
CONWAY MILL TRUST

Volume 1, Issue 5

November 2008

Springhill Community House

Father Des Wilson

Springhill Community House visitors and students are finding an increasing interest in Health – finding health and keeping it. Various therapies were always available if you had money to spare. However, because people with expertise are now willing to offer their services to people who value them whether they can pay or not, this is changing.

Springhill House is hosting a range of possibilities for finding out how healthy you are, preserving health and preventing illness. This is in cooperation with other community associations, health and recreation centres in the district.

Continuing education in general has become easier as public authorities have become more open to it and communities like ours are getting better opportunities for paid work. Confidence is growing as a result. We believe as this goes on people are more able to recognize each others' achievements as well as each other's needs!

It was decided some years ago that the memory of internment without trial and its attendant horrors need not be celebrated with bonfires and sadness. People created a Festival, remembering those who suffered and were lost while also looking forward to a better future. The Festival ("An Feile" in the Irish Language) has become one of the biggest community festivals in Europe. Music, dancing, lectures, exhibitions, parades and inviting people from abroad to visit local communities. It is a sign of changing times, where people do the changing themselves!

We were happy to present the Tom Cox Memorial Award during the Festival this year – Tom was a

Your Donations At Work!

During a recent trip to Belfast, Conway Mill Trust Board members Bob and Jean Kaniecki distributed a total of \$7,150 in grants. If you would like your donation directed to a specific cause, write the group name in the check memo and 100% of your donation will be forwarded to that group.

Springhill Community House - \$400 USD

The grant was made to support the Suicide Prevention Project. There has been an alarming rise in suicides among young people in the North. If you wish to direct your donation to this worthy cause, please write "Suicide Prevention Project" in the check memo.

Windows of Opportunity Fund - \$5,050 USD

This program gives donors the opportunity to recognize a loved one or their favorite organization with a \$500 contribution to Conway Mill. Simply tell us the name of the person or organization you want recognized and write "windows fund" in the memo on your check or money order. For your convenience, you may make your contributions in ten easy installments of \$50 a month.

Naiscoil na Rinne - \$400 USD

Volunteer-staffed, this Irish language preschool childcare and family support centre serves children ages 3 to 10 years. Many of the centre's students pursue continuing education in the Irish language. Some have even gone on to provide business opportunities in the Irish Language.

Bloody Sunday Museum - \$600 USD

Adrian Kerr and his staff (all of whom are connected to Bloody Sunday) have done a tremendous job of assembling pictures, newspaper articles and other memorabilia which are displayed in special climate-controlled cases. As families donate precious "memories" from their loved ones who were killed, the need for more cases arises. Each case costs approximately \$4,000 USD.

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Springhill Community House, cont.

good friend who wrote plays, novels, articles and film scripts with the great theme of justice and dignity for all. He and his wife, Vita visited us often and gave evidence at one of the Public Inquiries set up by the House. This year the Award went to Clara Ni Giolla who when she retired from nursing in the Aran Islands and elsewhere came to Belfast and worked in education, setting up a credit union and community bank. She helped promote fair trading and aid for developing communities abroad, fostering the Irish language and culture and generally being an inspiration.

An enormous notice on the wall of Conway Mill is now telling us physical work on the restoration of the Mill is due to begin in November. That will mean a solid Thank You to our friends who helped get us thus far. There is a particular delight in building from nothing or restoring what is in danger of being lost. Springhill House grew up from a room in a city housing project; the festival developed out of protesting bonfires; Conway Mill lived again after a reign of pigeons and stray cats, while down by the docks a once beautiful church could be – just could be – restored as a welcoming gateway to Belfast if the local people get their way. So a happy part of the work now is not just to provide what is missing but to refresh inventiveness and help it flourish.

Receive Your Newsletter by Email

Receiving your copy of the newsletter by email reduces our postage costs and helps us conserve more contributor dollars for making grants.

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, just email us at:

editorconwaymilltrustinc@comcast.net

Donations at Work, cont.

Dove House - \$500 USD

Originally established to alleviate the effects of poverty, unemployment, broken marriages, single-parent families, domestic violence and social isolation among the women of the Bogside and Brandywell area, Dove House in recent years has turned greater attention to issues affecting the youth of the area – alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, poor academic achievement and poor relationships at home and in the community.

Altram Irish Language Fund - \$200 USD

Altram is a community-based regional support organization for the 48 Irish-language preschool and naiscoils across Northern Ireland. The organization provides a broad range of services and publications including nursery books, homework and support books as well as parent support books for those who are not bilingual. Each naiscoil has between 15 and 20 students.

Altram has nearly completed its innovative new early years Irish-language immersion education training center Two Windows on the World in partnership with the University of Ulster. The centre's core activity will be to deliver a much-needed University Accredited Certificate of Irish-language Immersion Education training course that meets the requirements of the Department of Education of Northern Ireland to teach in the naiscoils.

The training centre itself is structurally complete, however, about \$40,000 USD is still needed for equipment and furniture. If you would like to help them with this need, simply write "**Altram**" in the memo of your check or money order. As always 100% of your contribution goes directly to them.

Our New Mailing Address!

Please forward all correspondence and donations to our new address:

Conway Mill Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 101529
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Thank-You!

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