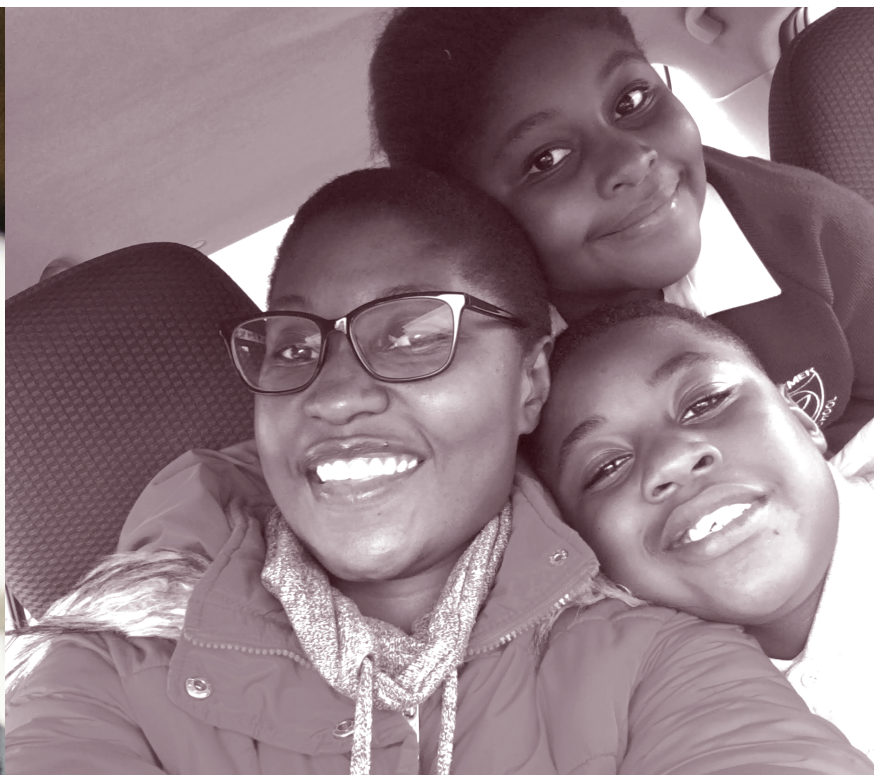




DEPAUL IS A CROSS-BORDER CHARITY WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2002 IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AND 2005 IN NORTHERN IRELAND. A PIONEERING ORGANIZATION IN THE AREA OF HOMELESSNESS, DEPAUL'S FOCUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN SOCIETY. IN 2019 IT SUPPORTED OVER 4,500 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place



Precious Matumba ↑

AND HER CHILDREN

“My kids and I have been blessed with the most amazing support from the Depaul caseworkers Carla and Gideon. Moving out of Direct Provision into independent living felt like being thrown into the deep end with no swimming abilities. Without the slightest idea of who and where to turn to, the service I have received from Depaul has been life-saving. From navigating the housing side, support in applying for the right social welfare payments, help in finding a doctor, to help with utilities, I have been guided in a professional and friendly way that has helped us slowly settle into our new home.”

—Precious Matumba, Service User, Cosán Nua

The support of The Ireland Funds means that individuals and families leaving Direct Provision, which is the temporary housing system provided by the Irish government for people seeking asylum, have a continuum of support which eases their transition into local communities across Ireland. This helps them to establish firm roots and paths to more positive futures.

Cosán Nua - A New Path

In early 2019, Depaul, in partnership with the Department of Justice in Ireland, began working with asylum seekers who had been granted legal status to remain in Ireland. Cosán Nua (the Irish term meaning New Path) is the bespoke Depaul service that was borne out of the need to help these new arrivals to Ireland with securing accommodation and establishing roots in the community. Throughout 2019 Depaul worked across eight counties and supported over 300 asylum seekers, including 168 adults and 160 children, to resettle in the community.

Setting up homes and integrating communities

The Ireland Funds Flagship Award, which Depaul was awarded in 2019, supports the role of a Tenancy Sustainment and Integration Worker to work with this vulnerable demographic. This worker is based in the community and provides post-resettlement support for families and individuals once they move out of Direct Provision. This support ensures that people thrive in their new communities and maintain their tenancies in the long-term.

Depaul's Integration Worker supports 25 individuals or family units at any one time and the service is available for up to 6 months. Moving from Direct Provision back into the community is a huge shift for people. It includes so many challenges including language barriers. "In Direct Provision everything is provided and then suddenly it's not," said Magda, the Depaul Manager who oversees the service.

THE IRELAND FUNDS FLAGSHIP AWARD

Essential Help for House and Home

Francine came to Ireland in 2013 from DR Congo with her little boy. Having spent some time in a Direct Provision center in Cork, Francine was then moved to another center in Mosney, Co Meath. After 5 long years she received legal status to remain in Ireland and Depaul soon began working with her. In May of this year, after 2 years of searching, Francine found a place to call home for her young family in Longford and a new chapter of her life began. However, Francine still required help and that is where Depaul's Tenancy Sustainment and Integration Worker came in.

Support provided is swift and confidential and it immediately takes weight off people's shoulders. One of the key aims of the service is empowering people so that they can start building their confidence in making connections in their own local communities.

With the help of Cosán Nua, Francine was able to get a foothold in her new community and link in with vital services. Francine says, "Since I moved to Longford Depaul have helped me with everything." Her children are now in school and crèche and Francine is linking in with the Community Support Centre in Longford. With the future looking brighter now for Francine and her family, her next step is to continue her nursing course and find a job as a care assistant within the community.

Alongside The Ireland Funds Flagship Award, Depaul have been a recipient of Donor Advised Funds for a number of years. Depaul was delighted to receive another donation in 2020 specifically for provision of basic and essential items for setting up a household for those moving from Direct Provision into their own home. This has been hugely beneficial for many individuals and families.

Adapting to the new normal

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on many of the people that Depaul supports. The team at Cosán Nua adapted quickly to new ways of working. A complete move to online working was adopted. The team stays connected with people via video call, phone and text. "It's working very well," said Magda. "People have got used to receiving video support from Depaul very quickly."

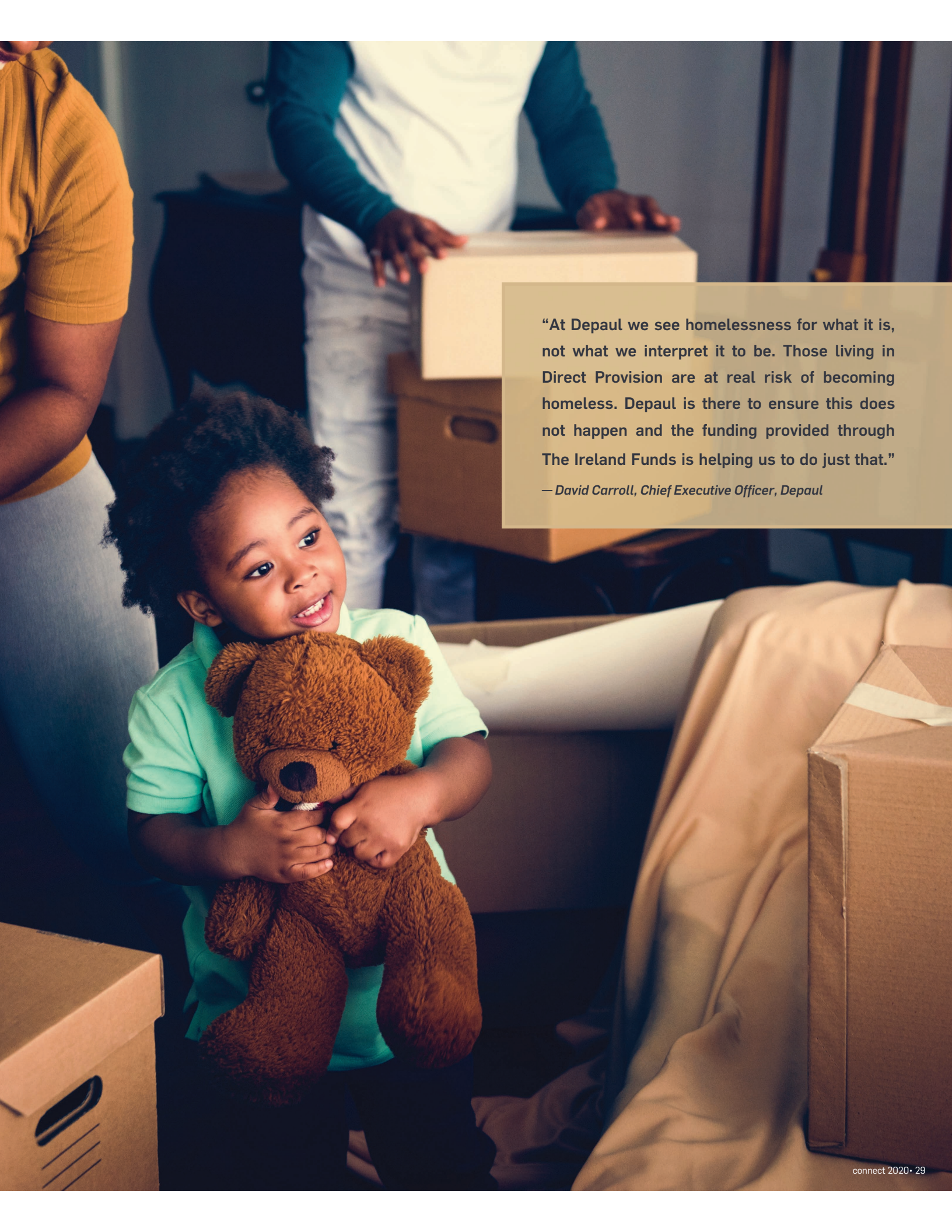
It was during a crucial time, at the height of the first wave of the pandemic in April, that The Ireland Funds stepped up again providing vital funds to Depaul through an Emergency Support grant. This grant which supported the organization's operational costs meant that there was limited impact on service provision across Depaul's services, including Cosán Nua.

Since COVID-19 hit Ireland, Depaul's Cosán Nua service has been able to support over 352 people to move away from Direct Provision living and into their own homes.

The ongoing needs

Cosán Nua continues to be incredibly successful in its life changing work, even in the face of adversity and in the difficult and changing working environment caused by the pandemic. More people than ever are being resettled into local communities, with 46% of all people the team supported in Direct Provision successfully resettled in 2019. As of the autumn of this year [2020], this figure has grown to 58%, translating to 157 households. The Integration Worker supports up to 25 households over a 6-month period and will reach 50 in total throughout the year. As there isn't the capacity to support everyone at the moment, households with the greatest need are prioritized. Additional funding would mean that more people could be supported with a smoother transition from Direct Provision, develop their stake in local communities and quickly become part of the fabric of life in Ireland.





“At Depaul we see homelessness for what it is, not what we interpret it to be. Those living in Direct Provision are at real risk of becoming homeless. Depaul is there to ensure this does not happen and the funding provided through The Ireland Funds is helping us to do just that.”

— David Carroll, Chief Executive Officer, Depaul