



Kerry Social Farming



Host farmer Breda O'Sullivan with participant Breda.



**Saint John of God Community Services CLG
Kerry Services**

HOSPITALITY • RESPECT • JUSTICE • COMPASSION • EXCELLENCE



**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR NURSES,
CARE ASSISTANTS, & SOCIAL CARE WORKERS**

ARE YOU:

Newly qualified in your profession?

Wanting to return to practice?

Fancy a change in career?

Or simply looking to gain experience while you study within the healthcare profession?

**Saint John of God Kerry Services
offers Full time, Part time, Relief
and Temporary Contracts.**

If you are a registered Nurse, Care Assistant or Social Care Worker, or studying within these fields, then why not join our expanding team and help us deliver an exceptional Health and Social Care Service to adults and children with an intellectual disability, that we support throughout the Kerry region.

To find out more about our Career Opportunities, please contact Human Resources on 064 664 4133 or email sjogkerry.recruitment@sjog.ie www.sjogkerryservices.ie

'We're learning something new from the experience...'

I WORK with SKDP in Killorglin and Joe McCrohan approached me about getting involved in Social Farming. I have six in my own family who are all grown up and gone away. I had so much time on my hands and I happened to hear a programme on the radio one evening about Social Farming. That was the spark for me and after discussing it with my husband I phoned Joe to tell him I was interested.

Breda is my participant and she loves it as much as we do. I would advise others who may have the time to consider it. I'm now studying special needs in UCC and the importance of communication.

Social Farming has enriched me and I've gained a more positive outlook on life, there is so much sadness in the world but working with the participants is just so rewarding. Breda is so

happy here and she is part of our family. Breda makes homemade bread with me and when the weather is good she is out with me checking the sheep and calves and brushing out the sheds. Breda also loves dogs and growing flowers.

Her carer in St John of God tells me that the visit to our farm is the highlight of Breda's week. Her social skills have really come by meeting people and interacting on the farm.

It's very rural where we live and what better way to use time than by being involved with Social Farming. It has broadened my outlook on life and I would never have gained the understanding I have about people with special needs but for it. We're learning something new all the time from the experience.

Breda O'Sullivan,
Glencar, Killorglin

Farmers supporting their local communities



Irene Kavanagh Kerry Social Farming (third from left) with Ellen O'Donoghue, Mary and Christy McDonnell on their farm at Lisbon, Kells.

'Farmers don't know what they're missing...'

I WAS driving the bus for people with special needs for over ten years when the opportunity for social farming arose. I liked the idea and decided to investigate it further.

As a bus driver I was collecting Special Needs People from their homes and dropping them to Cuanmh House. By comparison to the special needs people spending their time in Cuanmh House, Social Farming was and is a great opportunity for them to get active in the fresh air and enjoy the country side. This was the beginning of my involvement in hosting Special Needs Participants on my farm.

One of the most important things that I have observed is the Participants are excited and looking forward to their days on the farm. As time goes by I can see how their skills improve

and they progress socially. I can assure you that fresh air has helped their sleeping patterns.

With Social Farming there is a great variety of experience for the participants, no two days are going to be the same as its heart-warming to see the smiles and happiness on their faces.

We equally get so much enjoyment and satisfaction seeing the progress of the participants. My advice to any farmer is you don't know what you are missing unless you try it. If it doesn't work out you have the option of changing your mind but once you give it a trial you'll find it is a very rewarding experience.

Christy & Mary McDonnell
Kells, Cahersiveen



- Our priority is to encourage social inclusion within the community for our members.
- We have over 200 members throughout the county.
- We provide a wide range of therapies and services including Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, therapeutic horse riding, zumba, drumming, swimming.
- We run a seasonal café in Deenagh Lodge, Killarney and the 321 Charity Shop in Tralee, providing training and work opportunities for our young adults.
- The branch gives opportunities for further education through a 2 year Work Skills Programme based in Tralee.
- All funds come from church gate collections, public donations and fundraising.
- We receive no government funding.

Down Syndrome Ireland Kerry Branch, Balloonagh Estate, Tralee

Co. Kerry, V92 VK79

Tel: 066 710 3804 • Tel: 087 0606135

Email: adminsecretary@downsyndromekerry.ie

www.downsyndromekerry.ie