

POOR

YOU

REVIEW
2011

★ YOUNG PEOPLE LEADING
HAPPIER, HEALTHIER
& MORE FULFILLED LIVES

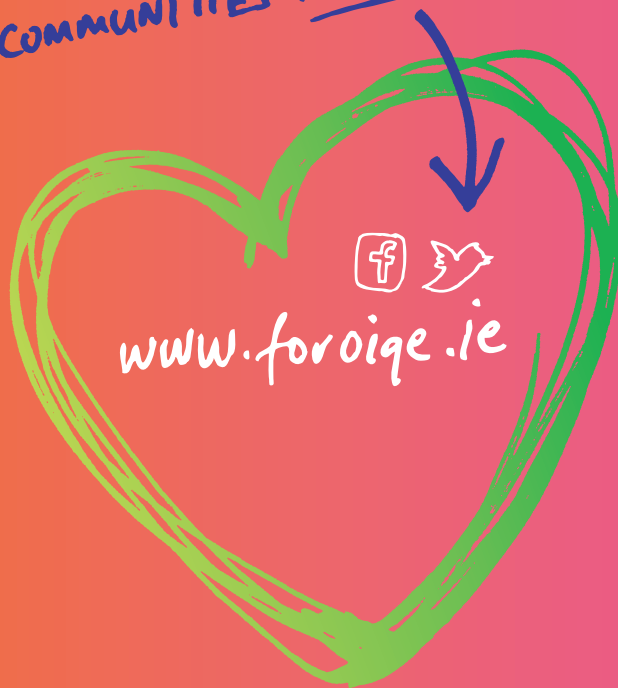
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IRELAND'S LEADING
YOUTH ORGANISATION

empowering youth
enriching communities




AT THE HEART OF
BUILDING STRONGER
COMMUNITIES IN IRELAND



FOOD

EVERY ONE



Foróige is Ireland's largest youth organisation working with almost 57,000 young people and 5,125 volunteers every year. We empower young people to play an active and positive role in their families, their communities and their futures.

"I was bullied at school because I was overweight and didn't like football like the other kids. Foróige taught me how to be me. So what if I wasn't good at sports or the skinniest fella? I must be good at something. Foróige helped me realise that what I am actually good at is helping others."

Marc Gallagher, Blanchardstown





OUR PURPOSE
YOUR POTENTIAL



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POOR ÓIGE

REVIEW
2011

"I don't think I would be the person I am today if I hadn't been involved with Foróige – it was somewhere I went to explore what kind of person I was. It brought out the best in me."

Sarah Dunleavy, Carrick-on-Suir

empowering youth
enriching communities
foróige

BAND ON THE STRAND,
HOSTED BY LACKEN FORÓIGE CLUB, Co. MAYO





Foreword

Frances Fitzgerald, T.D.,

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs



The challenges facing our young people can often be immense. Therefore, I believe it is vitally important that our youth services be responsive to the changing needs of Ireland's young people and their communities. Foróige is very much to the fore in delivering innovative new service models.

As Minister for Children and Youth Affairs I am delighted to contribute to Foróige's 2011 Annual Review.

I wish to congratulate Foróige on another successful year of delivery for Ireland's youth. During 2011 I had the opportunity to meet with many Foróige staff and volunteers and indeed with many young people involved with Foróige projects right around the country.

I have been greatly impressed with the fantastic and innovative range of youth work activities being provided by Foróige clubs, local youth services, development projects and youth cafés. It is clear that this multi-faceted approach has served Foróige very well in meeting the developmental and educational needs of young people in a holistic way and providing targeted interventions where and when required.

The challenges facing our young people can often be immense. Therefore, I believe it is vitally important that our youth services be responsive to the changing needs of Ireland's young people and their communities. Foróige is very much to the fore in delivering innovative new service models and I wish to commend the entire organisation, led by your National Executive, National Council and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Seán Campbell.

As you will be aware, the Government formally established my new Department for Children and Youth Affairs in June 2011. My Department's mandate is to put in place a unified framework of policy, legislation and service provision across the whole-of-government in order to improve outcomes for children and young people .

One of my Department's immediate priority objectives is to prepare a high-level, overarching policy framework for Children & Young People, reflecting a coordinated,

seamless approach to the whole-of-childhood and youth. This will be followed by the preparation of three more detailed strategies for early years; middle childhood and youth.

I look forward to shortly launching a dynamic consultation campaign and I hope that Foróige clubs along with individual youth leaders and young people will make submissions and lend your voices and your ideas to the future direction of Irish youth policy

The coming year will also see the ongoing progression of reforms to the youth work funding stream to ensure that youth organisations such as Foróige have the flexibility to refocus and prioritise, in particular in the context of the financial constraints facing us all.

2011 saw the opening of many new youth cafés, including by Foróige. I place a particular importance on the provision of youth cafés and the evidence I have seen from around the country proves the benefit of providing such facilities for young people, in particular given the increased focus by Government on providing healthy, alcohol-free venues. I have secured additional capital funding for both 2012 and 2013 to support the continued development of new youth café facilities.

Finally, I believe that by working together we can continue to support our young people to achieve their aspirations, to become active and responsible citizens and to create a society we can all be proud of.

I wish Foróige every success in your continuing good work and I look forward to working with your organisation and the broader youth sector in 2012 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Frances".

Frances Fitzgerald, T.D.
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

A message from

Mairi McMahon,

Chairperson, National Council of Foróige



Foróige believes that every young person, no matter what their circumstances, deserves the chance to be great. We believe that all young people have potential, even if they can't see it for themselves and what we do in Foróige is facilitate them to unleash it.

Foróige believes that every young person, no matter what their circumstances, deserves the chance to be great. We believe that all young people have potential, even if they can't see it for themselves and what we do in Foróige is facilitate them to unleash it.

The recent economic downturn has been painful for a lot of people, but it is very clear that young people have been amongst the hardest hit. Our young people need us now more than ever and demand for Foróige's volunteer-led and targeted services is at an all time high.

Foróige's reach grew from 53,000 to 57,000 young people in 2011 and this growth was concentrated in the volunteer-led side of our youth work.

I am greatly inspired to see such a strong return to community action and volunteerism in the face of Ireland's economic challenges. Together we are succeeding in building stronger, more resilient communities and a better Ireland as a result.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the growing number of volunteers and staff who make this organisation great. It is not an easy time to be young in Ireland and it is vital that our young people have positive role models in their communities, promoting the spirit and value of volunteerism, which we hope will continue into their adult lives. In this light I am happy to announce the appointment of Foróige's Volunteer Manager, Denis O'Brien, who will ensure that we continue to support our volunteers to the highest possible standard.

I would like to congratulate Foróige CEO, Seán Campbell, who was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by NUI Galway this year. It was a much deserved personal honour for Seán, but it was also a wonderful tribute to the young people, volunteers and staff of Foróige.

It is a testament to the fact that our work matters and is making a real difference.

Our enlightened funders in both the public and private sectors have continued to support us when we need them most. On behalf of the almost 57,000 young people that you have empowered to believe in themselves and their futures, I say a big thank you.

I am confident that our committed partners and supporters will continue to stick with us through this challenging time in Ireland's history because they believe in young people, they believe in Foróige and they believe that this generation will be the innovators, wealth creators, entrepreneurs and leaders of the future.

As my time as Chairperson draws to a close, I look back in celebration of the wonderful achievements of Foróige and look forward to witnessing what the future holds for the organisation with great optimism.

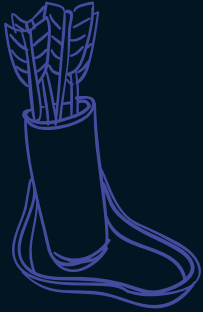
I would especially like to thank Foróige CEO, Seán Campbell and all of the Foróige staff, particularly the volunteers and staff in Limerick, for their unwavering support. My sincere gratitude also goes to my dedicated colleagues on the National Council and National Executive of Foróige.

Finally, and most importantly, I pay tribute to Foróige's young people who inspired me each and every time I met them, regardless of the circumstances. It is their organisation and they are at the heart of everything we do.

Mairi Mc Mahon
Chairperson,
National Council of Foróige

THE FACTS + FIGURES

REVIEW 2011



Foróige's purpose is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society.



WORKING WITH

WOAH!



56,952

YOUNG PEOPLE

50/50

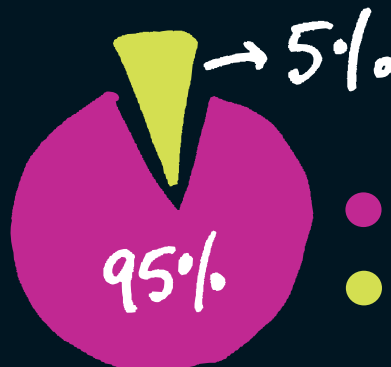
There is an almost perfect 50/50 split between males and females involved in Foróige.



HOW YOUR MONEY IS SPENT

5,125

VOLUNTEERS



95% is spent directly on work with young people

5% is invested in generating funds and support costs

531

531 FORÓIGE CLUBS

Self-governing clubs for young people supported by adult volunteers.



4,396

4,396 YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECTS

Community based adolescent and family support services with a particular emphasis on working with young people who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, personal or social difficulties.



*
ÓIGE
MEANS YOUTH
IN IRISH

4,050

4,050 YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER

One-to-one mentoring programme which matches an adult volunteer with a young person.



4,249

4,249 YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN DRUGS PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROJECTS

Provide drug awareness and education programmes to young people, parents and members of the community, including staff and volunteers from local organisations.

1,968

1,968 YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN GARDA YOUTH DIVERSION PROJECTS

Community based and supported youth development projects which seek to divert young people away from becoming involved, or further involved, in anti-social or criminal behaviour.



51

51 FORÓIGE YOUTH CAFÉS

Provide young people with an outlet to socialise in a safe environment, get involved in enjoyable activities, deal with concerns they may have and get appropriate support as necessary.



48%

48% of the young people we serve are aged 15-18 – Foróige is bucking the trend in youth work.



1 in 10 young people in Ireland are involved in Foróige.

www.foroige.ie



Believing in Better

Seán Campbell

Chief Executive Officer, Foróige.



Against a challenging economic backdrop Foróige is working harder than ever to provide our young people with opportunities to meet their true potential.

I believe that as a nation our destiny will be written by us, not for us. I'm confident and hopeful for Ireland and this is inspired by the enthusiasm, idealism and goodness of the 56,952 young people Foróige works with. I believe in them and I believe in their future.

60 years ago a number of visionaries had an idea that was deemed to be an experiment in non-formal education.

Today that experiment impacts positively on the lives of 56,952 young people, their families, their communities and their country as a whole.

56,952
YOUNG
PEOPLE

"It is in Foróige's DNA to be innovative, creative and push the boundaries of possibility for young people, their communities and our country."

Seán Campbell

Every year young people vote with their feet and come back to Foróige in growing numbers. They don't do this because they have to, they do it because they want to, their needs are being met and their lives are improved because of it.

The importance of providing opportunities for young people to socialise in a safe environment cannot be underestimated. I was very much inspired by members of Foróige's Reference Panel who discussed the increasing prevalence of bullying in Irish Society at a recent meeting. I was heartened to hear that Foróige is a safe place for young people, a place where they are accepted for who they are and a place where they feel a sense of belonging. We must ensure that this remains a bedrock of what we do.

I was reminded of Stephanie's story, who was a former member of Newcastle Foróige Club, Co. Wicklow, from last year's Annual Review. Stephanie described her experience very candidly

"I felt I belonged at Foróige, in a way I didn't feel at school. I was bullied in school and felt like I was nobody. In Foróige, I was somebody. Being actively involved in the Club gave me confidence and self belief, feelings that had been taken away by my bullying experience."

Foróige@60

60 years ago a number of visionaries had an idea that was deemed to be an experiment in non-formal education. Today that experiment impacts positively on the lives of 56,952 young people, their families, their communities and their country as a whole.

I hope that we have done them proud.

The bold concept got the stamp of approval from the then Minister of Education, Sean Moylan and the Minister for Agriculture, Thomas Walsh, who both attended the first meeting of the organisation on the 14th of March 1952. Speaking at the meeting Minister Moylan said

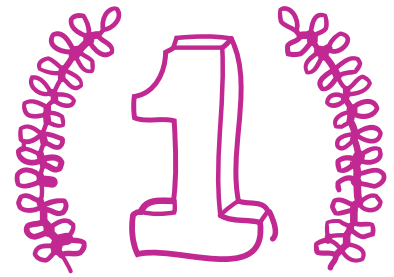
"There can be no remedy for our manifold national ills if we cannot create a spirit of courage and enterprise in our young people."

This sentiment resonates as strongly in Ireland 2012 as it did in Ireland 1952.

To this day Foróige works in proud partnership with the state to deliver world class youth programmes and initiatives to the young people of Ireland. Together we change young people's lives and we change them every day.

It is in Foróige's DNA to be innovative, creative and push the boundaries of possibility for young people, their communities and our country. We are passionately committed to delivering the best possible outcomes for Ireland's youth. So even in the face of economic difficulties Foróige will continue to be courageous and fight to ensure that more young people get access to better youth services and live more fulfilled lives as a result.

Foróige has always been to the fore in developing new initiatives to meet youth needs



Foróige established in 1952.



FORÓIGE FIRSTS

1960s & 1970s



First to articulate youth work as educational.

1980s



First to establish general youth services in disadvantaged areas.

1990s



First Foróige Garda Youth Diversion Projects developed.

2001



First in Europe to establish an Intel Computer Clubhouse.



Brought the Big Brother Big Sister mentoring programme to Ireland.

2002

Established the first youth café, the GAF in Galway, with the HSE.



2009



First UNESCO Chair Awarded in Ireland to NUI Galway. Foróige announced as NGO partner.



2006

First Best Practice Unit for youth work in Ireland established.

Foróige secures the largest sponsorship of youth work in Ireland from permanent tsb to grow and enhance its Youth Citizenship Programme.

2011

First Randomised Control Trial in Irish Youth Work conducted on Foróige's Big Brother Big Sister Programme.



TEEN PARENTS
SUPPORT PROGRAMME



NOW I KNOW THAT WE
WILL BE OK AND THAT
I CAN MAKE A BETTER LIFE
FOR ME AND MY DAUGHTER



"My wee girl Leona is now three and I couldn't imagine my life without her – and I couldn't imagine what my life would have been like without the Teen Parents Support Programme either. I remember when I first got involved thinking I just couldn't do it on my own, but now I know that we will be OK and that I can make a better life for me and my daughter."

Mandy, 19

I was 16 when I found out I was pregnant and I was in shock – I'd never planned to be a teenage mum and being honest, it was terrifying. There was so much other stuff going on for me and my family at that time, the last thing we needed was this news. In time we got our heads around it and luckily I was referred to the Teen Parent Support Programme.

From then on my life started to get better. I was completely focused on my beautiful new baby girl. I'm so thankful for Tara, I would be lost without her. She helped me with a lot of things – things that at 16, you just wouldn't know about, like budgeting and juggling work and childcare. She was always there for me. I remember when I first got involved thinking I just couldn't do it on my own, but now I know that we will be OK and that I can make a better life for me and my daughter.

I'm actually going back to school now, so that's a big step, because I had given up on education a long time ago. I'm excited about getting into the classroom again.

My wee girl Leona is now three and I couldn't imagine my life without her – and I couldn't imagine what my life would have been like without the Teen Parents Support Programme either. There have been challenges along the way, but everything is a lot easier now. Having Tara there takes a lot of stress off my shoulders, if I'm not feeling OK, then I can just come out with whatever is wrong, she helps me work through it.

As well as providing help, advice and support, they organise lots of different activities and treats that as a new mum you really appreciate, like organising a hairdresser to come in and for us to get our hair done – things that really give you a boost of confidence.

I'm much happier now. I have been able to meet other teen parents and I have made a lot of friends there. And I'm happy for Leona, she has been able to meet new children and make friends too.

Big Brother Big Sister



No man is an island and if anything could fully embody this spirit of friendship, mentoring and sharing it would be Foróige's Big Brother Big Sister programme. Volunteers display the ultimate in generosity – that of giving time. A young person in need of a positive role model gets that and so much more! A parent sees their child flourish in a way they never previously thought possible. In 2011 young people were matched with adult volunteers in Dublin, Westmeath, Galway, Cork, Roscommon, Offaly, Mayo, Cavan, Monaghan, Donegal, Sligo and Kilkenny.

Annette has noticed some really positive changes,

"Jessica has gained a lot of confidence which allows her to see that she is a great person to be around. She is quiet by nature but now Jessica is emerging from her shell. Her father died when she was just 18 months old and her younger brother Aaron has special needs. With all this going on she just doesn't get enough attention at home. When we first met Jessica hadn't read a full book, but now she reads all the time and we chat about what we've read. From a personal point of view meeting Jessica has been an invaluable experience for me because I am currently training to become a teacher. I am now much better prepared for the profession."

Jessica's mom Yvonne says that Big Brother Big Sister has lifted a huge weight off her shoulders.

"Jessica holds everything back and she won't open up at home because she's afraid of upsetting me. It's a huge relief that she now has someone to talk to because she actually does confide in Annette. Her confidence has sky-rocketed and that really is thanks to Big Brother Big Sister."

Overview

The concept behind Foróige's **Big Brother Big Sister programme** is simple but the results are incredible. A young person is matched with an adult volunteer based on shared interests. The young person may have previously felt isolated in some way and needed a little bit of extra support. Big Brother Big Sister is getting BIGGER. In 2010 1,622 young people were matched with an adult volunteer. In 2011 that figure had risen to 2,324 – that's an increase of 702 in just one year.

The Big Brother Big Sister programme has been independently assessed and it passed with flying colours. A study by NUI Galway concluded that the programme, which has its origins in the U.S, is very well run in Ireland and is...

'an extremely valuable, low-cost intervention for young people who need support.'

The start of something BIG

29-year-old mature student Annette Kennedy and 13-year-old Foróige member Jessica Phelan began their Big Sister Little Sister partnership eight months ago in west Dublin. They share an interest in baking, shopping, going to the cinema and they even workout at the gym together. Jessica explains, *"Annette is lot of fun to be around. At first it was a little weird being around someone I didn't know but now we have great craic. Annette is now one of my best friends and I always look forward to seeing her."*



2010
1,622
young people



increase of 702
participants
in just one year.



2011
2,324
young people

Encouraging Enterprise

The best part of Foróige's Youth Entrepreneurship Programme, NFTE, is the young people who take part, brimming with ideas, energy and creativity. Ireland needs entrepreneurs like never before and what NFTE does, like no other youth programme, is tap into their can-do attitude and enthusiasm. Giving young people the skills they need to reach their full potential is what NFTE is all about.

In May 2011, the Youth Entrepreneurship Awards took place at The Helix in Dublin. 700 young go-getters were honoured for their participation in the programme. There could only be one overall winner however and that was Kyle McMahon from Coolock in Dublin. The judges were really impressed with Kyle's business called 'Kyle's Woodcrafts'. The talented 18 year old continues to make and sell wooden toys.

Through NFTE he also got the opportunity to showcase his work at an event for young entrepreneurs from all over Europe in Vienna. He also exhibited at the prestigious annual National Crafts and Design Fair in Dublin's RDS.

"The NFTE programme has actually changed my life. For a while I was going down the wrong path but now everything seems possible. The experience has been amazing. It's only now I realise that people are there to help if only you'll let them. School just wasn't for me, but I was always great with my hands and through Foróige I now have a chance to really make something of myself," says Kyle.

Like any good business idea, NFTE has plans to expand. In 2012 and 2013 the programme will begin operating in Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Roscommon.

Overview

Foróige's **Youth Entrepreneurship Programme, NFTE** (Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship) is a world recognised youth entrepreneurship education and development programme that originated in the USA and was brought to Ireland in 2004. The management of NFTE was taken on by Foróige in 2009. NFTE is committed to changing the lives of young people by enabling them to develop skills in business and enterprise, and in doing so helping them to unlock their individual talents and potential. NFTE's in-school and out-of-school programmes have both been successful in building self confidence and interpersonal skills in young people as well as increasing school completion and college attendance rates. NFTE operates in 40 locations across Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Donegal, Tipperary and Belfast.



103

103 trained NFTE teachers

1,000

young participants



450 businesses with a turnover of €180,000

450

€180,000



40 sites in Southern and Northern Ireland

Top Teens Superb Citizens



"The sense of duty and service you see in the Citizenship Awards blows me away...They give us faith in the future, in Ireland's future."

Bono

Overview

The **permanent tsb Foróige Youth Citizenship Programme** is a youth development programme that empowers young people to use their talents and initiative to make a positive difference to the world around them. It involves young people in researching the needs of their community, organising practical action in response, evaluating the effectiveness of their work and reflecting on what they're learning along the way.

The star studded event was screened on TV3 as part of two prime time specials based on the youth citizenship programme. After performances by Jedward, former Foróige member Ryan Sheridan and Britain's Got Talent dance stars Flawless, messages of support were sent to all the finalists from famous faces such as Louis Walsh, Laura Whitmore, Michael Flatley, Bernard Brogan and Mary Byrne. Irish rock legend Bono summed up the feelings of everyone present when he addressed the spectacular event via video-link.

In 2011, almost 12,000 young people took part in the **permanent tsb Foróige** youth citizenship programme and gave their free time to design and implement projects that enriched communities across Ireland and overseas.

Following a nail-biting finale, the Foróige Attic Youth Café in Longford town was unveiled as the overall winner with a recession busting Discount Card encouraging young people to shop local in return for a 10% discount in participating local stores. We caught up with Attic member Fiona Leahy to see how the initiative has been going since the group won the coveted title.

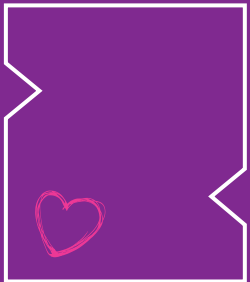
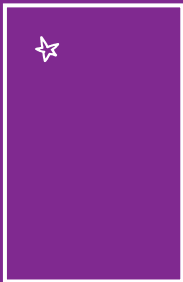
"It has been amazing! The idea of the discount card has really gone from strength to strength. We have now expanded it beyond Longford Town and more and more businesses are signing up to it every day - so it is obviously working for them."

It was a case of Lights, Camera, Action on November 1st 2011 as Ireland's Top Teens took to the stage at Dublin's Helix Theatre for the finals of the **permanent tsb Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards**.

"When I was a teenager all I wanted was to be in a band and for my girlfriend Ali not to run off with the Edge. The sense of duty and service you see in the Citizenship Awards blows me away. These young people are taking on a kind of social entrepreneurship with smart ideas, creative ideas, great ideas for community groups from kids to grandparents, from Mulhuddart to Zambia. They give us faith in the future, in Ireland's future." Bono



12,000
YOUNG
PEOPLE





It is also really benefiting the young people of the town too. A 10% discount can make a real difference. It can be the deciding factor as to whether you go ahead and buy something or not. At our age we don't have a lot of spare cash so it is great to get the odd bargain. The whole experience has been amazing and it has really built our confidence and brought us closer together."

The discount card also continues to be a big hit within the Longford business community. According to Niall Brewster of Bru's Fancy Dress in Longford Town.

"Anything that helps our business during times like these is a good thing. We have definitely seen an increase in our turnover since the discount card was introduced and I've noticed lots more young people coming through the doors. It keeps business local which is also very welcome. It just goes to show that the young people really are the backbone of our communities."

Here is a run-down of the projects that made it to the final ten of the **permanent tsb** Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards in 2011:

Ardagh Foróige Club, Co. Mayo

An interactive road safety awareness project.

Spiddal Foróige Club, Co. Galway

A fundraising project for an Orphanage in Kaoma, Zambia.

Mini-Crotchets Peer Led Group, Co. Donegal

A music and drama summer camp for 10 to 12 year olds and people with intellectual disabilities.

Southend Family Resource Centre Youth Group, Co. Wexford

A traditional boat building project to discourage anti-social behaviour and restore community pride.

Rathnew Legends, Co. Wicklow

A technology workshop for older people in the community.

Fiat 500 Group, Dublin 15

A road safety project focusing on the dangers of speeding and joyriding.

NRG Youth Group, Co. Clare

A domestic violence awareness campaign.

Kinsale Foróige Club, Co. Cork

A water safety project.

Balbriggan Youth Service, Co. Dublin

An alcohol free music festival promoting positive mental health.



Get Active in Your Community in 2012

2012 promises to be another very exciting year for the **permanent tsb** Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards! In what will be a brand new departure for the programme, all of the groups that enter will get to showcase their projects under one roof at Dublin's RDS on July 1st 2012. Check out www.foroige.ie/youthcitizenship and follow us on facebook and twitter for regular updates.

www.foroige.ie





BIG BROTHER
BIG SISTER

BIG BROTHER
BIG SISTER HAS SHAPED
WHO I AM... IT'S CHANGED
MY LIFE FOR THE BETTER



“Big Brother Big Sister has shaped who I am and how I’m growing up. It’s changed my life for the better. I’m more confident and happier too. Me and my Big Brother Ronan will be friends forever and one day I hope to do what Ronan has done for me and become a Big Brother to someone who needs it.”

Isaac, 15

I’m just back from Manchester where I got to see Man City beat Blackburn in the footie; it wasn’t the result I wanted for sure, but it was still one of the best things I’ve ever experienced – I’ve got my Big Brother Ronan to thank for that.

Ronan’s fantastic, not just for organising cool stuff for us to do – I still can’t believe I got to see a live Premier League match! – but because he’s always there for me; helping me and encouraging me to be the best that I can be.

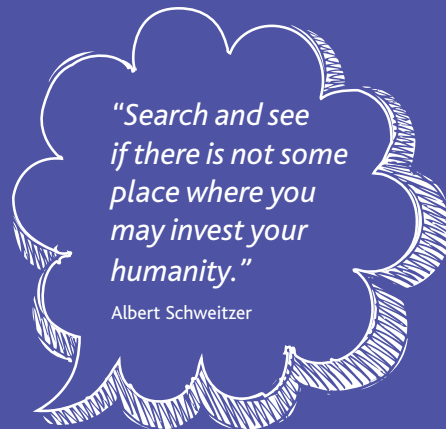
I was 12 when my Mum said I should get involved in the programme, she thought it would be good for me to have a male in my life I could look up to. I wasn’t sure at first, but it’s one of the best things I ever did. Ronan and I do so many things together, like playing football, going camping and even playing golf. He’s also helping me to learn to play guitar which is something I never would have thought I could do.

We have a good laugh. I really look up to him and I can tell him anything. He’s always getting me to think about things and about what I can do in my future. He encourages me to put the work in and do well in school and now I plan on becoming a secondary school teacher.

My Mum says she can’t believe the difference in me – she says I’m much happier in myself. I’m definitely more confident and I don’t get as stressed out as I used to. I’ve just been made captain of my football team which was always a dream of mine. I think having Ronan there in my corner had a big part to play in that.

Big Brother Big Sister has shaped who I am and how I’m growing up. It’s changed my life for the better. I’m more confident and happier too. Me and my Big Brother Ronan will be friends forever and one day I hope to do what Ronan has done for me and become a Big Brother to someone who needs it.

Great Futures Start Here *



"Search and see if there is not some place where you may invest your humanity."

Albert Schweitzer

Overview



The Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life Programme (ASLFL) is a partnership between Foróige and the Ireland Chamber of Commerce USA Foundation Inc. The international youth leadership programme for young people aged 15 to 18, was developed by Foróige. The third annual ASLFL conference took place in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth from 25th to 29th July, with 250 young people from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, USA, Korea, Palestine, Lithuania, Nigeria and India.

The ASLFL programme empowers young people to embrace their leadership potential and kick-starts their path to becoming life-long leaders in their communities, business or wherever life may take them. The programme is approved by UNESCO and accredited by NUI Galway. During the week long conference participants hear from inspiring speakers, engage in challenging workshops on topics such as communication skills, critical thinking and problem solving and meet likeminded teenagers from all over the world.

Anthony McKenzie, a programme participant from New York summed up his vibrant experience during that week by saying

"Throughout the conference I learned that we are all here because we all have different views and perspectives but share a common bond. We are all citizens of the world and we accept and share these differences to become better leaders. As soon as I stepped off the plane I was scared but then when I got here, everyone was so nice and I guess it rubbed off on me. When I got here I made a Free Hugs sign and I was giving hugs to people, people I never knew before and I made a lot of friends and life long bonds. I'm going to bring home an ability to think differently, to attack problems differently and most importantly a belief that I can help out programmes and people that are struggling in my community."

The highlight of the week for the participants in this year's ASLFL conference was the graduation ceremony which was held at Dublin's Burlington Hotel. The event was hosted by Matt McCoy, Hollywood actor and Ambassador for the ASLFL programme who said

"You know, there aren't many Barack Obama's or Gandhi's or Nelson Mandela's but there is just as much merit in being a leader in your community or being a leader in your school."

The 4th annual international Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life Conference takes place in NUI Maynooth from 30th July – 3rd August 2012. Information on how to get involved will be displayed on [Facebook.com/Foroige](https://www.facebook.com/Foroige) and also on Foroige.ie/aslfl

250
young people
FROM ALL
OVER THE
WORLD



Leading Lights



Foróige is sparking the flame of leadership in Ireland's young people by providing leadership skills training with a unique and valuable qualification. Participants who successfully complete all three modules of the ASLFL programme are awarded a Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action from NUI Galway. This is the first of its kind in Ireland.

On 22nd October 2011, 115 excited young people graduated from NUIG with a Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action. The graduation day recognised the incredible achievement of the young people and acknowledged the dedication and enthusiasm of their mentors. It was a thrilling event for all involved and the graduates celebrated with their extremely proud parents, guardians and facilitators.

Through the year long programme, the graduates completed a research project and put their leadership skills into action in their communities in a variety of practical projects, such as peer mentoring, teaching younger teenagers music and organising a youth forum.

The programme is divided into three modules and is delivered in Foróige Clubs and Projects and through some selected schools.

Module 1:

Learn leadership skills and set a personal leadership goal.

Module 2:

Develop leadership skills and complete group research project.

Module 3:

Put leadership skills into practice.

This year, 140 young people have registered for the Foundation Certificate. Foróige is continuing to train more staff and volunteers to deliver the programme so that we can reach more young people and enable them to unwrap their potential.

There has been outstanding feedback on the programme from participants who described the beneficial impact taking part has had for them; improved leadership skills, personal development, increased self belief and greater community involvement.

"Throughout my leadership journey I have learned so much about myself, I have grown into an outgoing person who has created strong friendships. I have learned that leading as part of a team is much more effective and powerful than trying to do everything by myself."

Jessica Trimble,
Blanchardstown Youth Service.

"I now realise how worthwhile and fulfilling volunteer work is and how beneficial it can be to the people within my community. In future, I will feel more confident in volunteering my help and not always waiting to be approached."

Sharron Lynskey,
Tooreen Foróige Club, Co. Mayo

115



16-18 year olds
graduated from
NUI Galway



Cong Foróige Club

ANNE LITTLE 67

Former Foróige Leader & retired nurse

Three generations of my family – myself, my daughter and now my granddaughter Ciara have all been involved in Foróige. Last year I attended the **permanent tsb** Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards to cheer Ciara on. In one way I couldn't believe how much the organisation has grown and changed over the last 20 years. In another way I am very pleased at how the heart of the organisation and the philosophy behind it has remained the same.

MARY WRAFTER 56

Community Forum Co-ordinator, Mayo County Council

My job involves working with communities and what makes Cong stand out for me is that it has embraced its youth through the Foróige club and in turn the young people here have embraced their local community. That's how strong communities are built.

VERONICA LYNAGH 24

Foróige Leader & primary school teacher

I volunteer with Foróige because of my younger brothers. They're identical twins and a lot of people can't tell them apart, but with Foróige they are seen as individuals. I like how they are both given the opportunity to develop their individuality while still being part of a group.

CIARA McGRATH 15

Member, Cong Foróige Club

It's cool to think that I'm the third generation of my family to be involved in Foróige – first my gran, then my mum as well as my dad. My parents won the Foróige Youth Citizenship Award in 1988. It's inspiring to think that more than 20 years later, I represented my club at the same event. Not many teenagers can share an experience like that with their parents.

PADDY DOHERTY 15

Member, Cong Foróige Club

I'm a big music fan and love playing the guitar. My dad was in a band so music has always been a big part of my life. Taking part in 'Foróige's Got Talent' was my first experience of playing live on stage, though hopefully it won't be my last. Foróige's given me the confidence to follow my dreams.



MARIAN McHUGH 49

Foróige Leader, Civil Engineer & Secretary Mayo District Council

I got involved with Mayo District Council because of the support they and our RYO gave our club when we started off. Going to the monthly meetings engages leaders and lets them know what is happening. Even sharing the cup of tea afterwards allows friendships and networks to be established. All this is important in making you a better leader and strengthening our clubs.

DANIEL KEANE 15

Public Relations Officer, Cong Foróige Club

Being the Public Relations Officer of the club, my role involves being the voice of the group and making sure everybody knows what we're about. We get to decide what's best for us and what's best for our club and we take that responsibility seriously.

ERIN FOLEY 15

Member, Cong Foróige Club

Reaching the Youth Citizenship finals with our woodland trail project was an unforgettable experience. Almost two years later, the trail is not only surviving but is becoming more popular with tourists and locals alike. I've helped to make my community a better place – and that is something that I'm really proud of.

NAOIMH HOWE 16

Member, Foróige Youth Participation Advisory Committee

Meeting the now President of Ireland at the Foróige Presidential Youth Forum was a mind blowing experience. The forum gave young people the opportunity to express our views and have our voices heard. I'm also hoping to complete the Leadership programme this year. I've met the leaders of today and thanks to Foróige, I might be a leader of tomorrow!

NIALL ROCHFORD 43

Manager, Ashford Castle

Cong Foróige Club developed a great tourism trail in the local woods as part of their Youth Citizenship project in 2010. It has really helped boost tourism as we can offer visitors something tangible to enjoy in the area.

KIERAN O'MALLEY 15

Chairperson, Cong Foróige Club & Foróige Reference Panel

What I like most about Foróige is that it gives me the opportunity to participate in the discussion – young people are part of the decision making process. Cyber-bullying is a topic that needs to be addressed and Foróige is doing that. Teenagers have first-hand experience of cyber-bullying now teenagers can be part of the solution.





VOLUNTEER

I WANTED TO
GIVE BACK TO
OTHERS WHAT
FOREIGE HAS
GIVEN TO ME!



“Foróige helped me change from being the person who would sit in the corner hoping no-one would notice me to being a person who got involved and wasn’t afraid of any of life’s challenges. I wanted to give back to others what Foróige has given to me – and that’s why I now volunteer. ”

Treasa, 21

Foróige has been a huge part of my life for over a decade now, first as a member and now as a volunteer. I couldn’t imagine my life without it. I was 10 when I got involved in our local Neighbourhood Youth Project (NYP) in Carrick-on-Suir. My parents passed away when I was five and I was the only girl in the family so everyone at the NYP became almost like a surrogate extended family. Even today, I know that I can go down to the Youth Café and talk to the staff and other volunteers about anything.

I was painfully shy and had no confidence in myself at all, but being part of the NYP helped me to come out of my shell and get involved in all sorts of programmes, mixing with different people. From a young age I also suffered from severe arthritis which made things even harder for me – but again, everyone at Foróige helped me to deal with it and they were there if I was ever feeling down. Even taking part in the different activities helped, as the aim was to just get involved rather than be the best.

At 16, I trained as a junior volunteer and supported the Foróige staff in summer and holiday programmes, homework clubs and fundraising activities. I also went on to complete the Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life Programme in 2009. The following year I worked as a volunteer on the programme and it was one of the best experiences of my life. Being involved in Foróige helped me change from being the person who would sit in the corner hoping no-one would notice me to being a person who got involved and wasn’t afraid of any of life’s challenges. It also helped me gain confidence and to believe in myself. I wanted to give back to others what Foróige has given to me – and that’s why I now volunteer.

Ian is involved in one of the groups I volunteer with. He’s an amazing young lad. He loves playing Wii and we sit and play together, have fun and talk. He’s 12 now and he loves being a part of the NYP and is the first in the door every day. He likes the time he gets with the volunteers at the beginning of group before everyone else arrives and he knows he can talk to us about anything. He throws himself into every project we do. Ian is a lot different than I was at that age, but that’s what Foróige was and is still all about for me – meeting all sorts of different types of people and connecting with them.

Ian is hoping to take part in the Citizenship and Leadership Programmes this year and will hopefully one day become a junior volunteer with the project, like his older sister Stephanie – and like me.

Leading by Example



Daniel Cronin

21 year old Daniel Cronin is committed to giving something back to his local area. In September 2011 the young student decided that his community in West Cork had been without a youth club for far too long. Daniel set up the much needed Ballineen Foróige Club which meets in the local community centre every Friday night.

"For almost ten years, since the last youth club closed down, there has been very little for young people to do in my area. That's why I decided to set up the club. Currently we have 43 young members and demand is so high that 10 more are on a waiting list to join. We want to get everyone involved but getting volunteers can be a challenge. When young people in the area hear what we are doing, they're excited by all of the opportunities on offer and they want to get involved. For me, it's exhilarating."

Daniel explains that there is a lot going on at the club.

"We do everything from football to dodgeball, volleyball, netball and team-bonding exercises. We try not to focus solely on one activity and the aim is to get as many people involved as possible."



Eileen Moitie

Eileen Moitie feels that she has evolved as a volunteer during her two and a half decades as a Foróige leader. The primary school teacher started volunteering for Davidstown Foróige Club in Wexford back in 1987 – 25 years ago.

"My attitude has changed. When I first started I felt the need to be rushing around and organising things for the club. I'm more relaxed now and I'm a much better listener. The end product isn't as important any more. I now realise that it's the learning along the way that counts. That's what Foróige does better than others in my view. The clubs are run by the members themselves, they make the decisions, my job is to facilitate it."

Davidstown Foróige Club take part in a wide-range of activities, but Eileen says it's the simple chats that have the greatest impact.

"Some of these young people don't have a direction in life. The way I see it the most important thing for me is to be there for them and answer the simple questions rather than getting involved in big projects. They're well fit to handle that themselves."

Foróige's 5,125 volunteers are truly the backbone of the organisation. They give of their time, energy and talents to make their communities a better place and to improve the lives of the young people who live there. There are lots of volunteering opportunities available in Foróige from Clubs to Garda Youth Diversion Projects to the Big Brother Big Sister youth mentoring programme.

In 2011, Foróige appointed a Volunteer Development Manager. Now, using his 20 years of experience in the organisation, Denis O'Brien will be working to significantly grow volunteer-led youth work in Foróige.

Denis says

"For me this is about attracting more volunteers to the organisation and creating a variety of volunteer-led groups to appeal to more communities and young people across the country. Foróige has a proud tradition of volunteerism and I want to build on this by providing new opportunities for volunteers to engage with the organisation through many different roles. Some of our leaders only began volunteering during 2011 – some have been doing so for up to 40 years, they are an inspiring group of people and I am privileged to be working with them."



Best Practice

Overview

Foróige's **Best Practice Unit** was established three years ago to ensure that the organisation continues to excel in the youth work realm and to realise Foróige's vision of being an international leader in creating and delivering high quality resources and programmes to facilitate the development of staff, volunteers and most importantly young people. With 1 in 10 young Irish people now involved in Foróige, it is evident that our clubs, projects and services are a very attractive and much needed resource for young people.

Pioneer of the Irish Youth Work Sector

Two major new resources aimed at young people on the topics of sexual health and anti-social behaviour were developed by Foróige in 2011. The resources – Relationships & Sexuality's '**REAL U**' and '**A Life of Choices**' for use in Garda Youth Diversion Projects – are set to make a significant difference to the way staff and volunteers work with young people in Ireland today.

Sue Redmond, Manager of Foróige's Best Practice Unit says

"Foróige's approach is to empower staff and volunteers by re-enforcing an ethos to love learning, nurture awareness and promote development. This ultimately enables staff to base what they do on relevant theory and evidence, thereby instilling greater confidence, skills and ability in the work they do. Once they do this, they can bring about real change in the lives of the young people they work with."



REAL U

The REAL U manual is a personal development and sex education programme aimed at equipping young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to develop healthy relationships and delay the onset of early sexual activity. Topics include puberty, body image, relationships, boundaries, emotional well-being, reproduction, sexuality, contraception and sexually transmitted infections. Thanks to funding secured from the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme, at the time of going to print, Foróige is delighted to offer training on this programme free of charge to other organisations.

A Life of Choices

A Life of Choices has been developed with the work of Garda Youth Diversion Projects in mind. The core modules focus on building social skills, decision making, problem solving, managing emotions, reducing impulsivity, building empathy, anger management, encouraging pro-social behaviour and increasing motivation to change – to name but a few.



1 in 10 young people in Ireland are involved in Foróige.



BLANCHARDSTOWN
COMPUTER CLUBHOUSE

I REALISE NOW THAT
I CAN DO SO MUCH
MORE THAN I THOUGHT
I COULD...



“Handing in that green form and joining the Blanchardstown Computer Clubhouse has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. I realise now that I can do so much more than I thought I could and I only have Foróige to thank for that. I’m not great at school, I’m not afraid to say that, but I’ve found something that I’m really good at and it’s a great feeling.”

Gavin, 18

Over the years I’ve had a chance to be involved in so many things that I would never have thought I could do. Shane saw that I had an interest in photography, so he encouraged me to join a photography summer programme, which was brilliant. I really came out of my shell after that and started to get involved more and more. I even began to help other young people out with video making and producing music. I also got to manage the lighting for local productions of Chicago and Wicked – a pretty big responsibility. I’m not great at school, I’m not afraid to say that, but I’ve found something I’m really good at and that’s a great feeling.

I realise now that I can do so much more than I thought I could and I only have Foróige and the Clubhouse to thank for that. I won a competition a few years back with a multi-media presentation I created called ‘Respect for Football’. The prize was a trip to Boston to take part in the International Computer Clubhouse Teen Summit.

I couldn’t believe it! I had never won anything before. It was one of the most memorable and incredible experiences of my life.

Thanks to my years developing my skills in electronics and being in studio booths at the Clubhouse, I’m hoping to do music technology in college next year – and thanks to Shane who has supported me every step of the way, I believe that I can do it. It’s a career I can see myself loving. Being involved in Foróige and the Clubhouse has been a fantastic experience for me.



Investing in Futures

To give to Foróige is to change a young person's life for the better.

To support Foróige is to create stronger communities.

To invest in Foróige is to build a better Ireland.

In 2012 watch out for:

Smart Move Foróige is partnering with the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation in the first Irish smart phone recycling initiative. Help us reach our target of 10,000 smart phones by donating your old or used handsets and you will be directly supporting 57,000 young people in Foróige and 300 Jack and Jill families across Ireland.

Street Performance World Championships Foróige will be at the Street Performance World Championships, June 2012, in Dublin and Cork in our very own Marquee. We will be fundraising by providing a face painting service and young people involved in the organisation will even have the opportunity to perform on the Busking Stage.

Abseil Everest in Ireland
We need 500 people to abseil 18 metres to help us reach 8,840 metres – the height of Everest, in 4 locations across Ireland. Participate in this fun and exciting challenge on 30th June or 1st July.

Please believe in young people and support Foróige in 2012.

Young people are the leaders, wealth creators and decision makers of tomorrow. Supporting Foróige's work today and enabling young people to effect positive change in their communities is building a stronger Ireland for the future. The public sector, corporate and individual supporters, volunteers, staff and parents are working together to contribute to Foróige's ambitious vision to empower more young people, enrich more communities and transform Ireland for the better.

Fundraising in 2011

One of Foróige's first successful fundraising events was the Flora Women's Mini Marathon in June. 38 women took part in the event and raised €4,000, having great fun along the way. In 2012 we intend to double those numbers.

The next big project was the National Foróige Christmas Raffle. The initiative got great support from clubs and projects across the country. An impressive 28,000 tickets were sold raising almost €86,000. Participating clubs and projects got a third of the funds they raised back to fund their local activities, amounting to €27,000 nationally. It was a phenomenal result and a BIG thank you goes to all those involved. We hope to build on its success next year.

Foróige has also upgraded its online fundraising presence. It's now possible to donate to Foróige online in a dedicated section of our website called 'Support Us' – www.foroige.ie/supportus. Here you will find all you need to know about fundraising events, support opportunities, easy ways to securely donate and what a donation can mean.

2012 promises to be another great year and there is an exciting calendar of events planned to raise funds to make a real difference in the lives of young people across the country.



www.foroige.ie

WHY DO OUR SUPPORTERS BELIEVE IN YOUNG PEOPLE?



WE WANTED TO BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL



MARTINA MCGOLDRICK

Volunteer Leader, Ballyhaunis Foróige Club, Mayo, Club Co-ordinator for Foróige National Christmas Raffle 2011

"Our club is a vital part of the community with the help of the town, parents, leaders and members. The young people involved experience firsthand the benefits of fundraising for Foróige. Getting out there to fundraise is a great opportunity to talk directly to the community about Foróige and also raise both local and national support. The reason that I volunteer is that Foróige offers young people the chance to develop themselves that they wouldn't get elsewhere. I want all young people to have that."

NIALL O'GRADY

General Manager, Marketing, permanent tsb Corporate Partner, permanent tsb Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards

" permanent tsb got involved in the Youth Citizenship Programme and Awards as we wanted to be part of something special driven by young people who wanted to make a difference. The Youth Citizenship Awards are all inclusive and embrace the spirit and dynamism of young people in creating a meaningful legacy through positive change."



KATE LONGWORTH

Volunteer Fundraiser for Foróige Hell and Back 10K Wicklow Run 2011 Participant

" I live in Canada but was visiting Ireland in October of 2011. The 14th of that month would have been my sister Emily's 30th birthday – In her memory, I signed up for the Hell and Back 10k Wicklow Run as it's the type of thing we might have done together. I chose to fundraise for Foróige because they work to empower young people and that's what my sister was passionate about, and hoped to continue in her work as a volunteer and a teacher. My sister was all about having fun, so I had lots of fun at the race."



ROBERT QUIRKE

Managing Director, AD2ONE Ireland Challenge event participant for Foróige, Big Brothers Big Sisters Volunteer and Corporate Supporter

" I recognise the importance of youth development as one of the cornerstones of social and economic development. Being a member of Foróige developed my confidence as a teenager, encouraged freedom of thought and helped open my eyes to world. That's why I intend to fundraise for Foróige in 2012! Now, as Managing Director of AD2ONE Ireland, I see the importance of youth development particularly when hiring staff. The qualities we look for in the next generation of Irish innovators and leaders are all the qualities that Foróige help to enrich and encourage."

Youth Participation

YOUTH



In Foróige, youth participation means young people being actively involved in influencing decision making and the direction of the organisation by voicing their opinions, attitudes and values. This is a step beyond consulting with young people about the issues that affect them.

In 2011 Foróige began to further develop youth participation within the organisation. We have defined youth participation in Foróige as young people being actively involved in influencing decision-making and the direction of Foróige by voicing their opinions, attitudes, perspectives and values. This is a step beyond consulting with young people about the issues that affect them and more about engaging them in genuine debate and decision making about solutions to these issues and following through with real actions.

Nothing About Young People, Without Young People

Foróige has an excellent track record in youth participation with our Reference Panel – a democratically elected body of Foróige members who make recommendations to the organisation on issues affecting young people today. It enables young people to have a voice in Foróige and to influence the future direction of the organisation.

Four members of the Reference Panel are subsequently elected onto the National Council of Foróige – the organisation's governing body, to represent the views and opinions of young people at the highest level.

17 year old Ciara Fallon from the Foróige Attic Youth Café in Longford was elected onto the Reference Panel, National Council and National Executive of Foróige in 2011.

" Since getting involved in the Reference Panel I've noticed a lot of changes in myself. I'm now a more confident person and I am able to get up and speak in public without shaking like a leaf."

" It was also an immense experience to sit on the National Executive of Foróige. My opinion counted in making really important decisions for the organisation. Do I think the voices of young people are really heard and listened to at the heart of Foróige? 100% and I'm a real example of that."

Part of the youth participation agenda in Foróige is to ensure that all young people, regardless of how they are involved in the organisation have the same opportunity to influence the direction of Foróige. To this end we have 17 youth participation structures throughout the country representative of young people involved in a variety of Foróige projects.

In 2011 Foróige conducted a review of its youth participation structures, including the Reference Panel, which concluded that "Foróige's Youth Participation Structures have the potential to become one of the most significant platforms for the voices of young people in Ireland".

The start of the journey towards realising this potential came when young people from Foróige's Reference Panel, youth participation structures and participants at level 3 in the leadership programme came together to engage in a 'Vision for Ireland' Youth Forum putting the spotlight on Presidential Candidates regarding the role young people would play in their Presidency.



" Do I think the voices of young people are really heard and listened to at the heart of Foróige? 100% and I'm a real example of that."

Ciara Fallon, 17



Foróige Spotlight on Presidential Candidates

On Monday 3rd October 2011 five of the seven candidates in the presidential race – Séan Gallagher, Michael D. Higgins, Dana Rosemary Scallon, Gay Mitchell and Mary Davis participated in a 'Vision for Ireland' youth forum with a 100 strong delegation of young people involved in Foróige from all across Ireland. The energy in the room was palpable as young people engaged in debate with the candidates on the issues that are closest to their hearts – education, the economy, youth mental health, emigration and equality.

Michael Kiernan, from Foróige's Tallaght Youth Forum got to experience the momentous event first hand.

"The Presidential Youth Forum was amazing. We got to ask questions and have great conversations with the candidates on the issues that young people are thinking about these days. Even though the majority of the young people there on the day had no vote in the election, the candidates cared enough about our voice as citizens to really engage with us."

I was looking for a candidate who would put the community first. I wanted to see that the candidates had a knowledge of the rights of families which is what the Constitution of Ireland is based on. I wanted to see evidence of moral leadership and find out if they had a real desire to stand up for those who aren't heard in our society.

The highlight for me was getting time to tease out issues with the candidates in small groups. It was almost similar to getting one-on-one time with them. I felt afterwards that we had influenced the opinions of the candidates, as later on in the campaign they were raising issues that we brought up at the Forum."

Speaking after the event Seán Campbell, Chief Executive of Foróige commented,

"Young people as citizens of the future are well informed and have views and aspirations on the type of president they want to lead us for the next seven years. Today the Presidential Candidates got a very important insight into the thinking of our future generation and no doubt the promises made by each candidate won't be forgotten by the young people when our new First Citizen takes up office."

Prof. Pat Dolan, UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement at NUI, Galway, who chaired the forum said

"Often young people are overlooked as potential voters as it is assumed there is a lack of interest or apathy on their part, but this is the exception rather than the rule."

We will continue to actively engage greater numbers of young people in youth participation structures to ensure that young people's opinions are at the heart of all decision-making undertaken by Foróige.



GARDA YOUTH
DIVERSION PROJECT



THE BEST THING FOR ME
NOW THOUGH IS THAT MY MA
WILL COME HOME FROM WORK
AND SAY THIS PERSON WAS
TALKING ABOUT YOU AND ALL
THE GOOD THINGS YOU'VE DONE
... SHE'S SO PROUD.



“Thanks to Foróige, I’ve completely turned my life around. One of the lads I used to hang out with is in prison at the moment; one of them is going to prison next month. If I had of stayed on the path I was on, I would have been in prison now. ”

Lee, 18

I got to be on the telly through Foróige because I was part of a youth group that reached the final of the **permanent tsb** Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards. Foróige has created chances for me I would have never gotten before – the only time I would have been on the telly without it would be if I was in court or something. Before I got involved in the WAY Garda Youth Diversion Project I was going around getting drunk, causing trouble and trying drugs. I was getting into bother with my friends and then thinking I was cool because of it.

This all started when I was 14. I was staying out late and when you start hanging round the streets bored, the only bit of a laugh you can get is from causing trouble, so that’s what I did. Things kept getting worse and I kept getting into hassle with the Gardaí. My Ma was in an awful way at one stage because I was literally coming in at all hours. She didn’t know what to do with me or where to turn. It was worse when she heard something in work, like someone saying ‘I saw your son at 2.30 in the morning doing this or doing that’.

It had to have been hard.

The turning point came when I was referred to the WAY Project. It took me a while to cop on to myself but they supported me all the way. One of the lads I used to hang out with is in prison at the moment; one of them is going to prison next month. If I had of stayed on the path I was on, I would have been in prison now.

I’m lucky I suppose, I got a chance and I’ve turned my life around. wI left school at 16 – a stupid move I admit – so I don’t have my Leaving Certificate but now I’ve started doing it. I’m also getting qualifications through Foróige. I’m doing an ECDL course and completing the Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life Programme. There are not an awful lot of people who can say they’ve been awarded an NUI Galway Certificate without their Leaving Cert.

It’s things like that that make Foróige brilliant.

Today, I volunteer at the WAY Project and mentor young teenagers who are where I was four years ago. It’s easier for them to look up to someone their own age and I hope they’ll learn from my experience. I’ve also been chosen to carry the Olympic Torch in Dublin this summer as one of Coca Cola’s Future Flames because of my contribution to my community. It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity, I can’t wait to hold that Olympic Torch... it’s unbelievable! The best thing for me now though is that my Ma will come home from work and say this person was talking about you and all the good things you’ve done – she’s so proud. It’s cool to see that your Ma is so happy because people are saying these types of nice things about you.

Summary Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st December 2011

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	2011 Total Funds	2010 Total Funds
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds	100,953	356,578	457,531	261,850
Incoming resources from charitable activities	18,735,123		18,735,123	19,138,527
Total incoming resources	18,836,076	356,578	19,192,654	19,400,377
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities	19,680,684		19,680,684	19,414,922
Governance costs	145,020		145,020	108,030
Other resources expended		185,000	185,000	78,000
Total resources expended	19,825,704	185,000	20,010,704	19,600,952
Net transfers between funds	476,517	(476,517)		
Net outgoing resources before other recognised gains and losses	(513,111)	(304,939)	(818,050)	(200,575)

This financial summary is taken from our audited Report and Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2011. These are available from our website (www.foroige.ie) and from our Head Office.

While there have been significant financial challenges throughout 2011 we are pleased to report that the total income for the year ended 31 December 2011 was €19,192,654 which represents a 1% decrease from 2010. The cumulative funds of the organisation at December 31 2011 were €341,590.

Summary Balance Sheet

as at 31st December 2011

	2011	2010
Fixed assets	642,060	759,744
<i>Current assets</i>	5,172,510	5,125,233
<i>Current liabilities</i>	(1,639,980)	(1,218,337)
Net assets before pension liability	4,174,590	4,666,640
Pension liability	(3,833,000)	(2,251,000)
Net assets	341,590	2,415,640
The Funds of the Organisation		
Restricted funds	2,879,167	3,392,278
Unrestricted funds	(2,537,577)	(976,638)
	341,590	2,415,640

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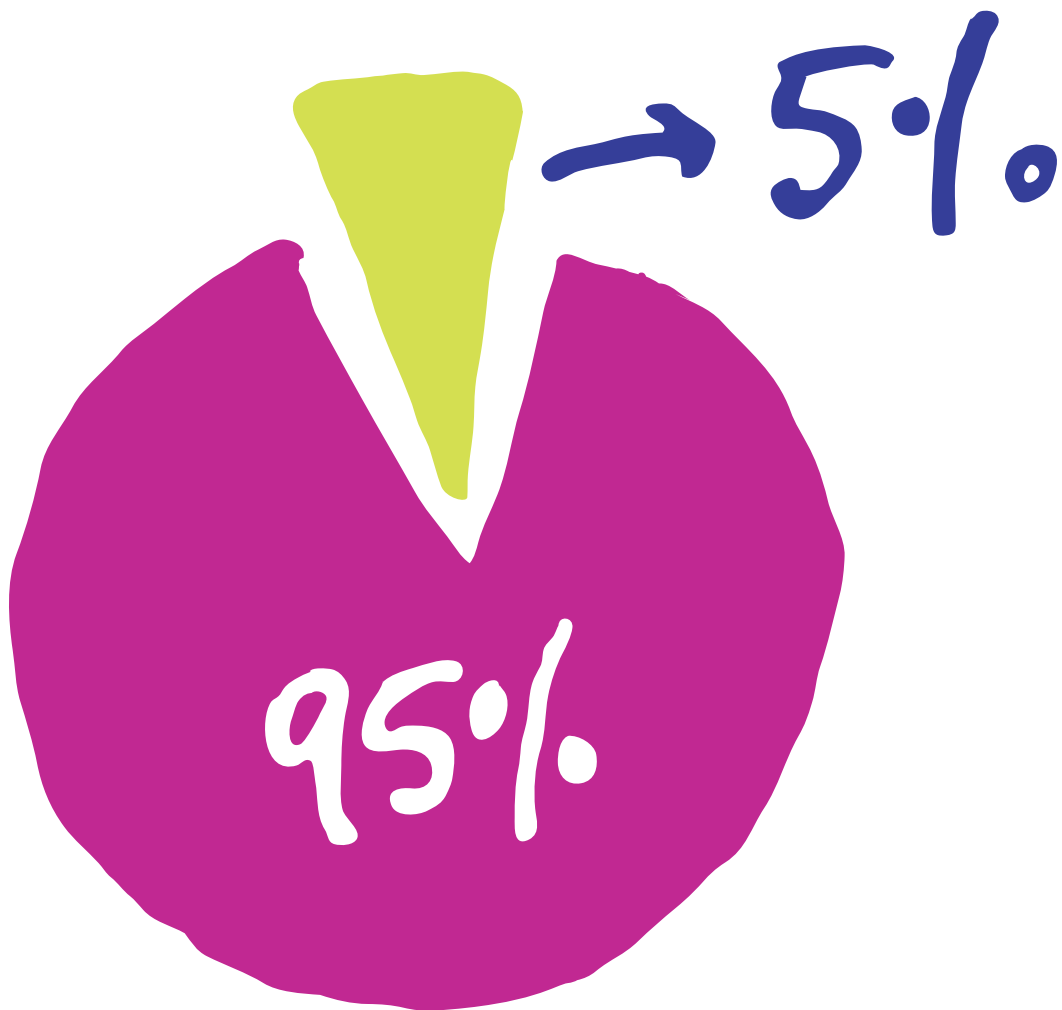
Charitable Activities Income 2011

- Foroige Clubs
- Garda Youth Diversion Projects
- Local Youth Development Projects
- Neighbourhood Youth Projects
- Local Youth Services
- Specialist Projects
- Big Brother Big Sister
- Drugs Prevention
- Educational Programmes
- Youth Cafes
- Youth Information Centres



Charitable Activities Spend 2011

- 95% is spent directly on work with young people
- 5% is invested in generating funds and support costs



To all of our Funders... THANK YOU!

PROJECTS/SERVICES	FUNDING AGENCY
Foróige Clubs and Shared Services	Department of Children & Youth Affairs
North Dublin Youth Development Project	Department of Children & Youth Affairs
ABLE Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
BAP Garda Youth Diversion Project (Cork)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
BÁN Garda Youth Diversion Project (Galway)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
Ballybane Traveller Youth Project (Galway)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
DÁN Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
GAP Garda Youth Diversion Project (Cork)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
JAY Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
KEY Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
LEAP Garda Youth Diversion Project (Longford)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
MAY Garda Youth Diversion Project (Cork)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
Monaghan Garda Youth Diversion Project	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
Block Garda Youth Diversion Project (Co. Laois)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
LEAF Garda Youth Diversion Project (Co. Donegal)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
WAY Garda Youth Diversion Project (Wicklow)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
Bandon Garda Youth Diversion Project (Cork)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
YEW Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
DIME Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
HAY Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
Sub Garda Youth Diversion Project (Birr Co. Offaly)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
365 Garda Youth Diversion Project (Cavan)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
ORB Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
APT Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
West Limerick Garda Youth Diversion Project (Limerick)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
Falcarragh Garda Youth Diversion Project (Donegal)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
Youghal Garda Youth Diversion Project (Cork)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
Brookfield Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
CABLE Garda Youth Diversion Project (Louth)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
MEAS Garda Youth Diversion Project (Galway)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
WEB Garda Youth Diversion Project (Dublin)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
PORT Garda Youth Diversion Project (Portarlington)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
That's My Goal West Cork Traveller Project (Cork)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána / Co. Cork VEC
Tallaght Teenage Health Initiative	Health Service Executive – South West
South West Donegal Youth Project & Drop-in Centre	Health Service Executive – West
Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project	Health Service Executive – North East Area
Ballyshannon/Bundoran Neighbourhood Youth Project	Health Service Executive – North West Area
The Rosses Neighbourhood Youth Project	Health Service Executive – North West Area
South Leitrim Neighbourhood Youth Project	Health Service Executive – North West Area
The CRIB Youth Project & Health Café (Sligo)	Health Service Executive – North West Area
Letterkenny Youth Project & Health Café	Health Service Executive – North West Area
Teen Parenting Support Programme (Donegal)	Health Service Executive – North West Area
Carrick-on-Suir Neighbourhood Youth Project (Tipperary)	Health Service Executive – South East Area
Tramore Youth Development Project (Waterford)	Health Service Executive – South East Area
West Limerick Youth Initiative	Health Service Executive – Mid West Area
Ballina Neighbourhood Youth Project (Mayo)	Health Service Executive – Western Area
Castlebar Neighbourhood Youth Project (Mayo)	Health Service Executive – Western Area
Westport Neighbourhood Youth Project (Mayo)	Health Service Executive – Western Area
Castlereagh Neighbourhood Youth Project (Roscommon)	Health Service Executive – Western Area
Boyle Neighbourhood Youth Project (Roscommon)	Health Service Executive – Western Area
Athenry Adolescent Support Programme (Galway)	Health Service Executive – Western Area
Springboard (Mayo)	Health Service Executive – Western Area
Donegal Integrated Youth Project	Health Service Executive – Western Area
BBBS (Galway)	Health Service Executive – Western Area – Part-Fund
BBBS (Roscommon)	Health Service Executive – Western Area – Part-Fund
BBBS (Westmeath)	Health Service Executive – Mid-Leinster – Part-Fund
MIDWAY Project (Waterford)	Health Service Executive/Department of Social & Family Affairs/Co. Waterford VEC
Newcastle West Community Based Drugs Initiative (Limerick)	Health Service Executive – Mid Western/Mid Western Regional Drugs Task Force
DRUM Youth Café (Kilkenny)	Health Service Executive/Kilkenny County Council/RAPID
Donegal Youth Information Centre	Co. Donegal VEC
Foróige Clubs Donegal	Co. Donegal VEC
Ferrybank Youth Development Project (Waterford)	Waterford City VEC
Tallaght Youth Service (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC
Tallaght Youth Information Centre (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC
Blanchardstown Youth Service (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC
Blanchardstown Youth Information Centre (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC
Peer Education Tallaght (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC
Whitechurch Youth Development Project (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC

PROJECTS/SERVICES	FUNDING AGENCY
STAY Project St. Aengus (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC
Early School Leavers Blanchardstown (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC
Oasis Programme Riversdale Blanchardstown (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC
Tyrellstown Youth Initiative (T.O.M.) Project Dublin	Co. Dublin VEC
Computer Clubhouse Blanchardstown (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC
Peer Education Blanchardstown (Dublin)	Co. Dublin VEC / Local Drugs Task Force
Ballybane Area Youth Project (Galway)	City of Galway VEC
Ballinfoile Area Youth Project (Galway)	City of Galway VEC
Knocknacarra Area Youth Project (Galway)	City of Galway VEC
Foróige Youth Circles (Galway)	City of Galway VEC
Beara Peninsula Youth Development Project (Cork)	Co. Cork VEC
SKY Youth Development Project (Cork)	Co. Cork VEC
Carrigtwohill Area Youth Project (Cork)	Co. Cork VEC / Pobal
The Glen Youth Development Project (Cork)	Cork City VEC
Mahon Youth Development Project (Cork)	Cork City VEC
Glen Youth Reach Project (Cork)	Cork City VEC
Carrigaline Youth Initiative (Cork)	Cork VEC / Cork Local Drugs Task Force
Greenmount Youth Drugs Initiative (Cork)	Cork VEC / Cork Local Drugs Task Force
Castlebar Youth Information Centre (Mayo)	Co. Mayo VEC
Loobagh Area Youth Project (Limerick)	Co. Limerick VEC
Croom Youth in Action Project (Limerick)	Co. Limerick VEC
Nenagh Youth Development Project (Tipperary)	North Tipperary VEC
Corduff Community Youth Project (Dublin)	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund
Ballybane Adventure Programme (Galway)	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept. of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
Brookfield Community Youth Project (Dublin)	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept. of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
National Drugs Misuse Prevention Project	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept. of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
Glen Young Adults Project (Cork)	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept. of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
Springfield Community Youth Project (Dublin)	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept. of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
Whitechurch YPFSF Project (Dublin)	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept. of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
Ferrybank Drugs Prevention Project (Waterford)	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept. of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
Mulhuddart Community Youth Project (Dublin)	Mulhuddart Community Centre / Youth People's Facilities & Services Fund
Mulhuddart Community Youth Project 2 (Dublin)	Mulhuddart Community Centre / Youth People's Facilities & Services Fund
Huntstown Community Youth Project (Dublin)	Huntstown Community Centre / Youth People's Facilities & Services Fund
Blakestown Community Youth Project (Dublin)	Blakestown Resource Centre / Youth People's Facilities & Services Fund
South East Limerick Drugs Prevention Project	Mid West Regional Drugs Task Force
Family Support WEB Programme Blanchardstown (Dublin)	Local Drugs Task Force
Tallaght Drugs Education Initiative (Dublin)	Local Drugs Task Force
Youghal Community Based Drugs Initiative (Cork)	Southern Regional Drugs Task Force
Bandon Community Drugs Initiative (Cork)	Southern Regional Drugs Task Force
Drug Education Support (Roscommon / Mayo)	Western Region Drugs Task Force
Substance Misuse Co-Ordinator (Midlands)	Midland Regional Drugs Task Force
Attic Youth Health Café	Midland Regional Drugs Task Force
Mitchelstown Community Drugs Initiative (Cork)	Southern Regional Drugs Task Force / Health Service Executive
Co. Sligo Youth Alcohol & Drugs Prevention Project	North West Regional Drugs Task Force
Co. Donegal Youth Alcohol & Drugs Prevention Project	North West Regional Drugs Task Force
F.A.D.E. Drugs Prevention Project (Leitrim)	North West Regional Drugs Task Force
Balbriggan Youth Service	North Dublin City & County Regional Drugs Task Force
Big Brother Big Sister Programme (National)	One Foundation / Atlantic Philanthropies
Best Practice Unit (National)	Atlantic Philanthropies
Strategic Plan	One Foundation
Young Men's Teenage Health Project (Dublin)	Crisis Pregnancy Agency
Exit Youth Café (Dublin)	Crisis Pregnancy Agency
Zone Youth Health Café (Dublin)	Crisis Pregnancy Agency
Citizenship Programme (National)	permanent tsb
Area 24 Youth Health Café (Dublin)	Emerging Needs Fund/National Drugs Strategy Team
Mate-Tricks Programme (Dublin)	Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative
Comhairle na nÓg Project (Sligo)	County Development Board
National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)	Pobal / One Foundation / Atlantic Philanthropies / Corporates
Family Resource Centre Youth Participation Programme (Kilkenny)	Family Support Agency
Big Brother Big Sister Programme (Kilkenny)	Vodafone Ireland Foundation
Glenview Project (Tipperary)	Respond Partnership
Comhairle na nÓg (Longford)	Longford County Council
Southside Youth Development Project	South Tipperary Development Company

POOR IRE- LAND




1 in 10 young people in Ireland are involved in Foróige.

"I believe that as a nation our destiny will be written by us, not for us. I'm confident and hopeful for Ireland and this is inspired by the enthusiasm, idealism and goodness of the 56,952 young people Foróige works with. I believe in them and I believe in their future."

Seán Campbell, CEO, Foróige.



**BELIEVING IN
A BRIGHTER 
FUTURE
FOR IRELAND'S
YOUNG PEOPLE**

FOOD

TODAY



Young people who are involved in Foróige are empowered to develop their own abilities and attributes, to think for themselves, to make things happen and to contribute to their community and society. As a result, they develop greater self-confidence, self-reliance and greater capacity to take charge of their lives. All of Foróige's clubs, projects, services and education programmes are designed to achieve this aim.



"Foróige's Youth Entrepreneurship Programme, NFTE, has actually changed my life. For a while I was going down the wrong path but now everything seems possible. It's only now I realise that people are there to help if only you'll let them. School just wasn't for me, but I was always great with my hands and through Foróige I now have a chance to really make something of myself."

Kyle McMahon, Coolock



**INSPIRING
A NEW GENERATION
OF LEADERS
ENTREPRENEURS
& CHANGEMAKERS**

FOOD

TO MOR- ROW



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