

## **‘Giving is Good’ message on first-ever National Charities’ Day**

### **Many charities risk being overwhelmed by demand**

*Wed. Nov.25, 2009*

Irish charities have issued an appeal to the public and government to support the work of the sector at the launch of an inaugural ‘National Charities Day’ in Dublin today. (Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009).

The ICTR, which represents more than 150 Irish charities, says the sector is experiencing an unprecedented surge in demand for its services - but faces a drop in income of up to 20% in the current year.

Charities play an indispensable role in tackling the very human costs of the current recession - for children, the aged, the sick, people with disabilities, people who are homeless and those most in need, both at home and abroad.

Many charities, however, risk being overwhelmed with the increase in demand from individuals, families, communities, the disadvantaged and marginalized.

While thanking the public for their continued substantial support during 2009 they appeal for a special effort by those who can afford it to donate this Christmas.

The government should also retain and improve incentives to encourage giving by large and small-scale donors alike in the forthcoming Budget, Richard Dixon, spokesperson for the ICTR, said.

“The evident continued generosity of the public, despite tight economic circumstances, must be matched by a similar commitment by government.

“Taxation policy during the current downturn should actively promote socially beneficial activity and encourage a spirit of Giving. Existing tax reliefs on charitable donations should be retained and donations of €100 a year by the public should qualify for tax relief. Charities should be able to get their VAT back in the same way that a business can.

“Charities’ provide immediate, non-bureaucratic, on-the-ground responses to very real needs and emergencies and this should be acknowledged by government in its fiscal planning,” Richard Dixon said.

ENDS

*\*See list of Attendees at November 25<sup>th</sup> photocall on page following:*

**List of attendees at launch of National Charities Day photocall:**

- Emily Brew - Fundraising Executive, Alzheimer Society of Ireland
- Fergus Finlay - CEO, Barnardos
- Caroline Hickson - Director of Public Affairs, Concern
- Joyce Loughnan - CEO, Focus Ireland
- Kathleen O'Meara - Head of Advocacy and Communications, Irish Cancer Society
- Tim O'Dea - Head of Fundraising, Irish Hospice Foundation
- Jonathan Irwin - CEO, Jack and Jill Foundation
- Liam Walsh - Development Officer, RESPECT
- Kieran Murphy - National Director, Society of St Vincent DePaul.

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