 young members, including camping and hiking to cook-outs.

The Glenamaddy

Community Development Group was given €500 to help in their to provide an outlet for vulnerable members of the community who may have become isolated and help to generate extra opportunities for local employment.

Ala Community Theatre and Education Project in Ballybane received €500 towards their ongoing efforts to cater for young and old alike with the various workshops and projects they run.

Bridget Ann Nee suffers from cystic fibrosis and has spent a large part of her 23 years in hospital, but with the €500 she was awarded, she has taken a giant step closer to fulfilling her dream and visit the home of Elvis Presley in Graceland.

The Cortoon/Lavally Golden Age Group is 30 years old and the €500 they received with help them to continue to provide this vital outlet for the elderly people in their club.

Caring for Carers in Tuam do as the name suggests and the €500 they received will help them to assist carers, offering them support, advice and even just short periods of respite.

Galway Carers Support Group also received €500 towards their work in this area as well.

And the Dunmore Carers Group, who look after between 30 and 40 carers, also received €500 to help them run a series of monthly meetings.

Ballinrobe Arch Club were awarded €500 to help them in their work, continuing to provide a social outlet for young adults with special needs - all on a voluntary basis.

Pauline Henry and Annette Masterson ran the Chicago

Half-Marathon recently to raise funds that will go towards the provision of two respite units in Salthill for those with intellectual disabilities, and the €500 they received will add to their final total.

The Galway Red Cross needs no introduction, but after 60 years of service to the city they are trying to secure themselves a new base - and the €500 they received will go into that fundraising effort.

Maam Women's Group received €500 to help them continue to provide women from disadvantaged rural areas with the opportunity to have an input in local community development.

Community Catering, formerly known as Meals on Wheels, received €500 to help them continue their work, preparing and delivering hot, nutritious meals to people who are old, sick or live alone throughout Galway.

Leitrim/Kilcooley PTAA were awarded €500 to help towards the cost of purchasing a defibrillator for their local parish.

Abalta Special School caters for 18 children with autism, but many of them have outgrown their current chairs and tables. The €500 they received will help them replace these items of furniture so that the children can enjoy a safe, comfortable learning environment.

Pat Dillon and his Sunflowers Chernobyl Charity received €500 towards their continuing efforts to make life better for children with cancer in that part of the world, as they have done for ten years already.

Study Buddies at Na Calaf in Portumna assist children - often

disadvantaged backgrounds - with their homework and their self-confidence and to develop relationships with their peers and other adults and they were also awarded €500.

The Signout Youth Cafe, which is also run by Na Calaf, received €500 towards their goal of developing a purpose built youth cafe for local teens between 15 and 18 to meet and interact.

The Gort Parent and Toddler Group is only in its infancy, and they will use the €500 to secure a room for their meetings as they establish a support group for parents with young children in their area.

The Fusion Youth Club in Aughrim received €500 to help them continue their work with young people from the Aughrim/Ballinasloe area, which began six years ago and provides a mix of activities and discussion forums for members.

The Tuam branch of Multiple Sclerosis also received €500 towards their work, providing support to its members as well as offering advice the group also helps to pay for treatments such as visits to the physiotherapist or receiving acupuncture.

Console were awarded €500 towards their work in providing provide support, counselling service and a helpline for people bereaved by suicide.

The Meadow Cross Cultural Association in Ballinasloe received €500 towards their work integrating new arrivals into their local community, and helping many of the new immigrants to our country to settle into Irish society.



Asumpta Gallagher, Margaret Kearney and Niamh Browne of CD's Helping Hands, a winner of a Make it Happen Award, pictured with Dave O'Connell, Group Editor, Connacht Tribune Newspaper Group, John P. Hughes, General Manager, Combined Insurance, Ireland, and Deputy Eamon O Cuiv, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.



Pictured during the presentation of a Make it Happen Award to GRA were Dave O'Connell, Sheila Ryan, GRA, John P. Hughes, Ann Murphy and Jackie Davy of GRA and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



David Hickey, Chief Executive, Connacht Tribune Newspaper Group, Donal Nolan, Regional Manager, Combined Insurance, and Cormac Ryan, Marketing and Circulation Manager, Connacht Tribune Newspaper Group, at the Make it Happen Awards.



Galway minor football team players Damien Reddington and Tomas Fahy at the Make it Happen Awards.



Pictured during the presentation to Dunmore Macra na Feirme at the Make it Happen Awards were, from left: Dave O'Connell, Teresa Keaveney, Dunmore Macra, Christina Hession and her brother Fergus, Dunmore Macra, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



The Galway Carers Support Group were the recipients of a Make it Happen Award. Pictured during the presentation were, from left: Dave O'Connell, Chris Flaherty, Carers Support Group, John P. Hughes, Brid Lynch and Breege Clarke, Carers Support Group, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Pictured at the Make it Happen Awards were, from left: Dave O'Connell, Michael Conneely, Glenamaddy Community Development (award winner), John P. Hughes, Janette Slattery, Glenamaddy Community Development, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Majella Collins and Sarah Fahy of the Gort Parent Baby and Toddler Group with Dave O'Connell, John P. Hughes, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Pictured during the presentation of a Make it Happen Award to Annette Masterson and Pauline Henry were, from left: Dave O'Connell, Annette Masterson, John P. Hughes, David Ward, Pauline Henry, Martin Shaughnessy and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Pictured at the presentation to Hope House at the Make it Happen Awards were, from left: Dave O'Connell, Joe Coyne, Hope House, John P. Hughes, Karen Shaughnessy, Hope House, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Maura Murphy and Rosemary Hanley, both of the Maam Women's Group, receiving their Make it Happen Award from Dave O'Connell (left), John P. Hughes, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Pictured during the presentation of a Make it Happen Award to the St. Patrick's Scout Group at the Make it Happen Awards. Included are, from left: Dave O'Connell, John P. Hughes, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Bryan Cahill and Mary Collins receiving the award for St. Patrick's Scout Group at the Make it Happen Awards. Included are, from left: Dave O'Connell, John P. Hughes, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Galway Red Cross were recipients of a Make it Happen Award. Pictured during the presentation were Dave O'Connell, Michael Sullivan, Red Cross, John P. Hughes, Bernadette Tyrrell, Red Cross, Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Frances Ortega (left) and Regine Stewart of Study Buddies receiving their Make it Happen Award from Dave O'Connell, John P. Hughes, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Tom Ryder, Field Audits, Combined Insurance, and Galway minor footballers Tomas Fahy and Damien Reddington at the Make it Happen Awards.



Sonas Day Care representatives Teresa Heaney, Martina Cunningham, Bridget Mullins and Philomena Geoghegan, with Dave O'Connell, John P. Hughes, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.



Cope's Waterside House was the recipient of a Make it Happen Award. Pictured were, from left: Dave O'Connell, Ciara Tyrrell, Waterside House, John P. Hughes, Emer McDonagh and Bridget O'Hara, Waterside House, and Minister Eamon O Cuiv.