



Reflecting on 2024

Coolmine's Year of Impact and Hope

Chief Executive's Reflection

As we close out 2024, I want to take a moment to reflect on the profound impact your support has made during another remarkable year at Coolmine. This year has been marked by growth, resilience, and countless success stories, all made possible through your unwavering commitment to our mission.

By the end of November 2024, we had supported 3,071 individuals and their families—a 20% increase from the 2,523 people we supported in 2023. This significant rise in numbers underscores the ever-growing demand for accessible, life-changing support for those affected by addiction and homelessness, highlighting the critical importance of our work in meeting this pressing need.

While we will always continue to collaborate closely with our key stakeholders the HSE and the Probation Services, the support of our donors and broader community is a cornerstone of our ability to deliver vital services. Your generosity enables us to expand our reach and provide tools, skills, and resources that empower individuals and families to rebuild their lives.

This year also saw important strides in sustainability, innovation, and partnership. With new initiatives and strengthened collaborations, we are not only addressing immediate needs but also paving the way for long-term solutions that build stronger communities.

As we move into 2025, the challenges remain significant, but so does our commitment. Together, with your continued support, we will meet the growing demand for our services and ensure that every individual seeking help finds a compassionate response and a pathway to recovery.

On behalf of everyone at Coolmine, thank you for standing with us in this vital work. Your support is not just transformative; it is lifesaving.

Warm regards,

Pauline McKeown, Chief Executive

COOLMINE

OVERCOMING ADDICTION, SUPPORTING RECOVERY



IMPACT

2024



3071

Treatment Supports Provided



187

Residential Placements



2884

Community Supports Provided



54

Children Provided with
Residential Supports



421

Family Members Supported



39

Graduates of a Therapeutic
Community Programme

Advocacy & Government Engagement

Advocacy remained at the heart of Coolmine's work throughout 2024, driven by our commitment to raise awareness and influence policy supporting recovery services. Meaningful engagement with government officials was pivotal to advancing our mission.

Minister Hildegard Naughton visited Ashleigh House to see the impact of our women-focused programs, sparking important discussions on tailored support. Minister of State Colm Burke's visit to Westbourne House, Limerick and the Cork North City Hub highlighted the vital role of regional facilities and their challenges. Minister for Finance Jack Chambers' engagement at Coolmine Lodge emphasised the depth of our treatment services and the need for sustained funding.

A key moment was the launch of our Annual Report, where Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive of the HSE, addressed stakeholders from the HSE and Prison Services, celebrating the collaborative efforts essential to our vision.

These strategic engagements amplified Coolmine's voice and showcased the importance of ongoing dialogue with policymakers to drive change and strengthen support networks.



Amplifying Client Voices

In 2024, Coolmine's mission to amplify client voices gained visibility, featured in approximately 100 media pieces across Ireland. Through powerful storytelling, we reached diverse audiences, highlighting the challenges and successes of the recovery journey.

Our clients' stories were showcased on major media platforms, including the Ray D'Arcy Show, RTE Radio 1, RTE's Nationwide, and Real Life with Lucy Kennedy, Virgin Media.

We had a strong presence across Limerick and Cork radio, with multiple local stations amplifying our message. Print features in the Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish Examiner, Echo and local media further spotlighted the need for compassionate addiction services.

These media engagements allowed us to share stories of resilience, inspiring communities and reinforcing the importance of continuous support for recovery. Each feature brought us closer to building a more informed and supportive society.

Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)

Coolmine is steadfast in its commitment to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, driving sustainability and creating meaningful community impact through innovative initiatives and unwavering dedication.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Through our Recovery through Nature program, Coolmine Lodge cultivated nine outdoor plots, providing fresh fruit and vegetables to over 200 individuals daily.

We also installed solar panels & bike racks at Ashleigh House and Coolmine Lodge, reducing our carbon footprint.

SOCIAL

All of Coolmine programs which supports thousands of people integrate positive social activities to combat isolation, build community spirit, and foster resilience.

We continue to be committed to empower individuals through education and career development, supporting their journey to independence.

GOVERNANCE

Coolmine's governance excellence was recognised with the Governance Best Practice Award at the Business & Finance ESG Awards, celebrating the leadership and transparency of our Board, Senior Management Team and the entire Coolmine Team.

Fundraising in 2024

Coolmine's network of support continued to grow, thanks to a combination of long-standing partnerships, dedicated individuals, and new sponsors who helped fuel our mission..



We are deeply grateful to our long-standing group of individuals who contribute monthly, providing a steady foundation for our work. We greatly appreciate those who made personal donations or supported our community events, as their generosity helps us continue our vital work.

We would also like to acknowledge the vital support of grants, trusts, and foundations, whose contributions have driven significant impact through community-based initiatives.

Finally, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous individuals and organisations who donate products and professional skills to our services.



We are deeply grateful to our long-term partners for their continued commitment and to our new partners for joining us in making a difference.

Through their support, we have strengthened key programs, raised vital awareness, and secured essential funding for our services. These partnerships highlight the power of collective action in driving meaningful change and building brighter futures for the individuals and communities we support.

We are humbled by the continued support from all corners of the community, and with their help, we look forward to making even greater strides in the years to come.

Suzanne's Story



"I struggled with addiction to alcohol and cocaine for many years, a battle deeply rooted in my upbringing with alcoholic parents. I started drinking at a young age and became a mother at just 15. My alcohol use quickly spiraled into daily drinking and wild weekend binges. I often hosted house parties while my daughter slept upstairs, trying to numb the emptiness I felt. I thought having more children might heal that void, but after having two more, the drinking only worsened."

"Eventually, my addiction consumed me. I needed alcohol nearly around the clock to stave off withdrawal symptoms. Every day felt unbearable—I hated every moment of it—but I couldn't stop. A turning point came when I spent time at Coolmine House and later moved to Ashleigh House, where I could have my children with me while undergoing treatment. When I arrived, I was in a terrible state, physically and mentally, but things started to change quickly. I began to recover, and my children flourished in the supportive environment of the creche."

"I completed the programme at Coolmine, and while I did experience a brief relapse, I've made significant progress. Today, I'm pursuing a course in landscape, construction, and maintenance with Teagasc, and I'm cherishing the time I spend with my children. I can honestly say I'm the happiest I've ever been."

Suzanne was one of 22 people who proudly graduated from Coolmine on September 24, 2024.

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A Special Thank You

To each and every donor, volunteer, and supporter, thank you for being an integral part of the Coolmine community. Your belief in our mission fuels our work and empowers every success story.

This Christmas, we will support thousands of individuals like Suzanne on their recovery journey. If you or your company can make an end-of-year gift, we would be exceptionally grateful—donate at:

www.coolmine.ie