Pieta House Announces Plans for New Suicide Crisis Centre in the West

Today on World Suicide Awareness Day, Pieta House announces the opening of its first suicide and self-harm crisis centre in the west of Ireland. Located in Tuam, Co. Galway, this will be Pieta House’s third Centre of Excellence, and will greatly extend the scope of its services which are currently centred around Dublin and Limerick. John Concannon, businessman, and the star of RTÉ’s *The Secret Millionaire*, has been the main driving force behind the campaign to open a Pieta House centre in the West.

“The campaign to open a centre here in Tuam has been ongoing for the past 18 months and the support we’ve received from the local community has been really extraordinary,” said John Concannon. “It’s been a three county fundraising effort with Galway, Mayo and Roscommon all working together, and we’re working very hard in each County on reaching our target amount of €250,000. We have very active committees campaigning and fundraising in each county, and we could not have achieved this great result without their commitment and dedication,” he said.

A residential premises on Bishop Street in Tuam has already been secured, and there is a change-of-use planning application in with the local council. The house is currently just a shell, but unemployed local tradespeople have generously committed their time and skills to transforming it into a suitable space. This internal work on the house is due to start in five to six weeks’ time.

The demand for Pieta House’s services continues to grow, and the first six months of this year saw a 40% increase in the number of people attending Pieta House. The age groups that saw the biggest increase were men aged 26-44 (62%) and men aged 45-64 (67%).

“Although this increase is encouraging, we still find that men are far less likely than women to seek help, particularly those in the under-25 age group. We urge people to contact us if they believe that one of their family members or friends may be in difficulty,” said Joan Freeman.

About Pieta House

Pieta House, the suicide and self-harm crisis centre, officially opened its doors in Lucan, Co. Dublin in January 2006. The unique clinically-based model developed by Pieta House is used across its five centres in Dublin and Limerick. Plans are in place to open a new centre in Tuam, and there are also active discussions in progress to open centres in Roscrea and Cork.

Pieta House provides a professional, face to face, free of charge therapeutic service for people in the acute stages of distress. Its primary aim is to reduce
suicide by helping people get through that critical phase when suicide becomes a plan rather than just an idea.

Since 2006, Pieta House has grown to almost 80 therapists and staff. Demand for their services is constantly on the rise. To date over 6,000 people have been seen and helped by Pieta House.

Pieta House’s vision is that no-one in Ireland should be more than 100 kilometres from a Pieta House centre where they can avail of the clinical services at that time of crisis.

For more information log on to www.pieta.ie