

'FRONTLINE TO FINISHLINE' RELAY RAISES €15K FOR TWO CHARITIES

Gardaí, fire and ambulance service personnel, community first responders and members from other frontline services who participated in the Charity Relay Walk 'Frontline to Finishline' in June raised up to €15,000 in total in aid of Pieta House and ALONE.

Rescue Organisation Ireland rolled out the 'Frontline to Finishline' Charity Relay Walk on 22 June with the main aim of creating awareness and raising much-needed funds for both Pieta House and ALONE (a charity founded by Dublin Firefighter Willie Bermingham).

The charity event was launched at DFB's HQ on Tara Street by Anthony Byrne, Vice-Chair of Rescue Organisation Ireland; Dennis Keeley, DFB's Chief Fire Officer; Sean Moynihan from ALONE and Brian McEvoy from Pieta House.

The launch was attended by representatives from Dublin Fire



Anthony Byrne, Vice-Chair of Rescue Organisation Ireland, pictured with Dublin Fire Brigade's Chief Fire Officer Dennis Keeley before the start of the 'Frontline to Finishline' Charity Relay Walk at DFB's HQ at Tara Street on 22 June.



27 FRONTLINE SERVICES PARTICIPATED IN 'FRONTLINE TO FINISHLINE'

1. An Garda Síochána
2. Baltinglass Community First Responder Group
3. Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service
4. Dublin Airport Fire & Rescue Service
5. Dublin Civil Defence
6. Dublin Fire Brigade

7. Dunlavin Community First Responder Groups
8. HPMP
9. Irish Air Corps
10. Irish Coast Guard
11. Irish Red Cross
12. Kildare Fire Service
13. Kildare Civil Defence
14. Kilkenny Civil Defence
15. Kilkenny County Fire & Rescue Service
16. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service
17. Laois Civil Defence
18. National Ambulance Service
19. Order of Malta Carlow
20. Order of Malta Bray
21. RNLI
22. Wexford Civil Defence
23. Wexford County Fire & Rescue Service
24. Wicklow Civil Defence
25. Text Box Wicklow County Fire & Rescue Service
26. Waterford City/ County Fire & Rescue Service
27. Waterford Civil Defence



All participants on the charity relay walked in pairs in single file wearing their uniform or turn-out kit holding a 2m-social distancing sign.

Brigade, Dublin Civil Defence, An Garda Síochána, the National Ambulance Service and Dublin Airport Fire & Rescue Service. A minute's silence was also held as a mark of respect for Detective Garda Colm Horkan, who had died in the line of duty on 17 June in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.

SIX COUNTIES IN SIX DAYS

Shortly after the launch proceedings, representatives from both the state and voluntary emergency services started the relay walk from Dublin Fire Brigade's HQ on Tara Street in Dublin. And over the next six days they travelled through Kildare, Laois, Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford before reaching the finish line in Bray on 27 June.

"They walked in pairs in single file wearing their uniform or turn-out kit holding a 2m-social distancing sign. The walk took account of government restrictions and the guidelines under the Roadmap for Reopening for both society and business," according to Anthony Byrne, Vice-Chair of Rescue Organisation Ireland (ROI).

"All those who participated were local, passing the 2m baton along the route. No bucket collections were used as a precaution to avoid any cross-contamination and counting of monies by our volunteers," he added.

A total of €15,000 was raised – €11,000 on the fundraising page www.idonate.ie/ROI/ frontline to finishline with an additional €4,000 through a number of individual donations.

During the final day of 'Frontline to Finishline' a separate walk also took place in Waterford City in support of the charity walk by members who could not travel outside the 20km restriction. "This fantastic support was given by Waterford City and County Fire Service and Waterford Civil Defence," noted the Vice-Chair of ROI.

"Rescue Organisation Ireland wishes to thank all participating walkers, runners and especially our supporters throughout 'Frontline to Finishline'. In 2021 we may return with another event," Byrne concluded.

For further information and updates:

<https://twitter.com/RescueOrgIre>
https://www.instagram.com/rescue_org_irl/
<https://www.facebook.com/RescueOrgIre/>

RELAY WALK IS THE TALK OF THE TOWNS!

Day 1: Starting off from Dublin Fire Brigade HQ on Tara Street, members walked through Dublin city passing the baton to colleagues along the way to Tallaght. After a short break more ROI members continued the relay to Naas Fire Station via Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

Day 2: Moving from Naas to Newbridge Fire Station the baton was then handed over for the next leg through Kilcullen and Dunlavin onto Baltinglass over the Kildare/Wicklow border.

Day 3: An early start from Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, through Kilshen, Co. Laois into Carlow town; while a second group started in Tullow, Co. Carlow to meet relay walkers from the Castlecomer/Carlow route in Ballon. Following a short break the relay then continued through Kildavin to Bunclody, Co. Wexford.

Day 4: Starting in Bunclody, following a route through Enniscorthy to Wexford Town, the walkers received a 'sunny Wexford welcome' upon arrival along Wexford Quays.

Day 5: The walkers started out the next day from Gorey before winding their way through the countryside to a reception in Arklow Town, Co. Wicklow.

Day 6: Following an early start in Arklow, they followed the route to Jack White's Inn, handing over the baton to members who then ran the relay to Wicklow Town. The next leg to Greystones was followed by a reception in Greystones Fire Station, and from Greystones the final leg of the relay charity walk led to a celebratory finale in Bray Fire Station on 27 June.

