

Co Donegal VEC

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

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## Restorative Practice Update

The Peace III Restorative Practice Project, which all the Youthreach centres are engaged in along with fourteen post-primary schools, Donegal Youth Service and Foróige, has now moved into the third element of the project, organisational activity. Having participated in training in November 2011 and just completed two research instruments, centres are now putting together a plan to further embed restorative practice in their centres from September 2012-April 2013. They will receive a small amount of funding from the project to enable them to implement the plan. Additionally Youthreach staff, along with school and youth work staff, have been invited to participate in a Post Graduate Certificate in Restorative Practice to be provided by the University of Ulster. This will run from September 2012-April 2013. It is also funded by PEACE III.

**PEACE III Donegal CDB Peace & Reconciliation Partnership**



Project supported by PEACE III Programme managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Donegal County Council

## Young Driver's Cross Border Event

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, groups of trainees from three Youthreach centres attended the cross border road safety show, in Brady on the outskirts of Strabane. The day began with a rules of the road quiz, followed by use of the driving simulator which gives learners an idea of what driving is really like, placing obstacles along their route for the drivers to avoid and negotiate along the way, while adhering to the speed limit and rules of the road. The final demonstration of the day, involved a staged accident in which the fire service, police and ambulance crews worked together to rescue young people from a car crash, showing young people the dangers of driving without due care and attention and what could happen to them the next time they decide to make a phone call or read a text while driving.



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ryan Matthewson from Letterkenny Youthreach who recently had an article published in the local papers about his experience of Youthreach. You can read Ryan's article at: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/1e6qUFx7qNDfryxgQw0d3gajeKC1bbfvKWXhZJhukZID9FYzT52Xp0qdwR3Ka/edit?pli=1>



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Coiste Gairmoideachais  
Chontae Dhún na nGall  
County Donegal Vocational  
Education Committee

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*Welcome...* to the second edition of our 2012 newsletter. Centres have been very busy with FETAC and LCA assessments over the last few months. Some of the highlights have included Letterkenny Youthreach hosting a successful visit by the Minister for Education and Skills when he visited the county on 18 May (see photos below) and the centres getting together for the annual Career Days, focusing on interviews and practical demonstrations. We hope you have a lovely summer and the next edition will be available in early October.  
*Dr Sandra Buchanan, Youthreach County Coordinator*

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## Minister for Education & Skills Visits Letterkenny Youthreach

On Friday 18 May, Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn, paid a visit to Letterkenny Youthreach, meeting learners, staff and parents. Below are a selection of photos of the day.



## Lifford Organise County Football Match for Gaisce Award

On May the 15<sup>th</sup> we organised a charity football competition between all the Youthreach's in Donegal: this involved a lot of organising and was done as part of our Gaisce bronze award. We had to ring the Finn Valley A.C. to see if the AstroTurf was available to use. We had to give them around 2 weeks' notice that we wanted the use of two AstroTurf pitches. The five teams played it were Lifford Youthreach, Ballyshannon Youthreach, Gortahork Youthreach, Letterkenny Youthreach and Bunrana Youthreach. We played each other twice to see who got to the finals. The weather was very warm and mild—it was a good day to have a football tournament. Every player had to pay five euro towards the Alzheimer's charity; we raised over 100 euros. The team who won was Bunrana Youthreach they were a very strong team it was well deserved and well done to all the teams who entered into the competition.



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## Bunrana Participate in National Football Competition

Pictured left is the Bunrana football team who competed in the national football competition in Dublin earlier this year. It was a great day, enjoyed by all.



## Bunrana Enter Junk Couture Competition

Learners from Bunrana Youthreach recently got involved in the Junk Couture competition. Learners Nadine Doherty, Shannon Mc Daid and Debbie Burns made a dress in art with tutor Claire Harkin. The dress is pictured right being modelled by Nadine at the Junk Couture quarter final in Belfast on Sunday 11 March. Although they didn't make it through to the final, it was a fabulous experience and they will definitely be entering the competition again next year. The finalists were on the Late Late Show with Ryan Tubridy. Junk Couture is sponsored by the European Recycling Platform (ERP).



## Successful County Careers Day

Learners from all centres participated in a mock interview day on 7 June and a skills demonstration day on 8 June. This is the second time this has been held on a county basis and proved quite successful and enjoyable amongst learners.



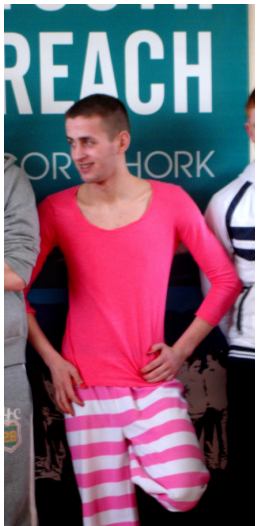
## Gortahork Fundraise for Relay for Life



Learners and Staff from Youthreach and VTOS Gortahork joined forces in a bed push to raise over €1,300 for Relay For Life. The event was organised by Sharon McGee, with Youthreach resource tutor Mickey McHugh playing the part of the patient! The bed was pushed through the village of Gortahork and on to Falcarragh, with learners from both programmes giving their all to collect as much money as possible. Congratulations to all involved!



Youthreach also turned pink for a day to raise money for Relay for Life. Staff, learners and even food were decked out in varying shades of pink – from a subtle salmon to a cringe-worthy cerise! Learners and staff contributed money on the day and there was a prize given to Sean Kearney (pictured right) for his pink pyjama bottoms and vest ensemble. Well done to all involved!



## Ballyshannon Undertake Annual Walk

Ballyshannon Youthreach took on their annual Roguey walk and Lifeboat Centre visit last week. The weather was fabulous and the day was a great success, again, with learners and staff. See photos below for some pictures from the day.



*Pictured left: Stefan Walker posing for a picture along Roguey in Bundoran.*

*Pictured right: Alistair Mc Kee trying on the uniform for size in Bundoran Lifeboat & Rescue Centre.*

