

JEANNE - OPEN DOORS INITIATIVE

“WE NEED TO SEE AN ALL-IRELAND APPROACH TO HELPING THESE FAMILIES – OUR NEW NEIGHBOURS – TO BECOME PART OF THE FABRIC OF OUR COUNTRY AND HELP THEM TO DO SO. IT IS A WILDLY SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION MODEL, AND EVERYONE CAN BE PART OF IT. IT’S A BEAUTIFUL PROCESS AND GIVES TO EVERYONE INVOLVED.”



I became aware of Community Sponsorship at a seminar early on, where three people spoke about it so passionately and eloquently that I immediately wanted to get involved. David Stanton TD, John Roycroft from the Dept of Justice and Colm O’Gorman from Amnesty Ireland talked about the impact it had on people, whose lives have been ripped apart and how the process of a group or community wrapping themselves around the person and families, like a great blanket of comfort, creating a new life for them, gave them hope. How could you not want to help?

When The Open Doors Initiative was approached, we helped create Cairde – the Allies Network, which plays to our strengths of bringing companies together - business, law, sport and other organisations, to create a wider umbrella of support. This amplifies the work of the Community groups and offers additional aids where needed. We ask that the companies support in a myriad of ways that best plays to their strengths. For example, it can be funding, employee time, practical needs such as computers or phones and even creating a sponsorship group themselves. All help is gratefully received and makes a real difference. And it has only started.

We need to see an all-Ireland approach to helping these families – our new neighbours – to become part of the fabric of our country and help them to do so.

It is a wildly successful integration model, and everyone can be part of it. It’s a beautiful process and gives to everyone involved.

“WE NEED TO SEE AN ALL-IRELAND APPROACH TO HELPING THESE FAMILIES – OUR NEW NEIGHBOURS – TO BECOME PART OF THE FABRIC OF OUR COUNTRY.”

Irish society is changing, and for the better. Welcoming people from other countries brings diversity of thought and is led by diversity itself. It brings lateral thinking, creativity and cuts across artificial barriers such as country boundaries and sameness of approach and mirroring, to lead to a blended and diverse society which is enriched by difference. It helps everyone in this way and has a positive and inspiring impact on our lives.

Get involved, help out and make new friends. You will be so grateful you did.

