



## LOCAL ARCHITECT BACKS CAMPAIGN FOR HOMELESS COMMUNITY

# Simon says help!

**Fear of rising unemployment rates together with the current economic state will force more people into homelessness, a Tralee architect claimed this week.**

BY MICHELLE CREAN

Now, John Phelan of John Phelan Architects in Moyderwell is behind a campaign to curb the issue of homelessness through a nationwide Open Door Day campaign with the Simon Community.

Together with the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland and the Simon Community, John is asking that in exchange for a fee of €75 members of the public get an opportunity to have a one-hour consultation with his firm and all fees go towards the campaign.

"We are asking mem-

bers of the public who may need the services of an architect to come to us on the 7th of March for a one-hour consultation,"

John told *Kerry's Eye* this week.

"People may have decided to upgrade their home to meet the changing needs of their families, but find that right now may not be the time.

"We can meet and consult with them whether it's a full scale renovation or merely adding storage or a clever creative design flare to their home.

"It's a chance to see what we can bring to their project while helping

those less fortunate," he said.

### ROLE

"As an architect, not only are we helping the Simon Community, which is a very worthy cause, but we are also giving the Kerry public a chance to understand and learn more about the role and benefits of an architect."

His firm, involved in the campaign since 2004, says it will be a huge benefit to the homeless.

With the current economic climate the issue is more prevalent, he added.

"Homelessness was a serious issue in Ireland before the economic

downturn. "And the current recession is magnifying this even more."

According to John, who has worked as an architect for over 25 years and employs eight staff, the RIAI and Simon are hoping to raise €50,000 this year.

"Since 2004 when the campaign began over €200,000 has been raised.

"Architects taking part are giving their time for free and every cent raised will go directly to the Simon Communities of Ireland."

