



This is the fifth monthly newsletter of the National Family Support Network, a way for us to promote events and spreading news throughout the network.

News

Happy Christmas from the National Family Support Network!

We hope you all have a great holiday, and we'd like to thank you all for the great work that has been done over the past year. We hope that next year is even better, and we look forward to continuing to work to support families with you into the future.

We'd also like to remind you that the NFSN offices will be closed for the holidays from the **22nd of December**, and will be opening again on the **8th of January**. If there's anything you need during this time please email info@fsn.ie and we'll get back to you as soon as we reopen.

10 Years of Supporting Families

As you may be aware 2017 marks ten years of NFSN as an autonomous organization, and on the 6th of December we held a celebration event that was a great success. We'd like to thank those of you that attended, and also our wonderful speakers Susan Scally, Anna Quigley, Tony Hickey, Bridget Sugrue and Maureen Penrose. We'd also like to give a special thanks to Philip Isard, who launched our Valuing Family Support report, which looks at the important social value that is created through investment in family support services. We hope that this report will help to fuel the next ten years of family support, and we look forward to working with you all in the future. If you are interested in the report, please contact us at info@fsn.ie for a copy.

Upcoming Events

NFSN Annual Service of Hope and Commemoration

We're currently deep in preparation for our annual Service of Hope and Commemoration on the 1st of February, and it's promising to be one of the best yet. The service will be held in **Our Lady of Lourdes, Sean McDermott Street at 7.30pm**, with a reception afterwards in the **Gresham Hotel, O'Connell Street**. We know that our service is always popular and well enjoyed by all, so we hope you can join us on the night. Full details will be available in January.

We'd like to remind any Family Support Groups who have quilts that they would like to have displayed in the church during the service to please get them to us by the **25th of January**. This is the latest that we can accept them and still have them displayed in the church. For Dublin based groups, collection of the quilts can be arranged for the same date, the **25th of January** between **10am and 4:30pm**. All quilts will of course be returned as soon as possible after the service.

South East Region Report Launch

The South East Region Family Support Network are launching their "Families Matter Too" booklet and "Family Members Recovery Needs" report this January. Together the booklet and report will be invaluable resources for family support in Ireland. The launch will be attended by Minister Catherine Byrne, and is on Friday the **12th of January, in the Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow**. Please RSVP to info@serfsn.org or phone **051-312010**.

TDATF seminar in January

Following on from the launch of their "Next Generation" research, Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force will be hosting a seminar entitled "Supporting the Next Generation". This seminar will provide an opportunity to support the dissemination of

the research messages and foster dialogue with a wider audience on how we can better understand the needs of the next generation and work together to support them to reach their full potential. The seminar will be held on **Wednesday the 24th of January, in Rua Red, Tallaght at 10am**. To RSVP or for more information, please email Breda Byrne at breda.byrne@sdcpartnership.ie.

Network Highlights

5-Step Accreditation

We would like to congratulate Paddy Clarke, from Crosscare, Swords, and Billy Doherty from Community Substance Misuse Team, Limerick, who have recently completed their 5-Step accreditation. We're sure that the skills they have gained will aide them in supporting family members into the future. We held our final 5-Step Training session of 2017 on the 7th and 8th of December, which was highly enjoyed by all and informative for all. We will be announcing the dates for 5-Step training in 2018 early next year, so keep an eye out.

JADD Service of Hope and Commemoration

We would like to congratulate the JADD Project in Tallaght, Dublin, for a very successful and inspiring Service of Hope and Commemoration last Thursday, held in their offices. The event was enjoyed by all, and was attended by our own Development Officer, Conor. We wish the attendees and the project itself all the best in the new year, and look forward to next year's service.

If you have any events or information that you would like to be shared in future newsletters please contact us directly before the 24th of January. You can email us at development@fsn.ie or call 01-898-0148.

All the best,

The NFSN team