

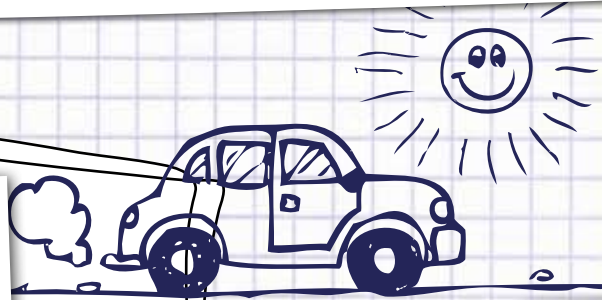
PLEASSED TO MEET YOU

Rehab News meets some people who attend the RehabCare resource centre in Wexford. They tell us about their achievements this year.



BERNIE FINN – DRIVING TEST SUCCESS

My name is Bernie Finn and for so long it has been my goal to learn how to drive. Where I live in the country, the transport is very limited so I decided it would be to my advantage to learn how to drive. I began studying for my driver theory exam in June 2009. In July 2010 I went for my driver theory exam and I passed it. I then began to take driving lessons every week from Lorcan Merrigan. I started to use the family car to practise and my sister Amanda helped me. Then on 11 March this year I sat my driving test. I was nervous but I held myself together. I was delighted when I passed. I have achieved my long-term goal and now I have the freedom to go wherever I want in my car.



LEE COLFER – EQUIPMENT EXPEDITION

My name is Lee Colfer and one of my goals for 2011 was to visit the John Deere forest equipment centre in Co. Wicklow. Two others from the centre came with me, JJ Scallan and John-Joe. Tina and Shirley and staff at the centre, also accompanied us. We set off early on Thursday, 7 April. We decided to make a day of it and were very excited about the trip. Travelling on the "highways" and "byways", we made many attempts to find the centre. The driver went past it three times and we felt like we were lost in no-man's land! But John-Joe and I finally spotted the entrance! We looked at all the machinery, big and small, and we took loads of photographs. I also visited the workshop and picked up some catalogues. Some of the machinery was awesome. We all had a great day.





JOHN THOMAS – SUPERMARKET SUCCESS

About two years ago, Herbert, my Community Support Worker, asked if I'd like to do some work experience three days a week for six hours a day. The work was for seven weeks in Pettitt's Supervalu in Wexford.

Another person from RehabCare also came to work with me. Our first task was to clean the supermarket shelves. We took the stock off the shelves, then cleaned the shelves with a cloth and detergent, and then replaced the stock. We had to wear gloves to protect our hands and for hygiene. Sometimes I was called over to do other jobs, such as sweeping and general tidying up.

The weeks flew by and soon our time was up. We both enjoyed doing the work. The manager, Pdraig Doran, is a real gentleman. The staff were very friendly towards us and helped us out a lot. I liked the job and the supermarket so much that I returned for more work experience on three other occasions. This work played a significant part in my life as it was great to meet lots of customers that I knew locally and the staff were so friendly. It was also great to get the extra income and to feel really good after doing a day's work. It was a really positive experience for me!



MARY CRONIN – CD SUCCESS

I take part in the karaoke music programme every Tuesday afternoon in the Wexford resource centre. Herbert Johnson, our music facilitator, has taught me a lot about music. I love music and singing and now thanks to the programme I have the confidence to sing in front of an audience of hundreds of people. I have sung for Ministers of State, and for the Texan team who visited the centre at the time of the Special Olympics in 2003.

Cliff Richard has been my favourite singer since I was young and I am honoured to be a member of his fan club in London. We got the chance to make a CD, *Songs to Warm the Heart*, and I chose to sing Cliff's hit song "Summer Holiday" on it. We practised for three months and on the last day of the music programme we recorded the CD. It was so exciting to hear myself singing on the CD. I played it for several people. They all loved it. Some people even want a copy of it. I also sang this song at our presentation lunch held in a local hotel just before Easter. I now feel that I've completed one of my goals – to make a CD.

