

# 2022

## SAFE HOME IRELAND OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



### OUR WORK

Established in 2000, Safe Home Ireland was set up to facilitate the desire for older Irish born emigrants abroad to return home to live in their native area. Over the years, the organisation has evolved from simply providing a housing option for older Irish born emigrants. Alongside this role, we now provide a range of other services including information and guidance to all emigrants abroad and outreach and advocacy support to those who return home regardless of age, circumstances or geographical relocation on return.

Since our inception we have directly assisted 2,241 people return home to secure accommodation and supported countless others who have returned independently and accessed our advocacy and outreach supports on their return. For the majority, their return was a positive lifelong dream and could not have been fulfilled without the intervention and support of Safe Home.

### OUR VISION

Our Vision is to ensure that anyone considering returning or moving to Ireland is given every opportunity to make an informed decision.

### OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to act as the link for Irish emigrants, both at home and abroad, by providing advice, information, guidance and supports for those seeking permanent repatriation as well as those who choose to stay in their adopted country.

## OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Direct Support

Our direct support service provides information, advocacy and outreach supports to people before, during and after the moving process. Due to Covid travel restrictions in the first part of the 2022 we had to temporarily suspend this service. Despite this, we carried out 195 home visits to support people in their transition back to Ireland and we carried out 60 home visits and meetings with our housing applicants across England.

We facilitated five Returning to Ireland Information Clinics in partnership with Irish and other welfare centres abroad, covering Birmingham, Luton, London and USA. We continue to work in close partnership with housing providers, local authorities, Consular service and other emigrant support providers in Ireland to ensure a seamless service is provided to those who do return home. We responded to 441 information requests during the year and processed 65 new housing applications. Accommodation was secured for 45 people this year and for 2,241 people since our inception.



### Governance & Compliance

Our Board continues to meet bi-monthly and regular meetings of various sub-committees were held during the year. In line with our Governance succession plan and following a recruitment campaign, we welcomed two new Directors, Patricia Codyre and Niall Foley, who bring a unique set of skills, experiences and perspectives to our work. We thank outgoing Directors; Orlagh McHugh, Patricia Liddy and Denis Joyce for their contributions and commitment to our mission.

We continue to work on maintaining compliance and good governance and we reviewed and developed many policies and procedures. We submitted quarterly returns to ensure compliance with regulations around lobbying and also reported for the second year on full compliance with the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) Governance Code. We commenced work on developing our new Strategic Plan, which we plan to launch mid-2023.



### Networking & Representation

Advancing our profile nationally and globally remained a key priority in 2022. In January we set up Friends of Safe Home Ireland, to both advance our profile as well as raise additional funds to support our work. The group met regularly and supported a number of events during the year. Our Ambassador, Seán Keane, continued to support our work and performed at three concerts in 2022. Seán also hosted one Facebook live concert from the Keane ancestral home, Carragh Cottage in Co. Galway.

With the support of The Community Foundation for Ireland (CFI) we launched a 21 year impact report, A Hand From Home, together with a number of short impact videos highlining our work during over our 21 year history, all available from our website and social media channels. We launched our Friday Friendship Diary/Poetry Book which contains original and inspirational poetry. This Diary was sponsored by so many private and corporate bodies and has been a unique and fruitful marketing and fundraising tool.



### OUR TEAM

**PATRON:** Michael D. Higgins,  
The President of Ireland

**AMBASSADOR:** Seán Keane, Singer

**LIFE PRESIDENT:** Dr. Jerry Cowley

**DIRECTORS:** Nova Fariss (Chairperson); Michael Joe Ginnelly (Treasurer); Ann Roddy (Secretary); Teresa Cowley, Joan O'Flynn, Niall Foley; Patricia Codyre

**STAFF:** Karen McHugh (CEO); Mary Ann Fadian (Co-Ordinator); Brenda Fleming and Noreen Mulrine (Outreach & Advocacy Officers); Johnny B. Broderick (Information & Communications Officer)

**FRIENDS:** Diarmuid McAuliffe; Ann Lawler; Loretta Gordon; Stephen Graham; Pauline Gallagher; Peter Grogan

# 2022

# SAFE HOME IRELAND

## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Safe Home Ireland has a proven track of over 22 years of supporting and advocating for Irish emigrant-communities globally. This review provides a snapshot of our work and impact in 2022.

# 5,193

client interventions



INFORMATION



OUTREACH



HOUSING



CONNECT



## INFORMATION

We provide a free, confidential and professional information and advocacy service to anyone (regardless of age or circumstances) who may be contemplating returning or moving to Ireland.

# 441

information requests

# 73%

of queries are from Irish-born people.

6% 2nd generation

21% Other

## OUTREACH

We provide an outreach and advocacy service to people who have recently returned home to Ireland (regardless of age or circumstances) and to our housing applicants in the UK.



195 Outreach Appointments



5 Returning to Ireland Information Clinics



60 Outreach Appointments (UK)



## HOUSING

We assist qualifying older Irish born emigrants to explore secure housing options and to assist in their return home, primarily to social housing schemes, back in their native areas.



# 45

Accommodated



# 65

New Applications

# 2,241

people accommodated since 2000



# 322

Housing Applicants



7%



86%

Other: 7%



people in contact

# 763

# 5,548



Newsletter / E-Bulletin **1,531**

## CONNECT



We act as a link with home for emigrants. We do this via our monthly ne-bulletin, our social media platforms and our Returning to Ireland Information Clinics.