

## SUMMER PROJECT:

I cannot let the year go by, without acknowledging the work that went into our Summer project in July. Highlights included the annual trip to RTE, paddle boarding and kayaking in Surf Dock, our pamper night for teenagers with massage, mindfulness and card readings; plus trips to the Maze, Footee, Fort Lucan, The Aqua Zone , Corcaigh Park and Sea Life.

Our Summer bash was the grand finale, with our guest Wes Doyle, Doug in Fair City, proving to be a big hit with the teenagers.

Also in July, the annual South Docks festival celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Talk About Youth project ran quite a number of the events that week, with the cream of the crop being the Talent Show, which was this year hosted by Google in their Theatre in Barrow street. It was an extraordinary night and certainly was a success beyond our wildest dreams. Our young people entertained the masses with song, dance, drama and comedy. The support provided by Google was extraordinary. They mentioned that of about 180 events run that year, that this one topped them all. High praise indeed.

I hope that the photos capture the essence of both events.

## YOUTHWORK CHANGES LIVES:

The National Youth Council of Ireland developed a campaign this year called, "Youth Work Changes Lives". The aim of which is to promote the value of youth work and to seek further investment in the sector. As part of the campaign, the Dept of Children and Youth Affairs funded NYCI to run a national showcase in the Mansion House.

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 350 young people from all over Ireland, including the Talk About Youth Project met with 100 TD's and Senators to share stories of their own youth work experiences.

Prior to the Showcase, NYCI invited us to display our "Dear Me" postcards campaign at the event plus take a table for the project. With thanks to Kate and Stephen from Trinity's Science Gallery (previously curated an exhibition in the gallery for us) our exhibition was one of the highlights of the day. Reese a member of our Allsorts group who came up with the Dear Me concept played a blinder regaling the Minister and half of Ireland with the background to it. Minister Zappone was so impressed, she tweeted about us later that day. All in all a fantastic day.

### International Programme Fundraiser:

The Project's International Programme are having an evening of song with world class performances of choral singing with the Dolce Choir from Raheny and the Multikultureller Choir from Bonn in Germany.

It will take place in St Andrew's Church, Westland Row on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> October from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Tickets are €10 each and available from the Talk About Youth project office in St Andrews resource centre.

Poster attached has all the details.