



Update from the Chairperson

As you may recall, I wrote to all members back in February 2010 outlining the steps that needed to be taken to secure the future of ACTS Ltd. The strategy was twofold:

1. Increase Income
2. Make Savings

I am delighted to report that these corrective measures have had the desired effect and with the help and assistance of members and staff, we have managed to achieve significant increases in income and savings.

Of course we can't afford to rest on our laurels. This is only the start of a process to put ACTS Ltd on a sound financial footing, less dependent on government funding and put a strategy in place to cushion us from the effects of future reductions.

To this end, the Fundraising Committee has met on a regular basis and planned a number of fundraising events as follows.

Monday 7th June: A number of members of ACTS Travel Club have participated in the Mini Marathon on behalf of ACTS Ltd.

Saturday 26th June: Sponsored Walk/Wheelchair Push, Marley Park, Rathfarnham Sponsorship Cards are available

From July: Sweepstake of 500 tickets for Premium seats in the Aviva Stadium, covering 13 matches between September 2010 and July 2011

Saturday 4th September: Flag Day Collection, Cornelscourt Shopping Centre. Collectors required

NOVEMBER: ANNUAL RAFFLE WITH SUPERB PRIZES - from weekends away to a Panasonic Camera and a variety of vouchers.

I urge all members to participate in our fundraising efforts as this is the only way we can secure the future of ACTS Ltd. I would also encourage all family and friends to get involved. To all those already participating, I thank you most sincerely.

Michael Fox (Chairperson)



ACTS Ltd. Board members: Front row from left: Mary Collins, Mairead Ni Bhroin, Margaret Lacey and Bobbie Connolly. Back row, l to r: Michael Fox, Geraldine Graydon and Gary Morris. Not included in picture are: Paddy Beare, Paul Crinion and David Lynch.

FROM THE MANAGERS DESK

The AGM of ACTS Ltd was held on the 4th May 2010, where the accounts for 2009 were approved by the Board as well as the annual report.

The good news is that ACTS Ltd broke even in 2009 with a turnover for the year of €585,000. ACTS Ltd carried out over 17,500 passenger trips on the 8 seater mini buses in 2009 and over 190 group runs with our 15 seater mini bus for our local community groups.

Fortunately in 2009 we added a new 8 seater accessible minibus to the fleet with thanks to a donation from the People In Need Trust which is used on the Stillorgan Route and driven by Martin and Anthony.

2010 has been a difficult and more challenging year for ACTS Ltd as we have had to cope with the reduction of the Pobal CSP Funding from €348,567 to €288,946.

We have had to try making savings in our costs as well as try to raise

further income through increasing the volume of passenger trips being carried out and to start local fundraising.

Pobal CSP did give us the option to appeal the cutbacks of almost €60,000 before Friday 29th Jan 2010 which we did and thankfully we have got some of this money back. However we still need to push hard to make up the short fall and to find ways of securing the future of ACTS Ltd Accessible Transport Service as unfortunately the cutbacks are here to stay.

Hence apart from increasing the amount of work done by all the minibuses and drivers on a daily and weekly basis, we are now trying to develop some ways of fundraising from having some people doing the Mini Marathon, to a Sponsored Walk in Marley Park, to Flag days in shopping centres and a Raffle in November.

I know how much of a difference the existence and availability of ACTS Ltd means to so many of you and that it is very important to ensure that it is going to stay and to grow even bigger.

Gerry O'Brien, Manager

ACTS Ltd buses and drivers are available every day, evenings and weekends. Tel: 292 1573/4 Make your bookings in advance, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm

FEEDBACK FROM OUR MEMBERS

Since Accessible Community Transport Southside Ltd., was set up with the help of the Southside Partnership in 2002 it has enabled me to fully participate in society. Before that time I had struggled through life having survived two accidents, which left me with chronic pain and increased the level of my disability. This meant that when I used the regular mode of transport such as bus or train or the inaccessible taxis - my heart was pounding and my palms were sweaty because I didn't feel safe. My physiotherapist told me that after I used the public transport my injuries were exacerbated.

I greatly appreciate the fully accessible nature of ACTS vans. I feel safe and fully supported by all the staff at ACTS. My parents are never really worried about me when I have to travel places. I should also share my master's degree with ACTS, as they are held as much responsible for it. Also my career as an artist has flourished because ACTS has been able to take me, and other members of the art class to the art studio, where we

paint every week. ACTS enables me, and others to fully engage in community activism and it has enriched my social life immensely. Also I don't have to worry about getting to the different medical appointments that I have. Travelling or getting places safely has never been simpler.

ACTS changes isolation into full participation. As for cost, I find ACTS to be affordable, accessible and much, much cheaper than the normal unsafe taxis. I hope that the Government will fully support and subsidise ACTS financially for the employment and other life enhancing and tax generating services it provides by bringing people like me door to door. I also hope that the Government will realise the life giving service that ACTS gives. I can honestly say with my hand on my heart I don't know what I would do with my life if ACTS wasn't there. I fear that I wouldn't be able to generate as much contribution to society as I do today without the company of ACTS.

Mary Collins, Dun Laoghaire

PRAISE FOR HELPFUL ACTS DRIVERS

My name is Liam Quinn, I am just writing a few words of gratitude for the help and support that ACTS have given me over the past 2 years.

Without ACTS transport I would not be able to live a full and active life, I use ACTS for socialising and rely on them to get me to and from work every day.

The drivers are very professional and most helpful and considerate to my needs and go out of their way to make my journey comfortable and enjoyable. As a wheelchair user I find the drivers take great care to ensure my safety at all times and are always on time.

I love using the ACTS transport, it helps me live a full social and independent life.

Liam Quinn, Crumlin

WITHOUT ACTS LIFE WOULD BE DIFFICULT

I have been disabled and confined to a wheelchair since 2004. In late 2009 my condition deteriorated to such an extent that I was no longer able to access a conventional taxi because this would prove to be extremely difficult for me as I have to attend the Beacon Clinic 3 days every week. That's when I discovered ACTS who were able to accommodate me with their specially equipped buses with lifts with drive on and drive off facilities. For me this was a life saving discovery and I could not be happier with the excellent service that ACTS provide for me.

The drivers who usually drive me to and from the hospital are Martin, Anthony, John, Joe, Gene and Philip. They are all good, sociable, caring and extremely courteous, so much that I find myself looking forward to my 3 times return trip to the Beacon Hospital. I have to say that life would be extremely difficult for me without the excellent service which ACTS provide, and long may they continue with their good work.

Myles Clancy, Kilmacud



Pictured left is Martin with new '09 bus.

On right is John with Myles Clancy boarding the ACTS Ltd. bus.



Don't forget to make use of our accessible transport at any time. Ring and book in advance, Mon. - Fri. 9am - 5pm to avail of our 7 day service.