



GOOD NEWS !!

10% Reduction in Fares

Dear Members,

The **ACTS** Management Committee and Board have been acutely aware of the impact ongoing cutbacks and reductions in their income has caused to all our members.

We have therefore decided, for a 3 month trial period, to implement a **10%** reduction across the board on all fares, including our premium, rate charged at night and weekends to help reduce the cost of using our service.

This new initiative will only work with the support of our members so we hope this reduction will encourage and assist all members to make more use of our service and therefore cover the cost of this fare reduction. **If this is the case, we can make the reduction permanent.** We look forward in the future to coming up with other ways and means of implementing further fare reductions.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all **ACTS** members for their continued support and encourage all members to take advantage of this fare reduction.

Michael Fox (Chairperson)

FROM THE MANAGERS DESK

For the past 2 years, **ACTS** has been involved in local fundraising to try and offset a reduction in our grant from the government. **Family members, friends** and **Travel Club** members have helped out by taking part and obtaining sponsorship for the **Mini Marathon, Marlay Park Annual Walk & Wheelchair Push**, collecting at our **Flag Days at Shopping Centres** and with **selling Raffle tickets** for the **ACTS Annual Draw**. The funds raised have proved invaluable in keeping **ACTS** running so a very special thanks to all **ACTS Volunteers**.

However, we cannot get distracted or lose sight of what we do in **ACTS** Ltd and why we do it. Namely, to provide a door-to-door accessible transport to people with limited mobility. We carried out over 19,000 passenger trips with our 8 seater Accessible Minibuses and over 200 group runs in the 15 seater Minibus.

In terms of upgrading our fleet of 10 accessible Minibuses we are dependent on grant support. I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the National Lottery who in 2010 gave us a grant to enable us to buy a new Accessible Minibus. We were successful once again with an application in late 2011 and are now in process of buying a new Accessible Minibus.

On 2nd May 2012 we held our AGM and presented the 2011 Audited accounts. 2011 was a challenging year for us and our

SETTING OUT ON THE MINI MARATHON, JUNE 4TH 2012



Above: Members & Supporters at the Mini Marathon:
Front Row: Mary Collins, Sarah Duffy & Chiara Flannery
Back Row: Awa, Emma, Hollyanna, Emma from **ACTS** office, Annetta & Sinead

ACTS FARE STRUCTURE FROM 1ST JUNE 2012

- 0-5 km change from €8.00 to €7.00
- 5-8 km change from €11.00 to €10.00
- 8-10 km change from €13.00 to €12.00
- 11-13 km change from €15.50 to €14.00

Full details on our website: www.actsltd.ie

accounts show a loss of €14,000.00 principally due to a fall in the amount of grant support from the Community Services Programme and this despite achieving considerable savings in many areas.

I am sure you are aware of just how important generation of income from fares and **fund raising** has become for **ACTS** continued survival. I would appeal for your ongoing support and for more volunteers. If we can increase our income we will be in a much stronger position to weather whatever the future holds for us. Many thanks to our staff (office based & drivers) and volunteers for their ongoing work and support.

Gerry (Manager)

ANNUAL RAFFLE ~ NOV 2nd 2012

1ST PRIZE:

**2 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION FOR 2 PEOPLE
& 1 EVENING MEAL
IN FITZPATRICK CASTLE HOTEL, KILLINEY
and other great prizes**

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS. WWW.ACTSLTD.IE
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ACTS OFFICE.

Southside Partnership uses **ACTS** on a regular basis to transport members of **DIG** (disability interest group) and **Southern Ability**.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR MEMBERS

DIG is a group of people with disabilities who highlight and tackle issues that affect people with disabilities in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County. **ACTS** transport several members to and from meetings and to events on a regular basis. Southside Partnership finds that **ACTS** provide a valuable service in the community for people with disabilities and older people. **'Unlike public transport ACTS facilitates people to travel in pairs and groups to meetings and events'**
(*Sandra King, Southside Partnership*).

Southern Ability is a group of young adults with disabilities who meet up and socialise in the evenings. **'The ACTS service is crucial for this group as it allows them to travel in an accessible bus together and go on outings such as bowling, the cinema and restaurants'**. Members of the group have built a strong rapport with the driver and parents trust the service to pick up and drop members home to their door in the evening.
(*Jamie Downer, founder of Southern Ability*).

It is wonderful beyond measure to have such a reliable service as **"ACTS"**, which has so many dedicated employees that it is able to provide invaluable assistance to transport less physically able citizens to and from places of work, education, entertainment, gym's and leisure facilities, Mass, Birthday Parties, the Cinema and Theatre and altogether, enable life and the everyday living of it to be possible and so very pleasurable!



Above: Kieron on his way to the gym with one of the ACTS drivers

THE NATION AND ITS CITIZENS WOULD BE ALL THE MORE WORSE OFF IF "ACTS" AND SIMILAR ORGANISATIONS WERE NOT IN EXISTENCE

Kieron Mulcahy

My name is **Jan Cooke** and I am writing to you on behalf of my father, **Christopher Cooke**, who has been using the **ACTS** service since December 2011.

After a short but severe illness in 2011, my 80 year old father was left confined to a wheelchair needing special assistance for his every day needs. As this was the first person in our family to face this kind of difficulty we had no idea where to turn when it came to organising day to day transport for him as he would no longer be able to drive his car.

We tried out several taxi companies and kept running into the same difficulties, the vehicles would be late for pick up / drop off, they didn't have the proper facilities on board to safely hold my dad's chair in place and sometimes they would not turn up at all!

Then I found out about **ACTS** from a friend of mine and got in touch back in December. I would like to say that the drivers that look after my dad are all extremely professional & friendly. They treat my dad with the care & respect that he deserves and he always has positive things to say about his weekly journeys with them.

The team in the office are also extremely accommodating – I have had to change times & on some occasions cancel bookings as dad has been too unwell to travel – this is never a problem as the team have an out of office mobile number that can be called out of hours.

I would have no hesitation in recommending **ACTS** to any of my friends or colleagues, they have made a big difference to my Dads life and they allow him to have a full social life despite what has happened to him with the loss of his mobility

Jan Cooke

ACTS - Not just a taxi service but a social outlet also! Thanks to the ACTS team of friendly, expert drivers I have access to various social activities. Now I can go to the theatre, art galleries and family gatherings independently.

A vital part of my stroke rehabilitation is my weekly visit to the Volunteer Stroke Scheme Support Group in St Bernadette's Parish, where I can still avail of my physiotherapy and the support and friendship of other stroke survivors.



Above: Nuala with Erika at the end of the sponsored event in Marlay

The management of **ACTS** are to be commended in their selection and appointment of their drivers, who are always helpful and courteous - sometimes over and beyond the call of duty. I've been using the service for the past

number of years and I'm grateful that such a service is available for me.

If this service were to stop, or be curtailed, in any way it would be a huge loss to me - so my No 1 vote = **ACTS**

Nuala Brennan

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 - 4.30pm to avail of our 7 day service.



Assisted by Pobal Community Services Programme, through the Department of Social Protection

