

Youthreach Miltown Malbay reaches out to the Community and celebrates successful work placement

It was a very busy day for Youthreach, Miltown Malbay on Thursday 4th June between presentations to local organisations and celebrations of 'good news stories'. The day highlighted the valuable contribution the programme makes to the local community. Firstly, Kathleen Quinn presented a rocking horse to Spraoi Crèche. Josephine Downes, crèche manager accepted the horse while the Montessori class looked on and by the looks on their faces could not wait to try out this welcome and fun addition to the crèche. The horse was completed by Hattie Nicholson and Kathleen Quinn as part of their project requirement for the FETAC Level 4 in design under tutor Diarmuid Whelan.

Following on from the crèche, Theresa Murrphy accepted, on behalf of Slainte an Chiar a cheque for € 116.90. This money came about from an Easter craft fair and coffee morning that the Youthreach students had organised. Gerard Cusack, Enterprise teacher thanked Londis for helping to facilitate the craft fair by allowing the crafts to be sold in their store. The students themselves came up with the suggestion of giving any money made from the enterprise to Slainte an Clair and Theresa expressed her appreciation for this contribution, adding that every cent raised was important to this Kilnamona based cancer support centre. Slainte an Clair offers invaluable assistance and practical advice to those in any way who have been affected by cancer.

Finally, Kathleen Quinn completed the first ever Youthreach transition phase work placement at Londis and as a result has gained employment there. Martin Cournane, the regional co-ordinator of Youthreach spoke of the importance of the vocational aspect of Youthreach as a route to progression and thanked Kevin and Michelle from Londis for their commitment to the project. Over the period Kathleen was upskilled in all aspects of the modern retail trade.

Josephine Dempsey, Programme coordinator stressed the importance of student awareness of community needs and giving. She praised the students and staff for their commitment to this aspect of the programme. She reiterated the valuable opportunity Kevin McNamee and his business has given the Youthreach Transition Programme and thanked all local employers for their engagement with the Work Experience Programme. Martin Cournane spoke warm words of appreciation and encouragement to the students before he left and his continuous support was acknowledged by Josephine