

MANAGEMENT C,

**alp** Ana Liffey Project



**THIRD ANNUAL REPORT**

**- 1985**

**13, Lr. Abbey Street  
Dublin 1.**

### **Third Annual Report (1985)**

" An awful lot of what the street agencies are doing is getting to know the drug users, very unmotivated people. I think we have a priority to them as much as to the motivated people, so when the unmotivated people become motivated, then we move in."

DRUG RELATED SOCIAL WORK IN  
STREET AGENCIES.  
UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA.

**13, Lr. Abbey St., Dublin**

**Tel 786899**

## **Project Work Areas**

### **Streetwork**

" If they want to live on the streets, leave them there."

- Is a drug user only a human being when they stop using drugs.

### **Prison**

" As far as he is concerned, the only hope an addict has is to be put in prison and be de-toxed there."

"Sunday Tribune" Dec. 8th 1985.

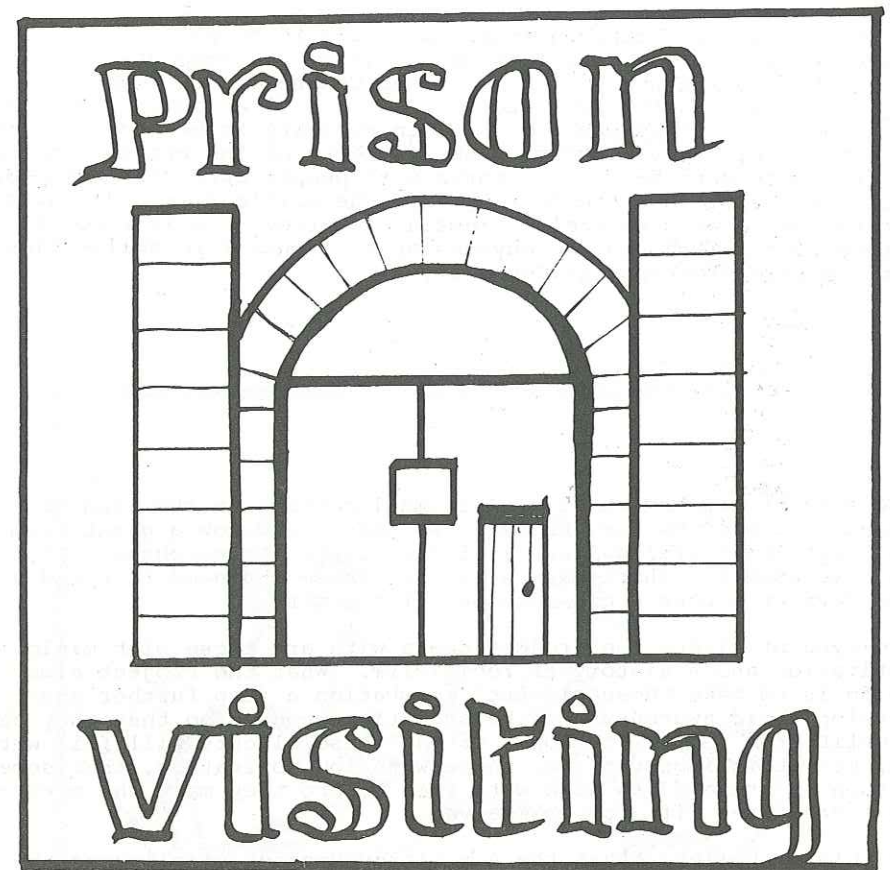
When we reach into this no hope situation by letter or by visit, we assent that there is another chance for the addicted prisoner on the outside.

### **Drop In/Day Centre**

" We've done well, but now for us, education is a priority; to go forward the individual must learn, must understand, and then live the reality."

### **Special Areas of Concern**

The further alienation of the drug user from society by the media's hysterical reaction to the A.I.D.S. virus and its appearance in Ireland.



## Introduction

The Ana Liffey Project was founded in 1983 to supply and support the ex-drug user who wanted to undertake a programme of rehabilitation in his own community. The Drop-In/Day Centre offers counselling and group work as the major tools for rehabilitation in a drug free area, enabling those who are still in recovery to develop and grow in a supportive environment. Other aspects of the Project include a streetwork outreach, which works with people currently using drugs. These are people who are looking for a detoxification and want some strategies to help themselves remain drug free - be it through attendance at Narcotics Anonymous or residential rehabilitation with Coolmine Therapeutic Community.

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The Project has had the use of a small cottage in the Glen of Imaal, Co. Wicklow for the past two years, and now a grant from the Dept. of Social Welfare will facilitate its purchase. This we have used for short-term stays for those who need to spend a few days or a couple of weeks out of the city.

The type of client the Project deals with are those with minimal motivation and a history of recidivism. What the Project aims to do is to take those clients' motivation a step further and develop their awareness of the addiction process so that they can benefit from rehabilitation. Often, these clients will fail with us, but it is important for those with low motivation, that some person be prepared to work with them before they make the move to a drug free life for themselves.

In this we believe, that the Ana Liffey Project compliments the services that have developed in the past 15 years and serves a client population which has proved over the period, to be both difficult to treat and recitivist afterwards. If you think of a ladder, the type of agency role that the Ana Liffey Project fills, is the bottom rung of social work provision for the drug users. Motivation and persistence are qualities that are in short supply for those this far down the ladder, possibly homeless, regularly used and abused by others, half the time "stoned" and generally in bad health. The Project is attempting to develop a way which is available for such people and which they can use for help themselves.

## Two Steps Forward - One Step Back

This Report covers the period from January 1985 to December 1985 and more than anything looks at the problems we have faced in the past year. The population of the drug users known to the Centre during 1984 are still with us in one guise or another and over the year we have been approached in various ways by over sixty more.

This year, much of the time was spent stabilizing the Drop-In and Day Centre in terms of the programme and the necessary skills needed to run such a programme.





Little has changed for the agency in terms of the client population over the past year. Most of the problems that we were coming up with last year are emerging to be fairly standard in the drug user's life; homelessness, unemployment, ill health amongst many others. Unfortunately, little points towards a drop in the numbers of drug users in the city. But facts seem to point to a more entrenched drug use within an older section of the population, and this appears to be primarily narcotic use. However, we are still seeing a fair number of people with different types of substance abuse problems. Most worrying however, is the number of people approaching the Project, or who are referred there, who are obviously suffering from some form of psychological dysfunction which may have its origin in abuse of hallucinogens. Another drug which is in the news a lot this year is Cocaine. To date, we are not aware of any great use of this substance at street level, despite massive confiscations at customs and police levels. However, if indications from other European countries are to be believed, this will soon be a significant drug in the consumer network of Dublin.

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A lot of the people who have successfully used the Project's facilities are now productive members of society, but many more are still at the stage of trying and failing. There is a process of growth and change that can only be achieved at the individual's own pace, and in an atmosphere of positive regard. For many of these, whose attempts have been numerous, all we can do is be there with them for the next attempt. Increasingly over the year, the concerned family have been coming in contact with the Centre and some positive work has been done with them. Occasionally, the Project has worked with the parents without working with the addicted person. This has proved beneficial both for the individual and the family; in information sharing and facilitating the decision making process of the family.

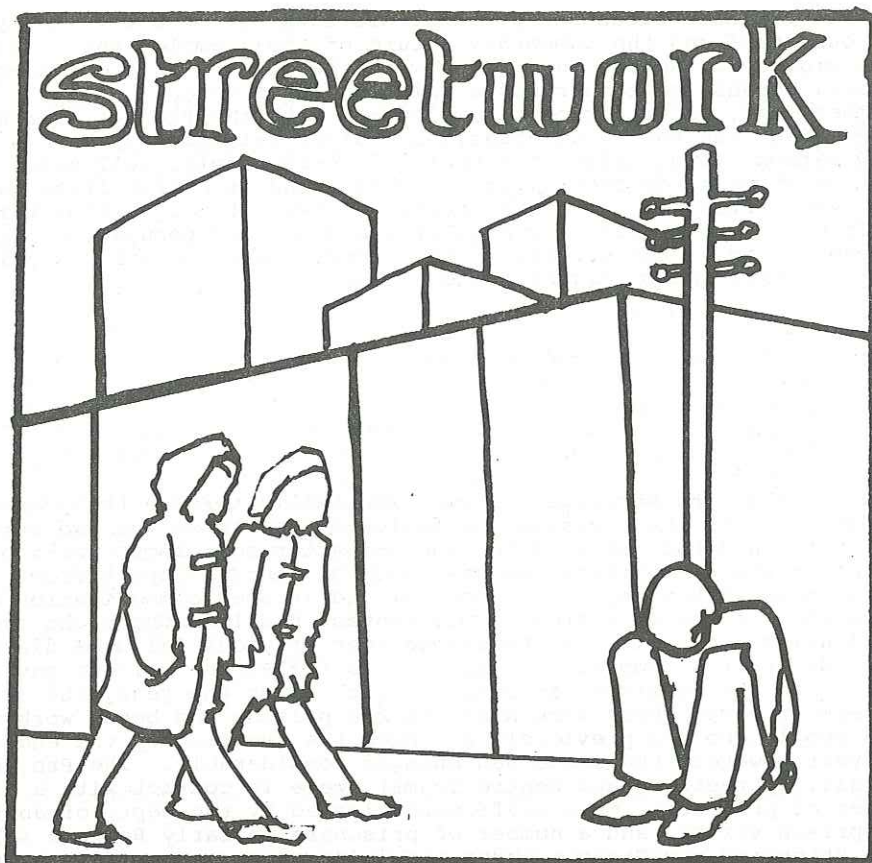
In all of these areas our greatest drawback has been both the youth of our staff and the temporary nature of their employment. This has proved disruptive in dealing with the clients on a one-to-one basis, because no sooner had a relationship developed than the staff member left, their period of employment with the Project over and the client was forced to establish another relationship with a new person. Similarly, the youth of these people, (all under 25), has meant that the older drug user has found it difficult to relate to them. From the Streetwork point of view, it was difficult for people who had little knowledge of the drug user population, to be acknowledged on the streets by the users, and to be a focus point for de-toxification planning and support.

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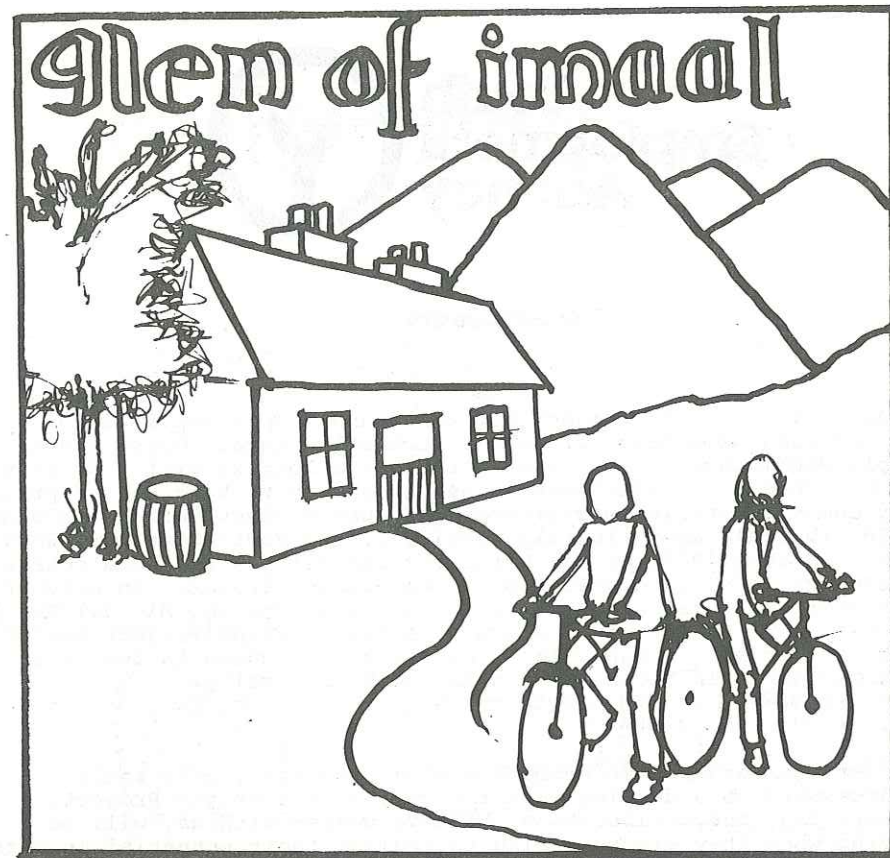
Despite this, the Streetwork grew dramatically through the year with hospital visits, home visits and follow-ups of those who had attended the Centre and had returned to drug use after some short weeks of attending the de-toxification unit and the Centre. Apart from this, the Streetwork has kept us in contact and in open communication with those who are now drug free. This contact has left those who are still using drugs with the knowledge that previous failures did not preclude other attempts. In this it has filled the role we envisaged for it and has developed it even further. Over the year, the Streetworkers extended their work areas to the prisons and began working with people who had previously attended the Centre. By the end of the year however, the issue had changed considerably. The Project overall, (Streetwork and Centre Teams), were in contact with a fair number of prisoners, more staff were cleared by the Dept. of Justice for prison visits, and a number of prisoners on Early Release Schemes were attending the Project under the joint supervision of both the Prison Welfare Officers and the Project staff. This to date has worked well, though it has not been without its failures, despite the best attempts on all our parts. We hope this area of co-operation can continue.

Out of all these areas, the one that gives us greatest concern at this time, (Dec. '85 - Jan. '86), are those drug users who are still taking drugs intravenously. The lack of hygiene, of information and of equipment make them a target for the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, A.I.D.S. For the Project, as one of the agencies working at the street level with current users, this poses many dilemmas, such as how to acquaint the individual about the necessary hygiene details for their protection. This must be done without distressing the individual to such a degree that he/she is precipitated into more frantic behaviour in an attempt to escape from the fear attached to the virus. There are indications that the prevalence of this virus, A.I.D.S., amongst the drug using population is already high, but with the sharing of unsterilised syringes, it can only spread. This then, has implications for couples of which one member is a drug user, and ultimately for children of drug users.





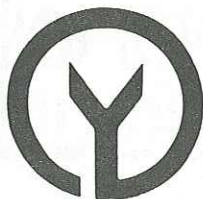
In the past three years, regrettably, five of the people known to the Project have died. Two of these deaths were due to overdoses and three were suicides. It's a high level of human wastage among a population of young people already facing so many problems. Hopefully the next few years will produce some changes which might diminish this waste.



The Cottage in the Glen of Imaal was used fairly extensively in the early part of the year. This resulted in people being snowed in with great hilarity and enjoyment all round, while a lot of positive work was done. However, this proved to be a large financial drain on the Project's meagre funds and at Easter we were forced to stop running the house as a short-term residential Centre.

In September, one of the highlights of the year was a cycle done by both staff and clients to the house, with a barbeque and over night stay in the Glen. Great fun was had by all involved, even if the size of the house and the number of people there prevented a good nights sleep.

During the year various work projects were undertaken on the house and the land. These include repairing the drainage for the house and the clearing of the land attached. We still don't own the house, but all indications are that the money will be through from the Dept. of Health to close the sale in the first quarter of 1986.



## The Workers

In January 1985, the Project had ten young people employed under the auspices of a Dept. of Labour Teamwork Scheme. These young people did much over the year, both in the context of the Drop-In and Day Centre, and in breaking new ground by working in the prison. They came from varied backgrounds and most are now working in other fields, but all are primarily working in the Youth/Community work area. In June 1985, Andrew Horne successfully completed a course of studies leading to a Diploma in Addiction Studies. In October, two other staff members left to do this same course, Michael Butler and Martin T. O'Sullivan. A new departure for the Project was the fact that Grainne Delaney left the Project to pursue a two year diploma course in Youth Work in Maynooth University.

Now our Teamwork Scheme members are six and they, like their predecessors, are dealing with the varied life of the Project. Regretfully, they, like those who have worked with us, will be leaving when they are beginning to realise their potential in working with clients. This produces a disruption in the relationship with clients and effectively puts a lot of work back, by a step at least.

## Volunteer and Others

Volunteers have been with us in various capacities, both training and working in different guises. We must thank those who have consistently worked with our clients over the years; John Mullane, Paula Murray, Anne Drew and Lars Persson, who unfortunately had to return to his home country, Sweden. Also those people who have stayed involved with us in a training capacity over the years:

Mary Ellen McCann      David Gaffney S.J.      Tom McGrath S.J.

## The Management Group

Over the year, by dint of strenuous effort on the part of the Management Council, the Project became a private limited company with charitable status. Apart from this, they have borne with us through many trials during the year; lack of funds, delays in grant allocation and all the many disruptions that voluntary agencies inevitably face. Our new status has meant that some of the old group have left us and new people have taken the step to join us. We are sorry to lose Paula Scully, who to a large degree is responsible for the present legal status and we wish her all success in her legal career.

Those we are welcoming are:

Shane Butler	- Course Co-Ordinator, Diploma in Addictions Studies.
Michael Gill	- Managing Director, Gill & MacMillan.
Catriona Gahan	- Solicitor, B.P. O'Reilly & Co. Ltd.
Mary Curran	- Accountant, Irish Life.

These join those who have agreed to stay with us until our First Annual General Meeting:

Fr. Michael Mernagh O.S.A.	- Company Chairman.
Mrs. Carol Matthews.	- Company Secretary.
Michael Ryan.	- Company Treasurer.
Major Derek Dolling.	- Salvation Army.
Bill Gentles.	- Psychiatric Social Worker.
Frank Brady S.J.	- Director.
Mara de Lacy.	- Administrative Director.
Joy Mitchell.	- Project Leader.



## Funding

Apart from the Temporary Youth Employment Scheme Grant which has paid these young workers in the Project, we have been entirely dependant on voluntary contributions. We must thank the Dept. of Labour, Youth Affairs Section, and the Youth Employment Agency and hope that co-operation between us will continue.

We are very grateful to those organisations who have supported us. This year we give a full list of businesses who have contributed to us whether continuously over the last three years or just once.

Aer Rianta.  
Amdahl.  
American Irish Foundation.  
Ana Liffey Fundraising Groups.  
The Boots Company (Irl) Ltd.  
Becton Dickinson & Co. Ltd.  
Brother Int. Corp. (Irl) Ltd.  
P.J. Carroll.  
Catholic Social Service Conference.  
Conference of European Churches.  
James Crean Ltd.  
J. & E. Davy.  
E.S.B.O.A.  
First National Building Society.  
Gill & MacMillan.  
Glaxo.  
Hoescht Ireland Ltd.  
I.B.M.  
The Ireland Fund.  
Irish Banks Standing Committee  
on behalf of  
Allied Irish Banks Ltd.  
Bank of Ireland.  
Northern Bank Ltd.  
Ulster Bank Ltd.  
Irish Life.

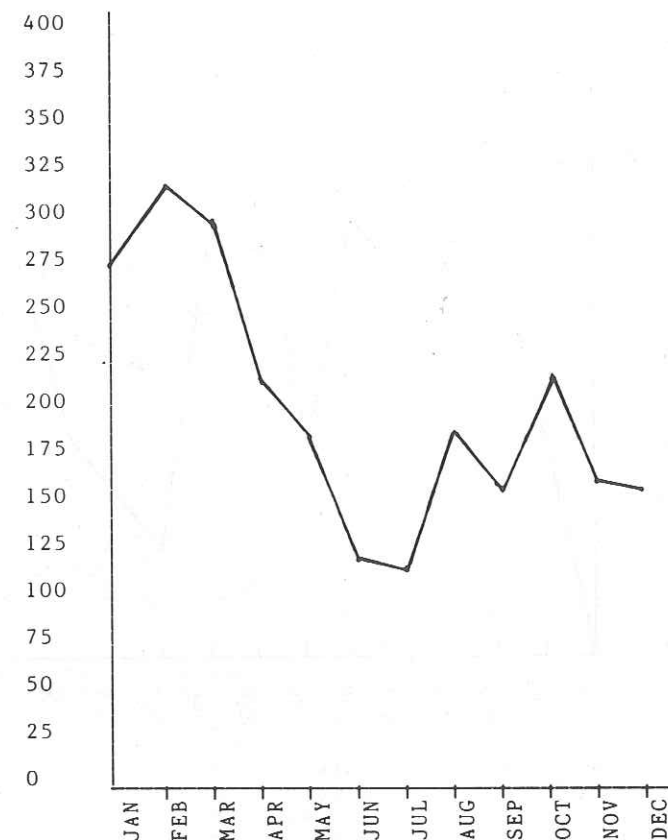
12 Irish Mutual Building Society.

Irish Permanent Building Society  
Irish Shell Ltd.  
Irish Sisters of Charity.  
John Jefferson Smurfit Foundation  
Leo Laboratories Ltd.  
Lions Clubs.  
Linson.  
Local Government & Public Service  
Union.  
Lombard & Ulster Banking Ltd.  
Merck Sharpe & Dohme.  
National Truck Rental.  
New Dublin Gas.  
Newport Pharmaceuticals.  
Organon.  
Penn Chemicals B.V.  
Quinnsworth.  
Reckitt & Colman.  
Servier Laboratories.  
The Smith Group.  
Smurfit Corrugated Cases Ltd.  
The Society Jesus.  
Stokes Kennedy & Crowley Ltd.  
Ulster Investment Bank Ltd.  
United Pharmacists Co-Op.  
Wellcome Ireland & Co. Ltd.  
T.P. Whelehan & Co. Ltd.

## MONTHLY STATISTICS

### INTERVENTIONS

### CENTER REPORT



January 270  
February 318  
March 291  
April 208  
May 176  
June 119

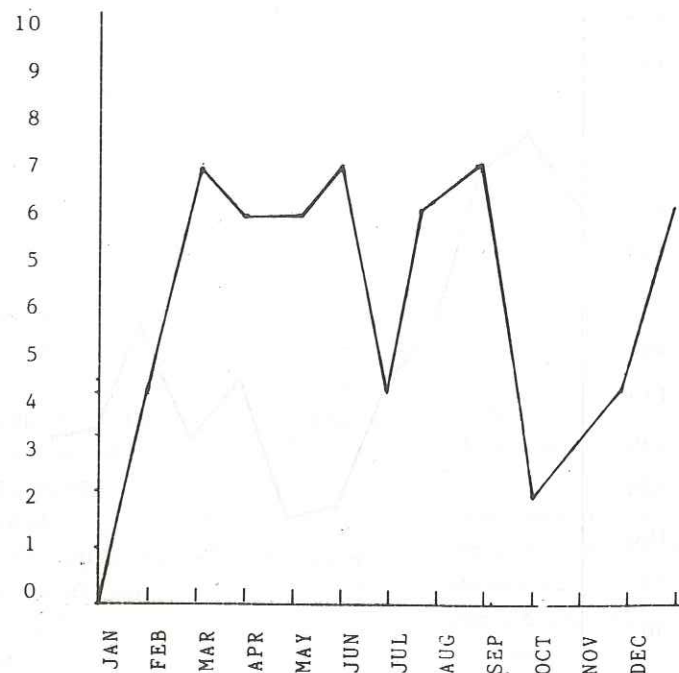
July 114  
August 179  
September 155  
October 219  
November 156  
December 153



# MONTHLY STATISTICS

## REFERRALS

### CENTRE REPORT

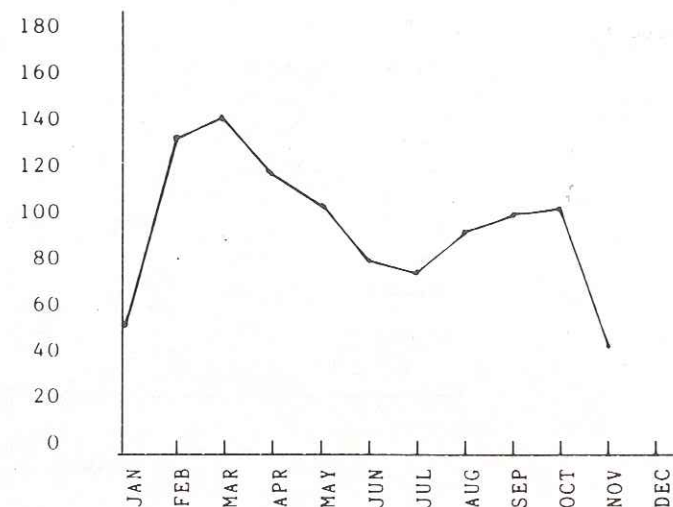


January	4	July	6
February	7	August	7
March	6	September	2
April	6	October	3
May	7	November	4
June	4	December	6

This chart shows the number of people who had their first contact with the Project.

# MONTHLY STATISTICS

## STREETWORK REPORT



January	53	July	71
February	129	August	83
March	136	September	85
April	115	October	88
May	96	November	41
June	73	December	*

\* No statistics are available for December due to the members of the Street Team having to cease employment because of the end of their Teamwork Scheme.

ANA LIFFEY PROJECT

EXTRACT FROM INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

<u>YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>PROJECTED 1986</u>
	IRE	IRE	IRE
<u>INCOME</u>			
Charitable donations :	56,457	30,925	
State Grants and Youth Employment Schemes	32,451	53,163	
Other Income	4,535	2,405	
	<u>93,443</u>	<u>86,493</u>	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Staff Wages and overheads	68,365	93,687	* 52,000
Transfer to special reserve	25,078	-	-
	<u>93,443</u>	<u>93,687</u>	<u>52,000</u>
(Excess) of Expenditure over Income	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,194)</u>	

\*Note :

As income from the State is expected to be substantially reduced in 1986, the figure for projected expenditure in 1986 represents expenditure to be met solely from ALP's own fund raising activities.

Special thanks must go to Niall Naessens who drew the pictures for last years Report and was shamefully forgotten in the credits.

This year our gratitude goes to Donal O'Sullivan who produced the latest sketches, while at the same time having to supply art and craft activities for those who attend the Centre.

