



14th November 2010

EBS Building Society joins forces with the Simon Communities of Ireland to support their full time volunteer training programme

Sunday 14th November, 2010– EBS Building Society has joined forces with the Simon Communities of Ireland to support 20 of their full time volunteers on their unique training programme. Today's announcement builds on a six year partnership between EBS Building Society and Simon Communities of Ireland.

The Simon Full Time Volunteer Training Programme supported by EBS, welcomes volunteers from all over the world come to live and work in Simon Communities around Ireland for a minimum period of six months. Over the course of the six months the Simon volunteers are given the opportunity to achieve a third level certificate during their placement. This is a unique prospect for volunteers as Simon are the only Irish organisation that provides this offering. The certificate is CPD (Continued Professional Development) at level 6 (Fetac & Hetac). This programme has been developed in partnership with DIT and is now entering its third year.

Speaking about the EBS/Simon partnership, Aidan Power, Head of Marketing at EBS Building Society, said: "EBS has been a long time supporter of the work of the Simon Communities of Ireland. Volunteers are the people who impress me the most. I know that all of the volunteers working full time for the Simon Communities have made long term commitments to Simon and continually demonstrate that when people need their help most, they are there. I want to congratulate all volunteers on their ongoing work. It is this spirit of volunteerism that will make a significant contribution to our society and I wish all the volunteers starting the programme today the very best of luck."

During their six month placement, volunteers work in a Simon project and the tasks are varied. On an average shift, the volunteer will find themselves involved in the general household and administration duties associated with project work. However, the most important aspect of this work is the development of positive working relationships with the people who use the services. The work will include advocating on behalf of people, supporting people in leisure activities and where necessary assisting people with physical needs.

Noeleen O'Callaghan, Volunteer Co-ordinator, speaking about the announcement said: 'The Simon Full Time Volunteer Training Programme is hugely important to the Simon Communities of Ireland and highlights the level of significance we ascribe to contributions made to our services all over Ireland by our volunteers. They not only give generously of their time to help those experiencing homelessness but gain valuable skills in the workplace which will serve them well in their future chosen paths. The support given from EBS Building Society further enforces the importance of the work volunteers provide and acts as the truest recognition for our programme. We are delighted to announce this partnership'.

For further information on The Simon Full Time Volunteer Training Programme, supported by EBS, log onto www.simon.ie or phone 01-6711606.