



ISKCON[®]

DUBLIN

Newsletter

1st Edition





KRISHNA CLUB - ANNUAL CELEBRATION



ISKCON DUBLIN



Lucan, Dublin: Krishna Club, an annual Bhagavad Gita Class program at Dublin ISKCON, is led by Madhvi Mataji. The members of this club actively participate in each of the online classes under her direction. The Sanatana Balagokulam organization offers children's in-person Bhagavad Gita lessons. The ages of these children range from five to fifteen. Parents and spectators were treated to some truly amazing young children's performances, which featured devotional singing, scripture skits, classical dances, and shloka recitation.



(From left to right) Caroline Brady and Emer Higgins

A fascinating and remarkable day including amazing performances by our budding talents from the Krishna Club took place. Emer Higgins, TD, the government's spokesperson on equality and a representative from Dublin's Lucan West constituency, as well as Caroline Brady, a Fine Gael candidate and community worker, also attended the event. They thought the ISKCON social upliftment process was extremely evident and that the event was quite revitalizing.



HG Manu Pr (Dublin Temple President)
and HG Madhvi Manjuhashini Mataji (Organizer)





HG MADHVI MANJHASHINI MATAJI



HG Madhvi Manjuhashini Mataji

Hare krishna
I thank ISKCON
Dublin Team.
Especially Manu
Prabhu and all my
youngsters plus
senior Sevadharys
all of you did
wonderful service

BY HG MANU PRABHU



This was a complete program which was attended by members of the government, no less. So many children participated, and it was a wonderful sharing of Krishna Consciousness.

Madhvi Mataji has achieved this in a little over two years. I am grateful to her for her immense contribution to shaping young minds.

BY HG ABHAY GIRIRAJ PRABHU

Hare Krsna it was a great event. Hats off to the hard work and dedication of Madhvi Mataji. All the kids memorized so many verses, and prayers, and performed so well. The whole atmosphere was so energetic; the audiences loved every bit.



HG Abhay Giriraj Prabhu igniting the event lamp

BY HG SUGATI ACHYUT PRABHU

ISKCON Dublin's Krishna Club for Children offers a vibrant platform for young minds to immerse themselves in the teachings of Bhakti Yoga. Through storytelling, singing, dance and Shloka Reciations, children engage with the spiritual essence of Krishna consciousness. Wonderful initiative by Madhawi mataji which is like a blessing for all the children.



HG Sugati Achyut Prabhu with HG Manu Prabhu

A conversation with HG Madhvi Manjuhashini



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1. How many children are there in the Krishna club?

Mataji: There are more than 65 children under two batches.

2. How many days in a week you share your time to train those children in Krishna Conscious way?

Mataji: Online classes are held every Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 11 a.m. Regardless of the time and hectic schedules of everyone involved, everyone puts forth effort to ensure the success of any program that is scheduled on-site, including children and temple authorities. Stage shows and other festival events are typically held in temples. The annual program marked their fifth annual gathering overall.



HG Madhvi Manjuhashini Mataji
igniting the lamp

3. How has your experience been doing this service and what have gain?

Mataji: Parental dealings and child management are two of the few demanding aspects of the service, which makes it both challenging and pleasant. Kids are so naive, and the kids of today are the adults of tomorrow. Thus, when we provide spiritual assistance to a child, we envision creating a community that is cognizant of God in the future.

Without these solid pillars, consider how a God-conscious society could possibly operate. Furthermore, the goal of human existence is to discover "who am I?", "who is Krishna," and "where do we come from." In essence, Srila Prabhupada has also taught self-realization in that manner. These questions are answered by the Bhagavad Gita education, which makes our individual lives completely fulfilled.

4. Why are you doing service?

Mataji: As a trainer, I consider it a success when I witness how education can change children's or the public's conduct in various ways. In addition, I find satisfaction in the thought that I may be contributing to the Srila Prabhupad Krishna Consciousness movement, even if it is in tiny ways.

I am striving to serve Lord Krishna and the spiritual master since they are the motivation behind every initiated devotee. Therefore, I believe it is my duty and responsibility to my spiritual teacher as an initiated devotee. In my opinion, I may serve fully via the grace of my spiritual guide, Srila Jayapataka Swami Maharaj, who is Srila Prabhupad's direct disciple.

5. What changes will you make in the Krishna Club department in the upcoming future?

Mataji: I plan to have Gurukul-based education in Ireland, which is prevalent in other countries of ISKCON. I also plan to have monthly gatherings with children in a temple to develop their skills. Plan to have more seminars and workshops by associating with other children's clubs from different ISKCON groups from different countries. Apart from this, I aspire to bring more teachers and volunteers to this service. A well-organized gurukul is a dream project that will work for the same. All the Glories to Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev





Food For Life with Keith Eustace Prabhu

Please accept my humble obeisances. After morning prayers at breakfast one day in early August, Malati Mala Mataji asked me to help her with her English as she wanted to go to Dublin City Council to find out what she

needed to do to start the Food For Life program in Dublin. That afternoon, we went to Dublin City Council and Store Street Garda station to find out what needed to be achieved in order for us to establish Food For Life Dublin. After reporting to temple president Manu, I returned home to see a message in the ISKCON Dublin WhatsApp group from Malati said that I was starting Food

in Dublin and that anyone who wanted to help volunteer cooking should contact her. This was how I became involved in ISKCON Dublin Food For Life.



Keith Eustace Prabhu



Keith Prabhu cooking Khichadi

After many months of planning and preparation, which involved much correspondence with different government authorities and food safety handling courses, on Thursday, 15th of December, Food For Life Dublin was incarnated once again. Every Thursday ISKCON Dublin Food For Life distributes plates of food in Dublin city. The distribution took place in Wolf Town Square for the first two weeks with minimal success. However, once the distribution point was moved to the GPO, the initiative experienced a lot more success and at least 500 plates of Prasad have now been distributed. Cooking is completed in Govinda's kitchen by Gokulavasi Prabhu. When he returned to Ukraine for two weeks holiday, it was completed by Ananda Sundari and Narada.

The chefs have been assisted in the Kitchen by Agninayani Manjari Devi Dasi and Keith. The chefs and cooking assistants are organized by Malati-Mala Dasi so please contact her if you would like to become involved in preparing the prasad.

In the same way, I am lucky that chanting feels natural, helping others also feels natural to me. Accordingly, I was invigorated to discover that I would get to play a central role in helping to organise Food For Life. It has been a very satisfying experience helping to organise this program. I feel that it has drawn me closer to the ISKCON Dublin community, which consequently has strengthened my fidelity and faith in Krishna.

I would like to express my gratitude to Malati thank you for getting me involved in this initiative; to Gokulavasi, Ananda Sundari, Narada, Agninayani Manjari Devi Dasi, thank you for preparing the prasad; to Jivana, Goluka, and Sarva thank you for letting a bunch of amateurs use your Kitchen; to all the devotees who have distributed the prasad thank you for your enthusiasm; to Rosie thank you for making a link where donations to this program can be easily made; to Vladmir thank you for creating a poster to advertise Food For Life; to Sugati, Yash, and JJ thank you for helping us obtain the necessary tools needed for distributing the prasad; to all those devotees who came to GPO to support us while we

were doing this service thank you for your support and encouragement; to all those who have donated money to this cause thank you for helping us to help others; to Jivana and Manu thank you for your support and guidance in starting up this program again; and most importantly to Srila Prabhupada, to whom all glories should go, I am eternally grateful, thank you for bringing



Prasadam distribution with other devotees at O'Connell GPO street (up and down)



Krishna to the west and starting this program in 1974. If I have forgotten you, please forgive me. It was not intentional. To everyone involved with ISKCON, I hope when your time comes, you see Krishna and he embraces you. Finally, to Lord Krishna, thank you for everything you have done for us; I hope that I'll get to see you soon. Haribol 🙏



Keith Prabhu with empty container of Food For Life Khichdi



Srila Prabhupada's Book Distribution Marathon 2023 - ISKCON Dublin



Yash Pr, Mariana Mataji, HG Manu Pr, HG Abhay Giriraj Pr, Sunil Pr and Kaushal Pr (from left to right)



"Distribution of books and magazines is our most important activity. Without books, our preaching has no solid basis." - Srila Prabhupada.

ISKCON Dublin team does Harinam and book distribution on O'Connell street every Saturday from 2pm - 5 pm. To support Srila Prabhupada's preaching mission, several book distributors from all over Ireland distribute books in their cities.

2,711 Srila Prabhupada books were distributed over the last quarter of 2023 and a total of **8,060** books were distributed over the year. ISKCON Dublin participated in the worldwide Srila Prabhupada book distribution marathon and distributed over **1,200** Bhagavad Gitas, over **1%** of books in Europe.

It could be a challenge at times to go out on the street approaching strangers to take our books but book distribution teaches us humility which is a very important element to progress in Bhakti. At times, we realize how important it is to surrender to Krishna and Srila Prabhupada when we start getting rejections from the people on the streets; after all, we are just His instruments trying to serve Him.

The goal for 2024 is to distribute over **11,000** Srila Prabhupada books and over **1,500** Bhagavad Gitas. Come join us every Saturday to chant the Holy Name on the streets of Dublin and support Srila Prabhupada's book distribution mission.

Boiling the milk with Bhagwad Gita Ashray Group



HG Abhay Giriraj Prabhu (on right) with Bhagwad Gita Ashray Group Members

The spiritual community which HG Abhay Giriraj Pr manages comprises around 200 devoted individuals, with an active participation rate ranging between 25 to 30 members. This collective journey began with a singular purpose: to spread the timeless teachings and mission of Caitanya Mahaprabhu throughout the vibrant landscape of Ireland. Founded on the principles of Krsna consciousness, the group serves as a beacon of spiritual enlightenment, guiding and nurturing new devotees on their transformative path.

Following Prabhupad's instructions, daily sadhna begins in the brahm muhurt, a soul-nourishing practice that unfolds from 5:30 to 7:30 am, every day of the week. This serene window of time is dedicated to introspection, meditation, and collective prayer, fostering a deep sense of connection with the divine. In the evenings, the group members gather once again for enlightening sessions lasting 1.5 hours, wherein they are treated to profound lectures delivered by esteemed spiritual leaders. These insightful discourses, delivered three to four times per week, serve as guiding lights illuminating our spiritual journey. Through this journey, I have been entrusted with the sacred responsibility of guiding and supporting new devotees, offering them solace and guidance in navigating the intricacies of their spiritual path.

Abhay Pr's dedication to seva, or selfless service, is rooted in a deep-seated desire to honor and please his Gurumaharaj (HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj) and Srila Prabhupad, revered spiritual leaders whose teachings continue to inspire and guide him. With each act of seva, he endeavors to express his gratitude and devotion, recognizing that true fulfillment lies in serving others with love and compassion.

Looking ahead, he is committed to expanding his contributions within the temple community. He aspires to take on a more active role by leading classes and facilitating group activities that foster deeper connections among devotees. By strengthening the sense of community and engagement in seva, he believes he can create a more enriching and fulfilling spiritual experience for all members. Through these collective efforts, the preaching can further propagate the teachings of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and continue to inspire spiritual growth and transformation within our community and beyond.

Spreading Mass Love and Knowledge with Sunday Feast



From left to right: HG Manu Prabhu leading the Sunday Kirtan, Devotees serving the Feast Prasad, People honoring the feast Prasad

The Sunday Feast Program, attended by approximately 100 individuals each week, serves as a cornerstone event within the spiritual community. This program, affectionately referred to as the Sunday Love Feast, transcends its simple title to encompass a profound mission: to nurture spiritual growth, foster community connection, and facilitate a deeper understanding of the principles of devotional service.

HG Sugati Achyut Prabhu manages this department. He says, for him personal involvement in this service has been incredibly fulfilling. The immense satisfaction in knowing that my contributions help unite individuals from diverse backgrounds onto a single platform where they can collectively seek the blessings of the divine and the support of fellow devotees. Moreover, he believes his participation and coordination in this service have become a catalyst for his own spiritual evolution. Through serving others and engaging in devotional practices, he has found opportunities for personal growth and a deeper immersion in the principles of devotion.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my involvement in the Sunday Feast Program is the opportunity to serve my fellow devotees. By facilitating this gathering, the program plays an essential role in creating an environment where others can flourish in their spiritual journey. The program in itself provides new devotees with a supportive community where they can learn, practice, and grow in their understanding of devotional life.

At its core, the Sunday Feast Program embodies the ethos of ISKCON - the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Beyond simply being a weekly event, this program serves as a vibrant hub of spiritual activity, designed to nourish the souls of all who participate. The Sunday Feast Program creates a nurturing environment where individuals can deepen their connection to spirituality and contribute positively to the world around them by offering opportunities for devotional practices, spiritual discussions, and communal fellowship. It serves as a testament to the transformative power of community, faith, and devotion, inspiring individuals to live a life of purpose, service, and spiritual growth.

Welcome to the Kirtan Mela: the holy name Chanting Fair

Kirtan Mela is a Nama Yajna. In the Bhagavad Gita at verse 10.25, Krishna states, "Of sacrifices, I am the chanting of the holy names." The chanting of the Hare Krishna Mahamantra is the purest representation of Krishna. Therefore, the primary purpose of this Kirtan Mela is to share the holy name of Krishna. We spend over 10 hours chanting the Hare Krishna Mahamantra on that day.



About Kirtan Mela

Kirtan Mela was started with the purpose of spreading the holy name through Sravanam - hearing, and the second is Kirtanam - chanting in the association of Maharajas and devotees who are experts in and have been serving through Kirtan for years. The fair aims to allow everyone in Ireland to hear and chant together without needing to travel far. Around 350 throughout the day attend Kirtan Mela.

During the event, we also distribute sanctified vegetarian food (Prasadam) for free. Thus far, we have successfully managed to keep the event free of charge, and we owe it to the generosity of our supporters. This kirtan group consists of mainly 8 devotees namely, HG Amanda-Vikrama Das, HG Svetadvipa-Radhika Devi Dasi, Bhakta Jayananda, Bhaktin Rosie, Bhakta Lorgesh, HG Vijaya Govinda Das, HG Yogamaya Devi Dasi and Bhaktin Seeroumee.



Some Interaction with the organizers

EXPERIENCE

The group have been tested, served humble pie, learned a lot, and still believes that they have a lot more to learn. They have faced many obstacles throughout the years, some unimaginable and some funny.

One incident a devotee from this group shared about occurred in 2022 when they experienced a power outage in the Kirtan Hall for a two-hour period just before the event was scheduled to start. They were supposed to be setting up and sound checking, but they couldn't do anything, and nobody could help. However, eventually, everything worked out in the end. They got power back 15 minutes before the program was scheduled to start, and everything proceeded as planned. It was a realization for them that 'we can plan all we want but what Krishna decides is always going to be different, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worst too and we just need to learn from it.'

HG Manu Prabhu often shares stories about the obstacles HG Tribhuvanath Prabhu encountered while preaching. Whenever he faced obstacles, he would always say, "That is going to be a good program." This is the hope we hold onto as well.

The wonderful thing about this is that devotees feel fortunate to have a team of devotees friends who have each other's backs and are here to listen and support one another. They acknowledge the fact that they are not perfect; but they try their best to serve with sincerity and always keep the goal in mind. Prabhupada says that we cannot be broken by outsiders but can from within.



Why are you doing service?

The Dublin Kirtan Mela is organized by a dedicated team, each member with their own unique stories and experiences that drive their commitment to this service. One team member, shares a deeply personal connection to kirtan, describing it as the catalyst that transformed their life. They vividly recall their first encounter with kirtan during the Tuesday night gatherings at the temple, an event initiated years ago by Manu Prabhu. Additionally, they fondly reminisce about attending the monthly 6-hour kirtan sessions hosted by John and Pushpa, eagerly anticipating each gathering.

The resonance of the holy names began to permeate their being, drawing them closer to the community and the spiritual path. Over time, they found themselves visiting the temple more frequently and actively participating in its activities, ultimately embracing ISKCON as an integral part of their life journey.



Furthermore, their dedication to the service was reinforced in 2019 when HH Sacinandana Maharaj learned about the Kirtan Mela in Dublin through Manu Prabhu. This endorsement from a revered spiritual leader further solidified their resolve to continue their journey of service and devotion within the ISKCON community. He said to me in an email to please continue this service, as this definitely gives pleasure to Lord Sri Krishna, by whose blessings we can move forward with strength.

The changes and aspirations which the group is planning to achieve through Kirtan program

The team involved in the small project remains uncertain about the outcomes, yet they are dedicated to giving their best and entrusting the results to Krishna. During one of the holy name retreats, they recall hearing from HH Sacinandana Maharaj about the importance of making pleasing Krishna their primary aim as Kirtanias and Kirtan organizers.

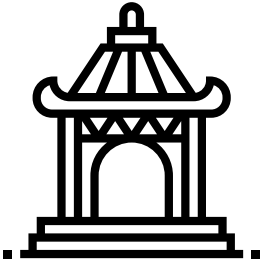
Maharaj emphasized that chanting is a personal exchange between individuals and Krishna, intended to deepen their relationship with the divine. He shared Prabhupada's teaching that their primary duty is to satisfy Krishna, and by doing so, the audience will naturally be satisfied. The focus should not be on pleasing the crowd but on offering Krishna through their service, ensuring they deliver Krishna in the right manner.

Through their event, the team aspires to someday successfully convey Krishna consciousness in the most appropriate way, aligning with the teachings imparted by HH Sacinandana Maharaj and Srila Prabhupada.





NEW TEMPLE PROJECT



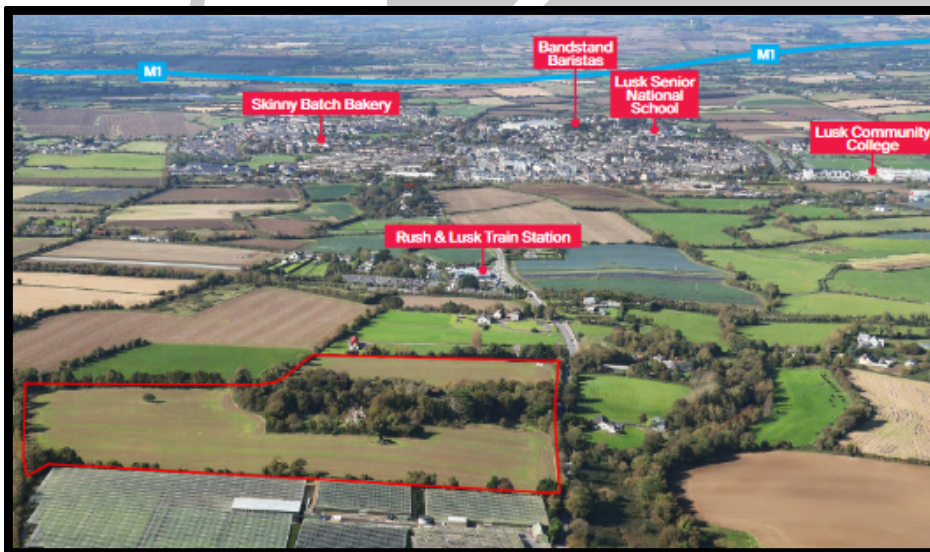
KNOCKDROMIN HOUSE, LUSK, COUNTY DUBLIN

Knockdromin House is situated 26 km from Dublin City Centre about 5 minutes from the M1 and 10 minutes to Dublin Airport, and is situated in North County Dublin. It is located 500 meters from the nearest train station Dublin bus stops right outside the gates. It was a fine period house but is now in disrepair.

However, it sits on 28.2 acres of the finest land in the area. By Krsna's Grace, it is there that we will set up our new Community Centre/Temple and where we will set up an education hub where we can demonstrate a simpler lifestyle as presented in Srila Prabhupad's seven purposes of ISKCON and in his books.

The total cost for this land is €1,000,000. We are still short on our deposit and need help for this, by taking standing orders to support the project and by collecting as much money up front to secure the land. Once we secure the land, we will steadily set up our farm projects and then obtain the required permission for our New Community Centre/Temple.

It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to establish ISKCON as a significant force in Spiritual Science in Ireland, and already we have been talking to government ministers, mayors and senior executives in the Fingal County council who look very willing to embrace our culture and ideas.



Nearby Landmarks to the location

The project has been nearly ten years in development and will make a huge impact for Krsna Consciousness in Ireland

If you would like to contribute, just donate to Iskcon Vedic Temple BIC : PTSBIE2D and IBAN IE82PTSB99060772506762. We are currently designing plans for the site and soon we will have a timeline for the development. Please pray we secure this land.

~ Manu Dasa TP



About a Devotee → From a Devotee



My journey with ISKCON began in 1982 when I embraced the path of Krishna consciousness. For the initial five years, I dedicated myself to the lifestyle of a brahmachari, immersing myself in the practices and teachings of our tradition. During this time, I was actively involved in fundraising efforts, rallying support to acquire our first Temple in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and later, our cherished temple home on Inis Rath Island, Co Fermanagh. I also helped open our Temples in Temple Bar and now our current Temple to Pancha Tattva in Abbey Street.



**HG Manu Prabhu - ISKCON
Dublin Temple President**

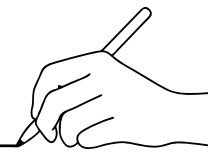
These endeavors were not just tasks but attempts to please my spiritual master and Srila Prabhupada to help establish Krsna Consciousness in Ireland. In 1989, a new chapter unfolded as I entered into married life with Ishani. Together, we embarked on the sacred journey of family life within the ISKCON fold, blessed with the arrival of our two beloved children, Jayananda and Sita. Our home became a place where we tried to weave the principles of Krishna consciousness into the fabric of our daily existence.

My role as a director in ISKCON projects since 1988 has been important to me, and taking the responsibility has helped me somewhat repay the debt I have to my spiritual guides. Serving in this capacity has afforded me the opportunity to help contribute to the development of various initiatives aimed at advancing the mission of our spiritual tradition. It has been a privilege to help play a part in shaping the direction and growth of our community over the years. Before finding my spiritual home in ISKCON, I explored numerous spiritual paths in search of truth and fulfillment. Yet, it was in Krishna consciousness that I discovered a rare and profound opportunity to cultivate love for God. It has been a gradual process but slowly the path is being revealed as promised by His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

As ISKCON Dublin emerges as a beacon of spiritual vitality and growth, I am filled with enthusiasm and optimism for the future. Our collective efforts to share Krishna consciousness across Ireland are infused with a sense of purpose and dedication. We are driven by the desire to honor and follow in the footsteps of our revered Gurus and Srila Prabhupada, whose teachings inspire us to perform devotional service to Radha and Krishna with unwavering devotion.

I urge all sincere seekers to embrace this sacred process wholeheartedly. Through Krishna consciousness, one can experience unparalleled ecstasy, peace, and excitement. This journey is not only transformative for ourselves but also holds the potential to benefit humanity at large. Let us embark on this path with sincerity and dedication, knowing that our endeavors will bear fruit beyond measure.

EDITOR'S COLUMNS



EDITOR


Kshama Pandey
Project Manager at
The Irish Times

As we embark on the journey of publishing this newsletter, it's pivotal to share the essence and vision behind our initiative. This newsletter is more than just a compilation of events and announcements; it's a bridge that connects the temple to the wider community, fostering a deeper sense of unity, spirituality, and shared purpose.

To make sure that everyone feels included and appreciated, this newsletter will also extend a warm welcome to anyone who might be new to our community or in need of spiritual advice. Showcasing our outreach initiatives and community service projects demonstrates our dedication to social responsibility and encourages others to make contributions to the general welfare of society.

In essence, this newsletter is a testament to our collective spirit and dedication. It is a tool for education, inspiration, and engagement, aimed at enriching both our temple and the broader community. We are excited about this journey and deeply grateful for your support and participation.

Connect with us:

 www.instagram.com/iskcondublin?igsh=d2JraGZpZXZkc3Rn

 m.facebook.com/dublinkrishna

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Abhishek Ashish
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As we navigate the complexities of our world, it's essential to remember the power of collective action and compassion. In this edition of our ISKCON Dublin newsletter, we celebrate the spirit of devotional community and highlight the incredible initiatives that individuals taking to make a difference in the lives of others.

From grassroots efforts to large-scale projects, each act of generosity and solidarity contributes to the well-being of ISKCON society as a whole.

As we delve into the stories featured in this newsletter, let us be inspired by the tireless dedication of devotees, the transformative impact of spiritual organization, and the unwavering commitment of individuals to uplift those in need. Together, we have the power to create positive change and build a more inclusive and compassionate society.

This newsletter explores the stories, reflects on the values ISKCON Dublin represents, and considers how each one of us can contribute to the collective effort of creating a roof where everyone can accommodate. Thank you for being part of our community and for your ongoing support of our shared mission to promote spiritual welfare and social justice.

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