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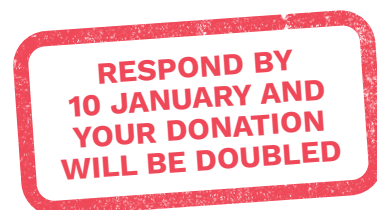
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Supporter Reference: <Constituent ID>



Date 2024

**Right now, an older person is in hospital, longing for the comfort of home and desperate to be there for Christmas Day. Please donate to help make their wish come true.**

Dear <Salutation>

My name is Megan Reilly and I'm a Care + Repair Manager at Age Action. I'm writing to you today because I know, right now, there will be an older person lying alone in a hospital bed, hoping and praying they can return home for Christmas after a heart attack, stroke or fall.

What's so utterly heartbreaking is that often all that's stopping an older person returning home is one little fix to make it safe, such as clearing out clutter or removing trip hazards in the house and garden. That's where you – and we – can make all the difference.

**This Christmas, will you give €<ASK1> or €<ASK2> or to help our Care + Repair**



*As the old saying goes: níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin. There's no fireside like your own. Especially at Christmas.*

*Read more about how you can help...*

**team make people's houses safe again with grab rails and other small fixes?**

**A group of generous local businesses has joined forces to make your donations go even further! For every Euro you give, up to the 10 January, they'll match it — doubling your gift. This means we'll be able to help even more people every day of the year.**

**And when you donate, I urge you to write a few kind words in the enclosed card to welcome someone home, even something as simple as “I am thinking of you”. Your message would mean the world to an older person who may not have any family to greet them at the door.**

Our Care + Repair team does small DIY jobs, free of charge, for older people to help them age well in their own homes. Most urgently, we run a Hospital Discharge Service from Donegal to Cork that makes the adjustments that a person coming home from hospital desperately needs.

Our Maintenance Men in Dublin, Martin and Patrick, are two of the nicest guys you could ever hope to meet. Together with donations like yours, these kindhearted souls really do work little miracles!

Recently, Martin and Patrick helped a woman I'll call Bridie. (That's not her real name, but we can't use the real names of older people, whose privacy we always protect.) Bridie had been rushed to hospital after a stroke and, afterwards, her mobility was very badly affected.

Maybe you or someone you love has been in the same situation after a health crisis? Suddenly, you're far away from the comfort of home, and lying in a bed in a hospital ward – with its bright lights, beeping machines and the harsh tang of antiseptic. Faces come and go, leaving you feeling lost.

Like so many older people in that position, Bridie yearned to be back home, sitting in her favourite chair, surrounded by all the little

mementos she treasures: pictures of her and her late husband on holiday, or a shell picked up on a beach on a special day.

As Martin explains, “She couldn't get home simply because her bedroom was upstairs. She couldn't go up the stairs any more, so she couldn't come home until she could get in her own bed. Sadly, like many others she was in the hospital all alone, and didn't have any family who could do the job for her.

“So what did we do? We moved the bedroom from upstairs to downstairs.



Donations from people  
like you helped Bridie  
come home.



We moved the wardrobe, too, and everything. We rearranged everything so it looks like we moved the entire bedroom just the way it was upstairs – but now downstairs. And that did the trick. I can tell you now, Bridie was delighted to get home, and sleep in her own bed again.”

Martin and Patrick were there when Bridie got home. They showed her, show her where they had moved her precious things, and sit down and share a cup of tea and have a friendly chat.

Martin says, “We don’t just walk in and do the job. We always have a cup of tea. Just to sit and talk for a while. You could be the only person that someone sees from one end of the week to the other. Sometimes people have no visitors. A lot of our clients have no family at all.

“People are coming home after operations to an empty house. So for us to come and have a cup of tea – well, that makes a difference.

“If someone offers a cup of tea, I’ll always take it. It’s just to have a chat. And check they’re alright. We always ask if there’s anything else they want done.”

**This Christmas, will you help another older person like Bridie with a gift of €<ASK2>? Remember, your festive gift will be doubled if you respond by 10 January, helping our Care + Repair team all across Ireland get older people back home.**

A gift of any size will make a difference, sometimes the smallest jobs are the biggest reason someone can’t get home.

As Martin and Patrick say, “At the end of the day, the person we’re helping is either waiting on the job to be done so they can come home, or they’re already in their home but unsafe until the job is done. So we do hospital discharge jobs as quickly as possible.

“It really makes your day when you’ve done something good because you can walk away knowing that someone’s happy.”

**Will you too do “something good” today by supporting our Care + Repair team with a generous gift of €<ASK3>? You can help keep our vans on the road throughout the year, come rain or shine. Respond by 10 January and your donation will be doubled by a group of generous local businesses.**



*Our team will even change a lightbulb as standing on a chair or ladder can be dangerous for older people.*

**And please don't forget to write a personal message in the enclosed card, which our team will display to welcome an older person when they get home.**

As I said, your gift could make all the difference to an older person feeling isolated, lost and unrooted in hospital. They desperately want to be back by their own fireside.

It really could just take a few small adjustments to their home environment to make it safer, so I hope you can spare a gift of €<ASK1>, €<ASK2> or €<ASK3> to help get someone home from hospital.

I'll leave you with the words of Bridie, who's mourning the loss of her husband who she cared for during a long illness. When she rang to ask for help to get home from the hospital, she said: "My ladder holder is gone."

Doesn't that say so much?

Thank you for reading my letter and I wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas,

Best wishes,

*Megan*

Megan Reilly  
Care + Repair Manager



*Your Christmas gift can help keep our Care + Repair vans on the road across Ireland.*

**RESPOND BY  
10 JANUARY AND  
YOUR DONATION  
WILL BE DOUBLED**

**PS. Remember, your gift will be doubled thanks to a group of generous local businesses. You must respond by 10 January for your donation to be matched.**

**PPS. Please write a message in the enclosed card and send it back in the Freepost envelope too. Your warm words would mean so much to an older person coming home alone. You can just send the card if you like, but including a gift could make all the difference for the next Bridie.**

*Thanks a million!*