



Edition 32, December 2016

Heroes

When people speak of heroes they often think of famous sportspeople, singers or actors. However, real heroes are often those people who have spent their lives caring for and fighting on behalf of those who need a helping hand.

Brother Kevin Crowley has been running the Capuchin Day Centre in Dublin since 1974. Now in his 80's and despite having had two major heart operations, Brother Kevin is working harder than ever. Nothing has prepared him for the increase in numbers attending the centre in recent years. The centre provides two meals a day to almost 600 people. They give out 2,000 food parcels a week and also provide showers, clothes and a health clinic.

Above all, Brother Kevin says that everyone who comes to the centre is made feel welcome and is treated with kindness. He says that in recent years it is alarming to meet the number of families, with young children, who are homeless. Many of these have been given temporary homes in hotels, therefore they have



nowhere to cook and the children have nowhere to play.

It costs over €2.5 million a year to run the centre. They get €450,000 from the government

so they depend on donations from the public to make up the shortfall. With Christmas just around the corner, the centre expects to cater for more than 3,000 people during Christmas week.

Father Peter McVerry set up his first hostel in Dublin in 1979, for young people who were living on the streets. Now the Peter McVerry Trust has 11 hostels,



100 apartments and 3 drug treatment centres and reaches out to more than 4,000 young homeless people every year.

For 40 years, Peter has stood up for all those who have no one to talk for them. He believes

that any one of us could become homeless at any

time. He believes the first step in helping people to get back on their feet is to treat them with respect and help them to feel good about themselves. He says that this starts with giving them a home.

Adi Roche set up the organisation Chernobyl Children International to help children affected by the Chernobyl Nuclear disaster.

In April 1986, a major explosion took place at a nuclear power factory in Chernobyl in Russia. As a result, radioactive gas spilled out and poisoned the air and countryside for hundreds of miles. In the 30 years since the explosion, over a million people have died as a result of cancer, heart problems and other illnesses.

The area around Chernobyl is still contaminated and babies are still being born with health problems. The land cannot be used for farming and more than 17 million people live in poverty.

Since 1991, Adi Roche and Chernobyl Children International have been bringing children to Ireland from affected areas of Russia, for life saving treatment and holidays. Over 25,000 children have stayed here with Irish families. Even a short period away from the contaminated areas can make a big difference to the health of a child.

Over €100 million has been raised in Ireland to buy lifesaving equipment for local hospitals in affected areas of Russia, and to build homes for homeless children and young adults.

Adi Roche

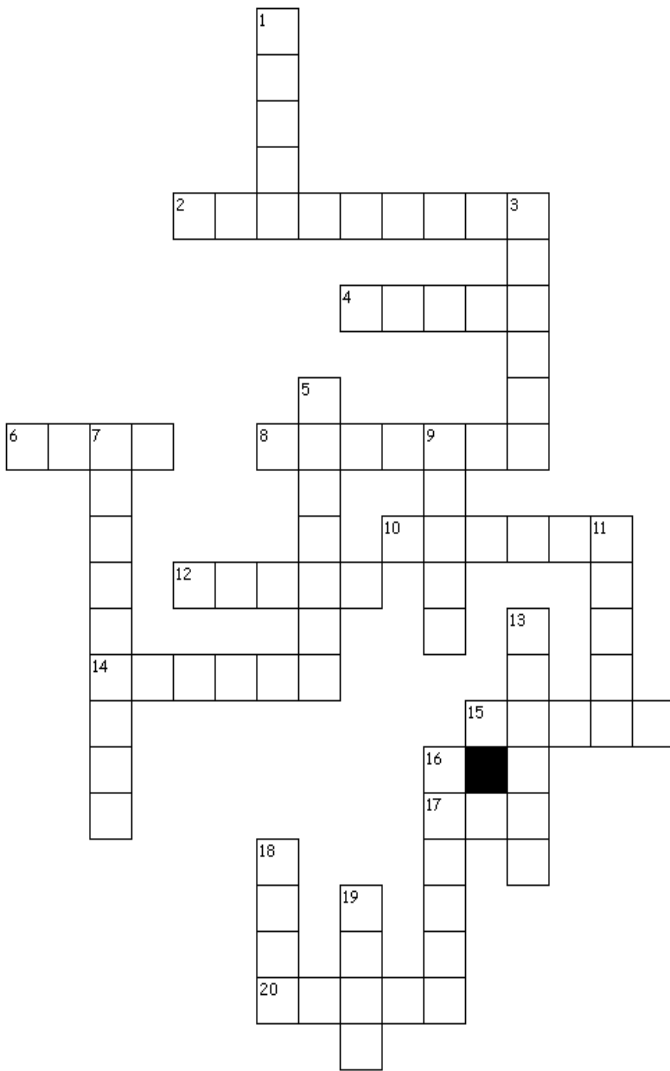


Picture courtesy Chernobyl-international.com

Adi Roche has made helping children from Chernobyl her life's work. She continues to work tirelessly and without pay.



Christmas Puzzles



Across

2. Which meal is known as the “full Irish”? (9)
4. Michael and Danny Healy-Rae are TDs for which county? (5)
6. Fair _____ is a popular Irish TV Drama (4)
8. The late Anthony Foley was head coach for this team (6)
10. 2016 All Ireland football champions (6)
12. Capital city of France (5)
14. The 1916 _____ was celebrated this year. (6)
15. This food is popular in Italy. (5)
17. Surname of famous boxer who passed away this year (3)
20. Enda _____ is the Taoiseach. (5)

Down

1. Cider is made from this fruit. (5)
3. Katie _____ Irish female boxer (6)
5. Plum _____ a Christmas dessert (7)
7. 2016 All Ireland hurling champions (9)
9. New American President (5)
- 11 “Silent _____” a popular Christmas song (5)
13. In what country were the Olympic Games held this year? (6)
16. In which county would you find Salthill? (6)
18. Mallow is a town in which county? (4)
19. Lead singer with the band U2 (4)

Find these Christmas words in the word search.



s l r k k c t b p c b d e k n
a p e e l m d j j v s e h u a
n u e a e i j s i h a c m t t
t o u z b d t w j p k o p j g
a s o r n o n z f t u r k e y
p h b w c d p i u k w a h r y
v c r k b e g a e c p t p t d
n j i s t n e s e r p i l n u
w n l w i y l l o h w o o e s
g d n d r l r e s a m n d i u
j e d x c e u t b v h s u n d
u u e x i d a y l x w m r v y
p k a r x e s t q s s f s y y
e k p b t t v z h n x e w f w
k b g l y w t h p j a n a h a

Santa Claus
presents
holly
wreath
Rudolph
pudding
turkey
decorations
tree
reindeer

See how many words you can make using the letters in the box.

The letter **O** must be used in each word.

Example: post, told

n	p	s
t	O	L
d	e	c

The Distance Learner



December 2016

Dear Reader,

We hope you enjoy reading our monthly worksheet, "The Distance Learner".
Thank you to everyone who has sent us some nice comments and ideas.

We would like to invite you all to enter our Christmas competition.

The closing date is **January 30th 2017**.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and may 2017 be a good year for you all.

Kind regards,
NALA Distance Learning Team



Competition

If you would like to be in with a chance to win
a €25 book voucher,
please answer this question.

**Who set up the organisation
Chernobyl Children International?**

Please send your answer and your name
by **text** to 087 198 4228
or by **email** to distance@nala.ie

The closing date is January 30th 2017.

All correct answers will be placed in the draw.
Best of Luck!