



Kildare architects give their time for charity

The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and the Simon Communities of Ireland recently launched the fifth annual nationwide "Simon Open Door" campaign.

On Saturday, March 7th 2009, in exchange for a €75 donation to Simon, members of the public will get an opportunity to have a one-hour consultation with an RIAI architect. Hundreds of RIAI members are participating throughout the country and members of the public can book a slot with their chosen architect via www.simonopendoor.ie.

Patrick Burke, CEO of the Simon Communities of Ireland, told *Kildare Times*, "The global economic downturn and rising unemployment rates will force more people into homelessness."

This year, the RIAI and Simon are hoping to raise €50,000 through the campaign, bringing the total raised since 2004 to €200,000. All participating architects are giving their time for free and every cent raised will go directly to the Simon Communities of Ireland.

One of the participating architects is Kildare-based Vivian Cummins of Vivian Cummins & Associates Ltd. Vivian has been an architect for 27 years, ten of which have been spent in Kildare. Some of the projects she has

designed include two homes for RTE newsreader Aengus MacGrianna. When asked why she has decided to get involved with the Simon Open Door Day, Vivian replied, "We are helping a very worthy cause. The RIAI Simon Open Door Day also gives Kildare people the chance to talk about plans for their homes,

however big or small, in a relaxed atmosphere."

Commenting on the launch, Angela Brady, architect and presenter of Channel 4's 'The Home Show' and RIAI Council Member, told *Kildare Times*, "Many people who had planned to upgrade to a larger space to meet the changing needs of their

families are now discovering this is no longer a possibility. That is where architects can really help. Whether it's a full-scale renovation or merely adding storage in clever and imaginative ways, architects can bring their creative design flare and technical experience to bear on projects of all shapes and sizes. The

Simon Open Door is a wonderful opportunity for people to discuss their plans with an architect and give back to those in less fortunate positions."

Remember, your architect is giving you their time in support of the Simon Communities. Go to www.simon.ie to find out how you, too, can get involved with helping homeless people all over Ireland.

Participating architects in Kildare include: Martin Murray Architects, Naas, and Vivian Cummins & Associates, Athy.



Pictured is Sinead Conlan from Newbridge receiving the Third Year Trinity College Civil Engineering Prize for Joint First Prize from PJ Rudden, Group Director of RPS recently.