



CATHERINE MCAULEY CENTRE

23 Herbert Street

Dublin 2

The Catherine Mc Auley Centre is a thriving Women's Centre in the heart of Dublin. Rebuilt in 1998 on the exact site where Catherine built her first House of Mercy for women in 1827, this bright, new, spacious centre on the corner of Herbert Street /Baggot Street is a place of welcome and hospitality for all women.

Committed to the empowerment of women, through hospitality, self-development, education and training the centre offers a wide range of programmes and courses which target areas of greatest need for women today.

The centre which is still evolving is at a most exciting point in its development perched, as it is, on the brink of implementing its recently compiled three-year strategic plan.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Catherine McAuley Centre is dedicated to the development, education and well being of women most in need in today's society.

Consistent with Gospel values and the vision of Catherine, the Centre seeks to identify areas of need which are not being reached by other groups and to address them in a collaborative and participative way.

In pursuance of its aims the Centre co-operates with bodies doing similar work both nationally and internationally.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To work with women especially those who are most in need

To empower women through educational, spiritual and self-developmental programmes

To provide for needs which are not catered for by other service providers

To network and collaborate with other organisations and agencies in order to meet the needs of women

CORE ACTIVITIES:

Spirituality

- Sacred Space for Women – On the third Sunday of each month women from all walks of life gather in a sacred and safe space to explore together through thoughts and ritual the mystery of who they are.
- Lunch Time Lull – Tuesday lunch-time offers busy women and men half an hour of silent meditation – a quiet oasis in a noisy market-place!
- Inter-Faith Encounter - In response to the variety of faiths/ religions inhabiting the centre at present this is a real opportunity for dialogue and growth in mutual understanding and respect .
- Afternoon and Evening courses in Yoga, Tai Chi, Creative Writing, Mid-Life Transitions and Sacred Dance as well as week-end workshops in Dreams, Enneagram, Reiki etc. enable women and men to continue to pursue the gentle, diverse paths of the spirit.

MERCY OPEN DOOR

This project, established in 2002, offers support, information, education and training to women refugees, asylum-seekers and immigrants in response to an obvious vacuum in these services in south Dublin city.

Up to 25 women from all 5 continents come daily to learn English and IT and to access information and support in the friendly, welcoming ambience of the centre. Child-care is a pivotal and challenging corollary of the project as 85% of the women have young children. In keeping with Health Board and Health & Safety Regulations, a playroom facility is being established and two fully qualified child-care staff employed.

Outreach, networking and referrals are all growing parts of Mercy Open Door.

OTHER SERVICES

Prison Outreach:

In the past three years the centre has trained over 30 volunteers to engage in prison ministry. Eight of these continue to visit and befriend women in Dochas Women's Prison, 5 attend to families of prisoners at the Visitors' Centre and 6 teach literacy at St. Patricks' Institution for juvenile male offenders.

Counselling:

Three part-time fully qualified, accredited counsellors are engaged to offer this service to individuals who request or are referred for counselling.

Aromatherapy/Massage is also available

The centre also houses two projects, Mercy Archives and Child Protection who work within the centre but are employed by the Congregation Leadership Team

CONFERENCE FACILITIES

One large and one smaller modern fully equipped conference facility are available for hire to businesses when not in use for women's programmes

STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

Three full-time and four part-time staff backed by over 50 committed volunteers carry the work and life of the centre.

STATUS

The Catherine Mc Auley Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee, with charitable status.

Further details:

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