

Extracts from NIHACT's Audited Accounts for 2007- 08

Grants Awarded

Organisation	£
Oaklee HA (Community Centre)	15,000
Beyond Skin	5,500
Eastside Boxing Club	4,882
Homeplus	5,000
Help the Aged	2,500
Wellsprings	2,500
Total:	35,382

Income

Source	£
Donations (from 12 housing associations)	8,650
Bank interest	9,738
Total:	18,388

Deficit

NIHACT incurred a deficit of £18,130 in 2007- 08

Accumulated Fund

NIHACT's accumulated fund stood at £178,940 at 31 March 2008.

Northern Ireland Housing Associations' Charitable Trust

Annual Report 2007 - 08

Charitable backing for:

- ★ good practice;
- ★ innovation;
- ★ user involvement;
- ★ quality of life for users;
- ★ addressing unmet needs;
- ★ a strong voluntary housing sector

In 2007- 08 NIHACT continued to creatively complement the social inclusion work of Northern Ireland's housing associations. Grants totalling £35,382 were paid to three projects approved in 2007- 08 and three approved in previous years.

Half the money was invested in two projects improving the quality of life of older people. One of them enabled *Oaklee HA* to include a community facility in a new housing project for senior citizens in the Fermanagh village of Ederney. The scale of this support was made possible by the generosity of the Henry Smith Charity, which in 2005 entrusted NIHACT with the



allocation of £13,500 for the benefit of older persons in Northern Ireland. The Charitable Trust hopes the wider public benefit of this facility, which is the base for training, crafts and cross-community meetings and was opened by the Minister for Social Development in September

2007, will help convince the public authorities that modest but well co-ordinated investments can produce considerable gains in health and social well-being. In addition, the Charitable Trust assisted *Help the Aged* to install equipment to improve security and independence for older people.

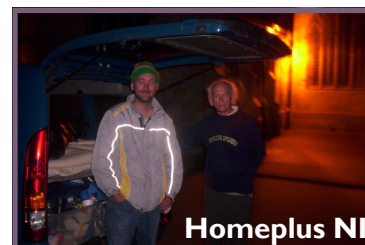
Another two grants helped people at the other end of the age spectrum. NIHACT paid for a development plan intended to secure a much bigger grant from the Sports Council. If successful, *Eastside Boxing Club* will be able to replace its grossly substandard accommodation and equipment.

The Trust paid further instalments of grant towards a project called *Beyond Skin*. Teenagers from Northern Ireland and overseas, aided by professional tutors, came together to create and record their own style of music.

An emergency grant from the Trust saved a vital direct service for street homeless people from closure in the Spring of 2007. This



money sustained *Homeplus* - a team of volunteers and a few paid staff - to continue helping homeless persons. This group includes many destitute migrant workers with no



entitlement to assistance from the state.

The sixth grant was paid to a group that provides advice, counselling and support for alcoholics and other people with addiction problems. NIHACT's grant will meet the cost of some new furniture and office equipment for *Wellsprings*.

Of the nine new applications received during 2007- 08, the NIHACT Committee decided it could not support one. Four were approved and grant was paid during that financial year. The remaining four were under consideration at the end of March 2008.

The encouraging trend in housing association assistance to NIHACT was maintained. The number of housing associations contributing to NIHACT increased from ten to twelve. Interest received on the Trust fund brought its total

income to £18,388.

It remains the case, however, that the sum NIHACT issued for charitable assistance was more than twice its income. The inevitable consequence was the Trust's fund diminished to £178,940.

The NIHACT Committee is acutely conscious that such net outflow of funds cannot be sustained in the long term but wishes to continue responding positively to community needs. The Trust therefore plans to continue developing a solid base of support within the housing association movement and using this as a platform from which to attract donations from other sources.

In conclusion, the Committee records its appreciation of the contribution made by *Moyra Armstrong* and *Edna Dunbar*, both of whom retired during the year. Able replacements have been found in *John Patterson* and *John McLean*.

At the end of 2007 *Tom O'Neill* was appointed Chairperson. He succeeded *Ray Cashell*, who had served enthusiastically for three years. NIHACT is very grateful to both individuals and used the transfer of office to promote the charity's work through an article in the Irish News.