

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland
ANNUAL REPORT 2005



THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY *of* IRELAND

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

As we near the centenary of Alois Alzheimer's description of the disease, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is leading the way and facing the many challenges to meet the needs of those with all forms of dementia. The rights of those with dementia are receiving increasing levels of attention and people with dementia are now having their voices heard. Their increasing participation at our conferences and their active role in our organisation is making a valuable contribution to our knowledge and planning. This participation is an essential development in our programmes of awareness and advocacy. The ignorance, stigma and fear surrounding dementia can be dramatically challenged by hearing from those who have a dementia and makes us realise how much they can offer to our understanding of the condition.

In 2005, the progress towards setting standards of care was of critical importance. We are continually reviewing and working towards the implementation of quality standards and best practice in our care services. The Society wishes to be the leader in setting and maintaining care standards at all stages of dementia. This achievement of high standards of care can be materially assisted by close contact with our sister organisations in other countries through such bodies as Alzheimer Europe and Alzheimer's Disease International. The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is represented on both bodies.

The Society is a volunteer-led organisation. It relies on volunteers and professional staff working closely together to provide the service to those for whom we were founded. We need to continue our work in harnessing the energies of our existing volunteers as well as recruiting new volunteers to work in the areas of information, advocacy, fundraising and branch development.

This has been a year of significant development, particularly in infrastructural projects. We congratulate Waterford for their new day care facility. The work on the capital projects in Sligo, Cork and Dublin is proceeding on schedule and the acquisition of Waterman Lodge in Killaloe promises to be an exciting one. Throughout the year the

Society continued to build on and consolidate its existing service levels and indeed pioneered a number of new and innovative services.

Finally I must thank personally and on behalf of the Society all our volunteers, carers, friends and staff and all those who have given time and support to our work. It is impossible to thank everyone individually but without you the Society would not exist and those who cannot remember would be forgotten.

Dr. Niall Tierney



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

In 2005 the Society continued to consolidate and grow, with the emergence of new day centre services, new home care services as well as the development of social clubs, a new community-based service, for people with dementia and their carers. In 2005 we formalised our advocacy function within the Society. Using a grant from Comhairle, we have appointed an Advocacy Manager to develop the service. This will provide a new type of support to people with dementia. We hope that the voices of people living with dementia will be heard and heeded.

Existing services continue to face the multifaceted needs of both the person living with dementia and the carer. Much of the work at a local level is done quietly and effectively by dedicated volunteers and staff alike. Over the years we have been a true partner to the Health Service Executive (HSE) (former Health Boards). The majority of our services are grant aided to 70% (the national average), the balance of which had to be fundraised locally. This is an enormous challenge. However, there are some areas in the country that are in receipt of less than 50% of HSE funding and pose an overwhelming financial burden that is no longer tolerable. The reality is that we now find ourselves fundraising over €2.5 million just to stand still and undoubtedly this is not sustainable into the future.

We welcome the changes in the Health Services and the integration of the Health Boards into one Executive. It remains to be seen if this will help our future planning for services. It behoves us to continue to develop systems for greater accountability, transparency and planning.

The year achieved greater political awareness of the need for investment in resources for older people and people with dementia in particular. This was somewhat reflected in last year's budget commitment of €150 million extra for community services for older people. The need for more services for dementia care is evident and the challenge is to genuinely respond to needs in a flexible and innovative way. The continued support from FAS, through the Community Employment Schemes, enhances and adds value to our range of services.

Our research report published in 2005 into the needs of people with early onset dementia highlighted the serious pressure families experience. This report was received favourably by the Department of Health and Children. Our campaign to raise awareness of the early signs of dementia through TV, radio and the print media was a great success yielding a 146% increase in calls to the National Helpline. The national campaign was supported through an educational grant by Pfizer Ireland.

Donations and finance for project development was significant this year. J.P. McManus, The Dormant Accounts Fund, The Royal Hospital Baggot Street and the HSE were the significant donors. There are many other funders and benefactors too numerous to mention but equally appreciated. Needless to say we are in search of new funding relationships with individuals and corporate business. We recognise the changing patterns in "giving" and the challenge that presents for us. New donors are absolutely essential to continue our work in pushing the boundaries to provide meaningful responses to people with dementia.

I wish to join with the Chairman in thanking the many people who have made a difference to our organisation by giving their time, energy and commitment – together we can make a difference.

Maurice O'Connell





OVERVIEW OF THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND AND ITS WORK

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is a national voluntary organisation, a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. It was established in 1982 by a small group of people who were caring for a family member with Alzheimer's disease and found little or no information or support available to them. The Society grew steadily and today there is an extensive national network of branches and services providing those people with all forms of dementia, their families and carers, with the necessary support to improve their quality of life.

The Society's support services currently comprises 26 Branches, a national network of 31 Day Care Centres, 20 Home Care/Support Services, 28 Carer Support Groups, 5 Social Clubs and one overnight Respite Centre. The Society also operates the Alzheimer National Helpline offering information and emotional support. A number of core functions are operated from the Alzheimer Society's national office including information, fundraising, public relations, training, human resources, policy and social research and finance. The Society has a range of funding partners, with the largest contribution coming from the Health Service Executive (HSE). The Society provided day and home care services to 1785 people with dementia (clients) throughout the country in 2005. The total number of home care hours provided was 203,120. The average attendance per client at day care was one day per week, while the average number of home care hours per person was five hours per week.

The period under review has been one of considerable change, the catalyst being the undertaking of an internal organisational review process which commenced in 2002. The implementation process was completed by the end of 2005. The review focused on internal restructuring and setting up procedures for dealing with:-

- Delivery and management of client focused services
- Financial management

- Corporate governance, accountability and risk
- Line management roles, responsibilities and reporting relationships
- Policies and procedures for dealing with clients, their carers, employees and volunteers
- Communications and corporate culture

With this major organisational change process completed, the Society is now well positioned to continue to grow and develop as a good practice and learning organisation. It is now operating at a level of professionalism which reflects our status as being the national dementia-specific organisation providing services throughout the country. The ethos of volunteering remains at the heart of the organisation and in 2005 the organisation engaged with almost 300 people who volunteered in a wide range of activities. Staff numbers are continually increasing and in 2005 the Society employed 740 full-time and part-time staff. The Society is also giving people with dementia a voice, and through a process of consultation, greater inclusiveness of people with dementia is being encouraged. Early diagnosis has enabled people to have the capacity to engage and take an active role in decisions affecting their lives.

Ireland's changing demographics mean that the demand for the services and supports offered by the Alzheimer Society will increase in the coming years. This will have obvious care and resource implications for the work of the Society. The progress made to date by the Society represents a platform from which to expand. The Society will continue to respond to unmet needs and plan for the future needs of people with dementia in Ireland. These are just two of the major challenges facing the Society in the future.

REFLECTING ON THE YEAR 2005 - THE NATIONAL PICTURE

A number of core functions are operated out of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's National Office. In 2005, the Society worked to consolidate and develop the national agenda and to continue to build the capacity of the organisation, internally and externally.

INFORMATION AND HELPLINE

The information and Helpline service continued to expand and develop throughout 2005. The provision of good quality and up-to-date information is a priority for all our customers – people with dementia, carers and family members as well as allied health professionals and students.

Alzheimer National Helpline 1 800 341 341

The Helpline is operated with the support of a highly trained and dedicated team of volunteers. Eighteen new Helpline volunteers were recruited and completed their training in February and March of 2005. To assist new and existing Helpline volunteers in their work, a range of training sessions were organised.

A Public Awareness Campaign on the early signs of Alzheimer's disease, which began in September and ran until mid December, was the main focus for the Helpline Service during the second half of 2005. As part of the preparation for the awareness campaign, briefing information on the operation of the Helpline, details of helpline volunteer training, information on ASI services nationally and key Helpline questions and answers were circulated to all regions of the Society to facilitate regional participation in the review of the quality, relevance, and accuracy of information given to users of the Helpline service in advance of the campaign. The campaign had a big impact on the volume of calls coming through the Helpline Service, with the number of calls logged doubling and in some months trebling. Prior to the campaign the average weekly call log rate was 40-45 calls per week. During the campaign the average rate increased to 110-120 calls per week.



Helpline Volunteers

Caller Types to the Helpline during the campaign

Worried about themselves or a loved one – 55%
Diagnosis received in the family – 30%
Professionals, students & media – 10%
Unknown caller type – 5%

Calling from:

The top 5 counties for generating calls during the campaign in descending order were Dublin, Cork, Kildare, Meath and Wexford.

Information

In response to an identified need, the Society introduced a new information product entitled '**Guidelines to Choosing a Nursing Home**' which aims to assist people when choosing a nursing home suitable for a loved one with dementia. The guidelines were introduced in September and have been received positively by those using them.

A new and innovative way of sharing information about dementia was a play presented in August 2005. The Society facilitated two performers from the United States taking to the stage to outline a daughter's experience of her mother becoming unwell, obtaining a diagnosis, and living with dementia. This moving and often humorous dramatic account, entitled **Love in the Land of Dementia** was warmly received by all those who attended the performance. The Society is grateful to Ron Zoglin and Deborah Shouse who took time out from their travels to perform. The Society hopes that such innovative ways of highlighting the reality of living with dementia can continue in 2006.



Attending the dramatic performance, Love in the Land of Dementia

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

In 2005, the training department of the Society continued to provide basic skills training as well as more advanced training for the Society's 1,000 strong staff and volunteer base. The department also provided an induction programme and supervision for new Helpline volunteers. The training of allied health care professionals and students was also a feature of the work.

The training department expanded the number of sessions being offered to staff and volunteers. Training in Client Moving and Handling and Activities in Homes and Centres continued to be delivered and additional sessions on Person centred Care, Confidentiality and Report Writing, Dementia and Alzheimer's disease, Communication and Understanding Behaviour were also delivered in many locations around the country.

The training department is regularly invited to participate in sessions on educational courses for nurses, medical students and other health care professionals and to attend professional development meetings of medical or paramedical staff. This included working with occupational therapists, nurses, post-graduate and undergraduate students in the various health professions. Some of the external institutions/organisations that the training department worked with throughout the year included

Our Lady's Hospice, the Health Service Executive, St. Ita's, Royal College of Surgeons, St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin City University and Age Action Ireland.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND AWARENESS RAISING

Through public relations activities the Society aims to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, the organisation itself, the services it provides, the needs of the people it represents and its needs in terms of funding, fundraising and of course policy planning.

Educating and informing children and young adults about the impacts of dementia on both the person with the condition and their carer/family members has become an important focus for the Society since the introduction of Alzheimer Hero Day in October 2004. The Society has developed teaching materials and lesson plans aimed at (a) primary and (b) secondary school pupils to empower them to play an active role in caring for loved ones with a dementia. The lesson for young children has been supplemented by the production of a children's book – Dear Grandma- which is available to purchase from the Society's national office.

In September 2005 the Society began an innovative disease awareness campaign to highlight the early signs of Alzheimer's disease and to bust the myth that these important early indicators are 'just a normal part of ageing'. Using TV, print and radio advertising, backed up by specific information products, the goal of the campaign was to promote early diagnosis by educating the general public about the early signs of Alzheimer's disease and encouraging them to seek help and advice from the Society. Advocating earlier diagnosis is a key objective for the Society as accessing an early diagnosis can mean that the person avails of appropriate supports and treatments earlier. This has been shown to increase their effectiveness in temporarily improving or stabilising some of the



symptoms of the condition. An earlier diagnosis may also mean that the person themselves plays a more active role planning their future care. The awareness campaign, which was supported by an educational grant from Pfizer Healthcare, has led to significant increase in the numbers of call to our Alzheimer Helpline.



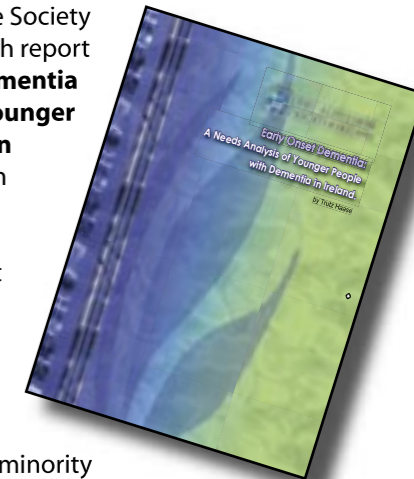
To celebrate World Alzheimer's Day 2005 the Society challenged people from all walks of life and from all parts of the country to put into words their feelings and experience of dementia. The overall aim of the initiative, entitled 'We Can Make A Difference', was to get people

talking about their experience of dementia and in so doing go a little way in changing the stigma that still surrounds the condition. These personal testimonies were published on our website which was visited by users from all over the world eager to add their stories. The Alzheimer Society of Ireland was one of more than 60 countries to celebrate World Alzheimer's Day in this 'think globally, act locally' way.

SOCIAL RESEARCH

The social research agenda for the Society is focused on researching niche issues that can provide an evidence base for the Society to lobby, influence policy and bring about changes in the lives of people with dementia and their carers.

On World Alzheimer's Day – 21 September 2005, the Society launched a major research report entitled 'Early Onset Dementia – A Needs Analysis of Younger People with Dementia in Ireland.' Launched by An Tainiste and Minister for Health, Mary Harney T.D., the report estimated that there are 3,500 people with dementia who are under 65 in Ireland. The report, for the first time, documents in a comprehensive way, this minority group's issues and service requirements.



At the launch of the Early Onset Dementia Report



FUNDRAISING

The Society has to rise to the challenge every year of generating 30% of its income through fundraising. 2005 was a year of great success in the fundraising department. Some key regular national fundraising events dominated the fundraising calendar as well as a huge amount of effort at the regional and branch levels to generate funds for our services and capital developments.

The Society has many loyal supporters that make a significant contribution. This year the donor base was further expanded. 2005 saw the continued success of the **Annual Tea Day Campaign** and with almost 2,500 people, had the largest number of tea day hosts ever. The day raised in excess of €550,000, the highest income to date in the history of the campaign. Our gratitude goes to Lyons who sponsored the event.



Enjoying a cuppa on Tea Day in the Merrion Hotel

The Alzheimer Hero Day Campaign in 2005 had a two-fold aim – raising awareness of dementia among the younger members of our population as well as fundraising in excess of €50,000. The theme ‘Be a Hero, Be Yourself’ was to recognise and celebrate the everyday heroes in our lives, whose dedication to others makes life meaningful in very real ways. Pfizer supported this campaign with an educational grant.



Rebecca and Robyn Murray at the launch of Hero Day

NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Society continued to network and partner with a host of organisations at regional, national, European and international level in 2005. The range and nature of the engagement varies according to the priorities and needs of the organisation. Among the many ‘partners’ the Society works with include the Health Service Executive at the various regional levels, the Dementia Information and Development Centre, the Neurological Alliance, the National Council on Ageing and Older People, Alzheimer Europe and Alzheimer’s Disease international.

Alzheimer Europe and the 12th Alzheimer Europe Conference

Maurice O’Connell, the Society’s CEO, took up the position of Chairman of Alzheimer Europe in 2004 for a two year term of office. This network of Alzheimer associations throughout Europe is a powerful voice in influencing not only the European but also the national dementia agendas in relation to member countries. The Alzheimer Society of Ireland was proud to host the 12th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Killarney in 2005. The theme for the conference was ‘**Dementia Matters**’ and the event provided a unique opportunity for almost 400 participants to meet, exchange views, deliver papers and generate discussion and debate on the latest developments and advances across the field of dementia disciplines.



Delegates at the Alzheimer Europe conference in June 2005, Killarney

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

As a service provider organisation, the Society is constantly working to consolidate and expand its range of services. The focus is on providing quality driven, dementia-specific and person-centred care services to persons with dementia and their families.

In progressing the quality agenda in 2005, the Society produced two **Service Operations Manuals** – one for its day care services, the other for its home respite services. Each manual is a care practice tool for the assessment and delivery of care to ensure a standardised approach and an optimal level of quality in service provision across the country. The stream-lining of **human resources practices** throughout the Society also continued the process of developing quality driven services. The focus for 2005 was on a continued alignment of HR practices with current employment legislation. The focus of health and safety was the provision of dementia-specific manual handling training to staff and volunteers in line with the Health, Welfare and Safety at Work Acts.

The details of the development of the services provided by the Society are in the regional section of this report, but two innovative services that commenced in 2005 are worthy of mention. The securing of funding from Comhairle meant that the Society started the process of establishing a rights-based pilot advocacy programme in North Dublin, employing a professional advocate to work directly with the person with dementia. This is an exciting strategic development for the organisation which we hope will become a mainstream activity in the forthcoming years. The emergence of social clubs which facilitate the coming together of people with dementia and their carers in a social environment with support from volunteers and staff commenced in the Eastern region with 3 clubs opening in 2005 and others planned for 2006.



ACTIVITIES IN THE REGIONS IN 2005

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland operates a regional structure, employing regional managers who work to support and manage the developments in their regions. In all of the regions the Society operates a range of services including home respite, day care, residential respite and carer support groups. The regions also play a critical role in fundraising, public awareness and political advocacy work. This section highlights some of the main developments in the regions for 2005 only. It is not intended as a comprehensive overview of all the regional services.

WEST AND NORTH WEST REGION

The West and North West Region covers Mayo, Galway, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal.

The region includes large areas that have not enjoyed the same levels of economic prosperity as the rest of the country and as a result there is a higher proportion of older and dependant population. Isolation and distance from services can be a significant factor. The Society is acutely aware of this and plans are well advanced to extend its home care and day care services in areas which are presently not covered.

In **Sligo** the Society is planning a Social Housing Scheme to develop a sixteen unit residential facility for people with dementia. This is an exciting initiative and a first for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. It provides for people with dementia to live independently in a safe and secure environment.

Cross Border contacts have been established with service providers in Fermanagh and an initial meeting involving representatives from the Alzheimer Society of Ireland and Alzheimer's Society Northern Ireland representatives from the HSE and Sperrin Lakeland Trust

took place. The purpose of these contacts is to discuss the possibility of establishing Home from Home service between Leitrim and Fermanagh, using a Scottish-based model.

In **Donegal** a new office premises was secured in September 2005. This new premises is establishing itself as a drop-in information service for families and persons affected by dementia. The Health Service Executive approved a once-off payment of €20,000 to the Donegal Branch in light of increased service levels.

In **Galway**, an alternative committee made up of students from NUIG was established in 2005, with a view to running a fundraising and awareness event in the city in early 2006. FAS approved six places on a Community Employment Scheme for the society to recruit Home Carers in the County. The Galway Branch published a book entitled *Stories of Caring/Scealta o Churamoiri!*. The book is a collection of short stories and poems contributed by carers to share with others in a similar position and captures in a true and real way the lives of those who are caring for a loved one with dementia.

In **Mayo**, FAS approved six places on a Community Employment Scheme for the Society to recruit carers in the county. Following discussions with the Psychiatry of Old Age Team in Castlebar it was agreed

that the most urgent service required was a day care service and it was agreed to establish this service in the town. A suitable bungalow was acquired and the service was up and running by early 2006. A service plan has been submitted to the HSE for funding towards the centre.

In **Roscommon**, a service plan to provide home care services in the county was submitted to the HSE for approval in September. The proposal is that the service would be managed by the existing services in Galway and Sligo.



At the launch of 'Stories of Caring'



Donegal branch members with John Hume in Letterkenny at the Dementia Recognition Awards



Sligo volunteers and staff

MID WESTERN REGION

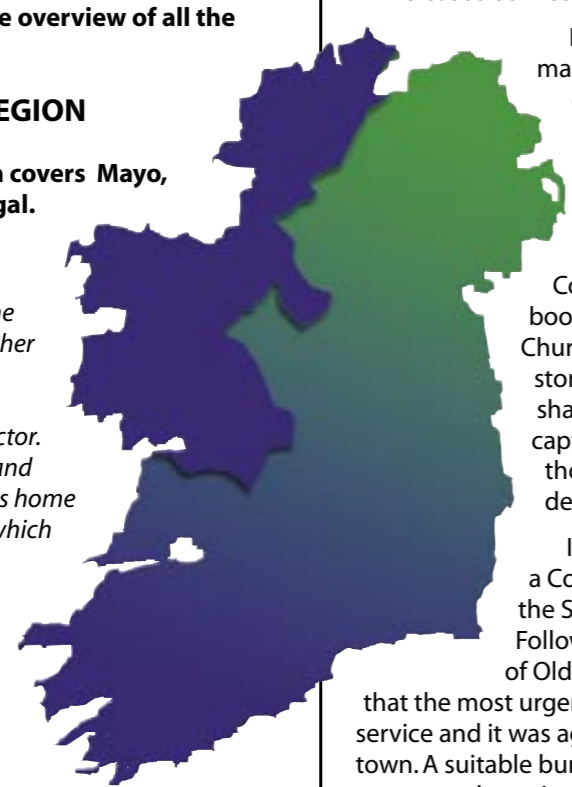
This Mid Western region covers Limerick city, Limerick County, Clare and Tipperary North.

The Society's services are quite well spread in this Region. Inevitably there are significant segments of people with dementia who do not have access to its services. The Society in the Region has recognised this and has been active in progressing a number of projects and initiatives. Through active fundraising and the very generous donations from a number of benefactors, it has been possible to plan a number of capital developments. Branch fundraising played a critical role in resourcing the existing services as well as raising essential funds to lever further investment for new capital projects.

During 2005 the Society purchased a former hotel, 'Waterman's Lodge' in Killaloe, **Co. Clare**. It was acquired through a substantial financial gift from JP McManus, Limerick branch fundraising and HSE funding. The re-developments are underway to adapt the building and site for an eleven-bed short-term respite centre as well as providing day care facilities for twenty-five people.

In **Limerick** a site has been secured in the grounds of St. Joseph's Hospital. Plans are being drawn up for a Day Care Centre and independent living units. The FAS Scheme in Limerick continues with 15 participants providing home support to families in the Limerick city area.

The Home Care Service saw further expansion in **Co. Limerick**





and **Co. Clare**. The **Clare** branch relocated themselves to new office premises. A new branch of the Society was established in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, which set up an Advice and Information Centre in Nenagh town.

Facilities at the Day Care Centre, in **Adare, Co. Limerick** were further improved by the construction of a conservatory and addition of new bathroom facilities.

At regional level, the Society was invited to become a member of the HSE Regional Advisory Committee for the provision of Care Services for the Elderly. The Region planned and co-ordinated staff restructuring within the services in conjunction with the branches in 2005. It also ran a number of successful fundraising sessions and acquired additional funding from the HSE in 2005 for distribution to the Branches.



Limerick volunteers and staff



Waterman's Lodge, Killaloe



The North Tipperary Branch

SOUTH EAST REGION

The South East region covers **Wexford, Waterford, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Carlow and Kilkenny**.

The Society has a range of services operating in this region. During 2005 a significant effort was placed on improving and extending services. Volunteers and branches have been very active in this endeavour. As in the other regions, the need for fundraising to maintain services continues to be pressing and our volunteers have done great work in this regard.

During 2005, day care and home care services were established in **Co. Wexford** to meet a huge demand. The FAS Community Employment Scheme expansion this year enabled a greater level of service provision throughout the county. However, despite this there are still a substantial number of people on the waiting list. The day care service in **Enniscorthy** continued to grow during the period. A number of support groups were established for the carers in Wexford town, Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross. Their emergence related to a joint ASI –HSE public meeting held earlier in the year.



There was an increase in staffing and service levels in **Kilkenny** city. A new bus and equipment was purchased by the branch committee to provide an enhanced day care service which continued to be in much demand.

In **Tipperary** our services were expanded to cover a greater part of the south of the county. Volunteers and staff have worked hard to increase and improve services and raise funds. With funding from the National Lottery, there was investment in both training for staff and family carers in the county. A new office opened in Clonmel.

In 2005 we opened our purpose-built, state of the art, Day Care Centre in **Waterford** city called Pinegrove. This successful project was in partnership with the HSE and reflects the hard work of volunteers and staff in bringing it to completion. The Centre provides facilities for up to 35 people and the home care services are also managed from the premises. Our patron, President Mary McAleese, formally opened the Centre. During the year a series of public awareness meetings were held in various locations in the region and the large attendances proved that there is a great need for information and support in the community.



The opening of the Pinegrove Day Care Centre in Waterford



Enjoying the Watergarden in Thomastown



Tea Day in Tullow

EASTERN REGION

The Eastern region covers **Dublin City, Dublin county Kildare and Wicklow**.

Whilst the catchment area geographically is relatively small, the population and client base is very large. During 2005 the challenge has been on-going to reach out and extend our services and support to as many people and communities as possible. As part of our strategy to achieve this, a number of care service initiatives were devised and put in place and planning in respect of several others is well advanced.

In **Dublin**, the day care centre in Taney, **Dundrum** was relocated to more suitable premises in Woodstock, **Ranelagh** and the service has been increased to two days per week. Our **city-centre** based Granby Day Care Centre

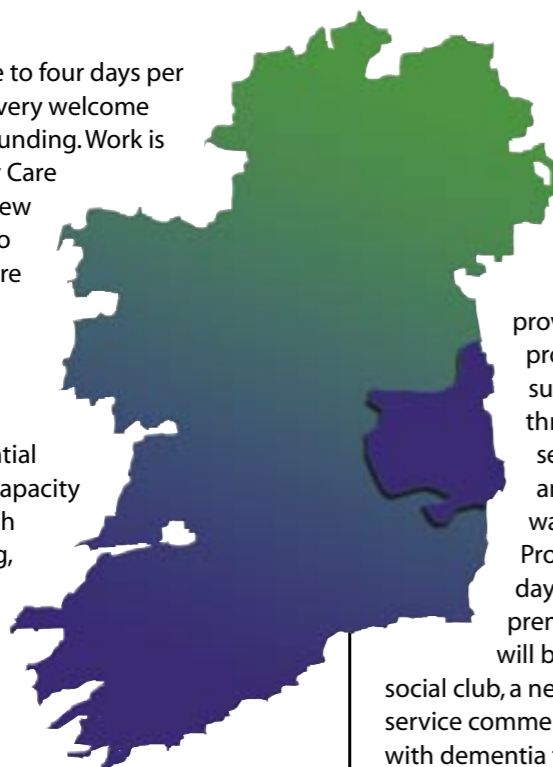


increased its services from three to four days per week. These improvements are very welcome and are the result of increased funding. Work is well underway to move our Day Care Centre at Sybil Hill, **Raheny** to new premises, which will enable us to accommodate our clients in more suitable environment.

A Co-ordinator of Home Respite Services for the region was appointed to manage and oversee the provision of residential respite. This has increased the capacity of the home respite services with two new programmes emerging, one each on the **north and south sides** of the city.

In collaboration with Comhairle, the Society established a new pilot Advocacy Programme in **north city and county Dublin**, to provide a rights-based personal advocacy service for people with dementia. With the appointment of an Advocacy Manager, this programme is set to make a real difference in the new year.

A new carer support group was set up in **Kimmage** which complements the existing number of support groups. In addition, a support group for persons with dementia increased in strength in the **Dun Laoghaire** area. The planning and development of the Orchard National Alzheimer Centre, **Blackrock**, Co. Dublin continued apace in 2005. The Centre will incorporate a day care service to accommodate up to 25 people per day and a Residential Respite Facility to accommodate 11 people per night, permanent administrative office space for National Office and the provision of a National Training, Counselling and Information Resource Centre for the Society. The National Alzheimer Centre will be developed according to best practice international standards and be the first of its kind



in Ireland. The funding for this project involves a variety of partners including major contributions from the Health Service Executive, Dormant Accounts, private trusts and fundraising by the Blackrock Branch of the Society.

In **Kildare** a day care service was provided in **Monasterevin** and the home care programme, operating from Athy, provided support to people in their own homes throughout the county. In **Wicklow** day care services continued to be provided in **Carnew** and **Avoca** and the home care programme was expanded throughout the region.

Progress was made in relation to moving the day care centre in Avoca to newly refurbished premises in **Rathdrum** and it hoped that this will be accomplished in 2006. In **Bray**, the

social club, a new and innovative support and friendship service commenced. The Club provides carers and persons with dementia the opportunity to meet and exchange information and advice in an informal social setting. This service proved so popular that the social club concept is expanding to many other areas in the region, including **Rathfarnham, Cabra, Athy** and **Ballyfermot** and more are planned for 2006.



Dublin school children promoting awareness



Dublin based staff at the Alzheimer Europe Killarney conference



Dublin/Kildare Branch members

MIDLANDS AND NORTH EAST REGION

The Midlands and North East region covers **Louth, Meath, Westmeath, Longford, Cavan, Monaghan, Laois and Offaly**.

The region has succeeded in increasing its service levels in 2005. A good deal of its efforts in the past two years has been directed towards bringing services to areas not covered by the Society.

The availability of home care and day care services in **Offaly** and **Laois** increased during 2005. Carer support groups in both counties were established and the services in Laois and Offaly became further integrated with HSE Admission and Discharges teams in Tullamore and the psychiatric care team attached to the

Consultant in Portlaoise. As a result, the client base grew in both Laois and Offaly. The Offaly office expanded to incorporate an information centre. The Society avails of a private respite bed in the Clover Lodge Nursing Home, Shinrone, Offaly. This bed has been fully occupied throughout the year. In Portlaoise the FAS Community Employment scheme continues to provide a home care service to clients in the area. A vibrant support group for carers emerged in 2005 in Tullamore and a family support group was also established in Portlaoise.

Our Day Care Service in **Monaghan** has increased to two days per week to meet demand from families. A respite service was started in **Westmeath** on a trial basis.

President Mary McAleese paid a visit to the Whistlemount Day Centre in **Navan, Co. Meath**. She had expressed a wish to see a centre engaged in its normal daily activities. She met and engaged with the clients and her words of encouragement were much appreciated by family, carers and staff. Training and staff development are major supports of the work in Navan and the family support group continues. In **Oldcastle Co. Meath** the

fledgling day service has been well supported by the HSE and its client base has increased. A

public meeting was held in the Spring of 2005 which was very well attended.

Although restricted by finance limitations and premises availability day care facilities experienced an increase in client base in **Cavan**. Towards the end of the year, agreement was reached in principle with the HSE to plan for the introduction of a transport service to Cavan.

In **North and South Louth**, the day care and home care services continued to be very well attended. The Support





Group is also very active. A new ambulance was purchased with the support of Paddy Power Plc and this is now operational. In **Longford** the home care service continues to develop as well as a residential respite care service organised in conjunction with Laurel Lodge Nursing Home. For a fixed period of six months a second bed was made available and was fully utilised. The family support group continues to thrive and a FAS-supported Home Support service also operated successfully during 2005.

The Society was an active participant in the HSE Elder Abuse and Dementia working group in the region. Given the geographic location of the region, there is on-going cross border co-operation with the Alzheimer Society Northern Ireland (ASNI). In 2005, this involved exploration of possible linkages and common areas of interest. The initial discussion took place regarding the development of a joint service with ASNI based in Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh.



ASI Longford Group



North East Home Support Staff Graduation



Representatives from the branches - Midlands and North East.

SOUTH WEST REGION

During 2005 the South West region covered Cork City, Cork county and Kerry.

There are several large population centres in the region in which the Society is established and providing services. However the region is geographically widespread and largely rural and the challenge for the Society has been to access those communities with no support or services. A good deal of progress has been made in this regard in 2005.

The Day Care and Home Care services



being provided in **Cork City** are in much demand. During 2005 the Society revised its activities in an endeavour to provide services to a greater number of people. The volunteers have been proactive in this process and the benefits have begun to show. A major project for the Society in Cork was the Bessboro building, which started in 2005 and will be completed in 2006. The Bessboro building includes a Day Care Centre, which will have the capacity to provide services for twenty-five clients on a sessional basis. Administration services for the region will also be centred there. This achievement is a tribute to the commitment and hard work of all the volunteers and staff and we acknowledge the support from the Health Service Executive.

In **Mallow, Co. Cork** the well established Day Care Service has been augmented by a pilot respite scheme and the Society is hopeful that this can be extended.

In the more **rural areas of Cork and Kerry**, home care services are a crucial support to clients and their families and carers. During 2005 the Society delivered 30,000 hours of home care through the Home Care Service Agreement, in conjunction with the HSE. The home care service was successfully relaunched in the Beara Peninsula. The process of identifying new premises for our service in **Tralee** continues.

Meeting with local groups in their communities has been a feature of creating greater awareness of Alzheimer's disease and the help and supports that are available. In conjunction with this awareness work the Society launched a new counselling service in Cork city for people with dementia, their carers and family members.



Turning the sod for the new day care centre in Cork city.



North Cork branch at the Mallow Sports and Leisure Council Awards ceremony receiving their award



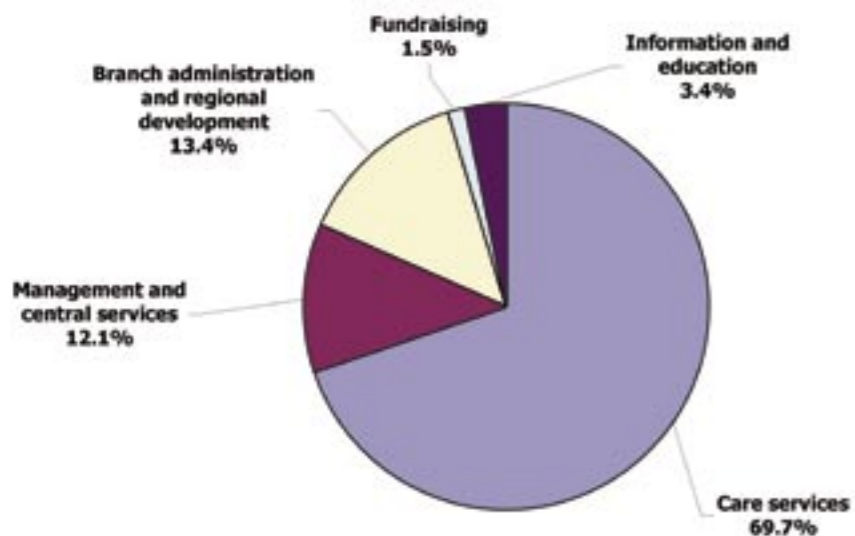
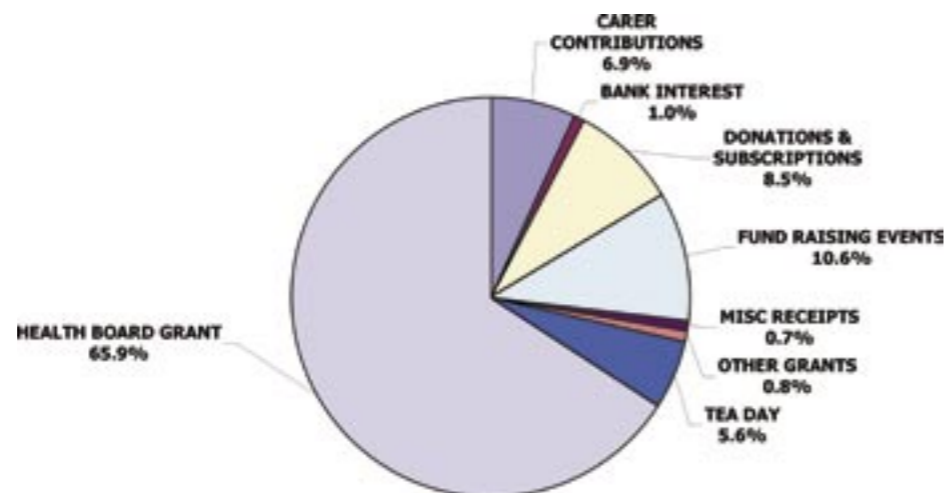
Delegates from the Alzheimer Europe conference visit the Day Care Centre in Kilgarvan

THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

	2005 €	2004 €
INCOME	9,136,265	8,111,733
EXPENSES	8,974,913	7,443,577
OPERATING SURPLUS	161,352	668,156
SPECIFIC INCOME		
RESEARCH	0	0
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	1,751,509	0
TRANSFER SPECIFIC INCOME TO RESTRICTED FUNDS	-1,751,509	0
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL RESERVE		-53,693
TRANSFER TO GENERAL RESERVE		
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	161,352	614,463

THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	2005 €	2004 €
Unrestricted income		
Donations	630,019	605,199
Interest income	93,261	94,944
Fundraising	775,899	825,525
Total unrestricted income	<u>1,563,179</u>	<u>1,525,668</u>
Restricted Income		
HSE grants	6,020,999	5,224,766
Other grants	75,052	101,562
Fundraising	1,477,035	1,273,722
Capital grants	1,751,509	0
Total restricted income	<u>9,324,595</u>	<u>6,600,050</u>
Total income	<u>10,887,774</u>	<u>8,125,718</u>
Expenditure		
Care services	6,254,837	5,561,815
Management and central services	1,083,224	825,939
Branch administration and regional development	1,204,079	643,492
Fundraising	131,403	170,661
Information and education	301,370	241,670
Research	22,183	26,808
Total expenditure	<u>8,997,096</u>	<u>7,470,385</u>
Net movement in funds	1,890,678	655,333
Total assets at beginning of year	9,409,106	8,753,773
Total assets at end of year	11,299,784	9,409,106



This statement is a summary of information extracted from the consolidated annual accounts of the Society.



HOME CARE AND DAY CARE SERVICE LOCATIONS



THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND

PRESIDENT	Mr Christopher Domegan
DIRECTORS	Ms Winifred Bligh Dr Niall Tierney, Chairman Mrs Mary Dunleavy Mr Brian Holland Mr Maurice A. O'Connell Mrs Lillian Sullivan Mr Kevin Norton Mr Maurice J. O'Connell Mr James Nugent Mr Fintan Walsh
SECRETARY	Mr Maurice A. O'Connell
REGISTERED OFFICE	Alzheimer House 43 Northumberland Avenue Dun Laoghaire Co. Dublin
AUDITORS:	Curran Nalty & Co. 10 Kennelsfort Road Lower Palmerstown Dublin 20
PRINCIPAL BANKERS:	Permanent TSB Stillorgan Co. Dublin



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