



Pictured above: RehabCare service-user John Reynolds goes for goal against GAA sporting stars DJ Carey (left), Steve McDonnell (right) and former Republic of Ireland Soccer Manager Steve Staunton

Volunteering with Rehab

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED UP to RehabCare's National Volunteer Programme following a glittering launch which saw celebrities from the worlds of sport and entertainment line up to show their support.

RehabCare has revealed that, one year on, over 200 people from around the country have contacted the organisation to sign up for its National Volunteer Programme, since it was launched by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, at a star-studded ceremony in Dublin Castle in September 2006.

President McAleese was joined by hurling great DJ Carey, TV presenter Caroline Morahan, Gaelic footballer Steven McDonnell and former Republic of Ireland Soccer Manager, Steve Staunton, at the launch of the programme.

Speaking at the event, President McAleese said, "I hope, and believe, that many people from all walks of life will join RehabCare's activities, and will find through their involvement with this great work, a level of deep personal fulfillment that few other things in life can match. Where the culture of volunteerism is strong, our society is strong, and volunteers with Rehab play a unique role



Pictured above: President Mary McAleese addressing RehabCare service-users, volunteers and staff at the launch of the RehabCare Volunteering Programme

“Where the culture of volunteerism is strong, our society is strong, and volunteers with Rehab play a unique role

in assisting those with disability to grow in confidence, in skill and in love of life.”

Rehab Group Chief Executive, Angela Kerins commented, “Voluntary activity in Ireland is absolutely enormous, with more than 500,000 people involved in countless ways on a weekly basis. But we believe there are still a lot of people out there who are not currently engaged in voluntary work, but who are both able and willing to support our efforts to assist people with disabilities to participate fully in the life of their local community.” ■

Can you help?

RehabCare is searching for volunteers to share their talents or interests to enhance its nationwide network of community-based services. Each year a total of more than two-and-a-half million beneficiary hours are delivered to some 3,000 people with disabilities.

Volunteer activities are hugely diverse and can involve anything from the development of independent living skills, cooking lessons and literacy skills training, to sports coaching, drama workshops and music lessons.

The RehabCare programme operates from 38 centres nationwide and is open to anyone aged 18 years and over. Volunteers, who commit to spending anything from an hour a week providing support to RehabCare, will receive full training once they have signed up.

Who to contact

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