



27th September 2009

83% of public fear homelessness will increase as a result of the economic climate

Simon Week 2009, which will run from 5th to 11th October, is being supported for the second year running by EBS Building Society. Over the course of the week a wide range of activities and events are planned throughout the country.

Simon Week represents a unique opportunity for Simon Communities of Ireland to raise awareness of homelessness in Ireland, to urge all sections of Irish Society to understand the causes of homelessness in Ireland and to take action to bring homelessness to an end.

EBS has been a long time supporter of the work of the Simon Communities in Ireland. Our business is uniquely focused on enabling people to buy their homes, but we are acutely aware of those on the margins of our society for whom the idea of owning their own home is out of reach. Through this partnership we have achieved many goals and we hope that the awareness raised during Simon Week next week will in some way help to tackle the problem of homelessness on the streets of Ireland.

The activities planned over the course of Simon Week are designed to help educate people about the issue of homelessness. For details of national and local activities in your area, please visit www.simon.ie

You can also show your support by donating money into our dedicated Simon Account at any of our EBS offices nationwide.

Seven things you can do to help end homelessness in Ireland and to support the work of the Simon Communities around the country.

- Remember that people who are homeless are really no different to anybody else - they have the same hopes and dreams as you, your friends and family. You really can make a difference to their lives - think about it and then do it!
- Organise a fundraising event to support the work of your local Simon community.
- Make a donation to support the work of the Simon Communities around the country.
- Volunteer with your local Simon Community. (note: there may be age restrictions)
- Raise the issue of homelessness with your local politicians and public representatives, and with your friends and family.
- Work to ensure that people who are subject to the injustice of homelessness are welcomed in your community
- Get informed and keep informed about homelessness in Ireland by contacting your local Simon Community or visiting www.simon.ie