



John Boyle, Chairman Ballintubber GOAL Walk committee pictured in Kenny's Lounge and Bar, Ballintubber, presenting a cheque for €43,806.89 to Ronan Scully, GOAL. The money was raised during the Christmas Ballintubber 10k GOAL Walk. Also pictured were Ballintubber GOAL Walk committee members and Cllr. Tony Ward, Mayor of Roscommon. Picture: Andrew Fox.

Ballintubber Walk raises over €43,000 for GOAL

The 13th Annual Ballintubber GOAL Walk organised by John Boyle and his committee took place in Ballintubber, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon on Sunday 24th January. The original St. Stephen's Day Walk had to be postponed due to treacherous road conditions. GOAL is delighted to say that a crowd of approximately 300 people took part in the event and raised over €43,000 to assist with GOAL's work for Haiti Earthquake survivors.

Speaking at the cheque handover, organiser John Boyle said: "I want to sincerely thank everyone involved, especially the organising committee who work so hard every year to make this a success. The Walk is a real community effort. This year we were honoured to have Mayor of Roscommon Tony Ward cut the tape to start the Walk along with Fr. Joe Poole of Ballintubber. On the day of the Walk a minute's silence was held for the late Fr. Oliver McDonagh, P.P. Ballintubber who died in January and for all parishioners who died in the past year.

"It is a huge credit to the participants of the Walk that they continue to show their support and dedication to those who most need our help. As the global financial crisis deepens it is undoubtedly those who are the weakest and most vulnerable in our world who

suffer the most," John said. "GOAL is committed to providing basic, life-saving services to the poorest of the poor and is currently operational in 11 countries in the developing world. We have managed to do this on exceptionally low administration costs over the past 33 in existence."

The Ballintubber GOAL Walk Committee would like to extend their special thanks to Benny O'Connell, of Benny's Deli, Castlerea, Michael Guthrie of Finola Foods, Castlerea, the Castlerea Brass & Reed Band, County Roscommon Civil Defence, an Garda Síochána, and the local media for their generous coverage and support. And of course all the people who participated and raised sponsorship, the sponsors, and the great army of voluntary helpers, all who contribute so much to the ongoing success of the event which has now raised over €367,000 for GOAL.

Anyone wishing to donate on a regular basis can sign up to a standing order by contacting the GOAL Galway office on 091 587901. If you would still like to contribute to the Ballintubber Walk you can do so by sending a cheque or postal order to GOAL West of Ireland, Office 12, Westside Resource Centre, Sean Mulvay Road, Galway or by credit card by calling 091 587901.



A collection was held at Roscara, Castlerea to assist GOAL's work for the survivors of the Haiti Earthquake. Left to right: Ernest Grennan, Pat O'Connor (Manager, Roscara, Castlerea) and Mary Reddy making the presentation to John Boyle (representing GOAL), Helen Waldron and John Kennedy.

Dog adoption drive

59 percent of dogs surrendered in Roscommon were put down, according to recent figures from Pedigree.

113 of the 192 dogs abandoned in Roscommon in 2008 were put down, with 55 more dogs being put down and 115 fewer dogs being rehomed than in 2007. However, ten fewer dogs were abandoned and 14 fewer dogs were put down in 2008, the year that The Pedigree Adoption Drive was launched. These re-

cent statistics released by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government show the positive effect the annual campaign is having on raising the awareness of dog abandonment in Ireland.

39 dogs are put to sleep each and every day in Ireland and although this number has decreased, since the launch of the Pedigree Adoption Drive in 2008, these figures have a long way to go. In the hope of continuing to save the lives of more dogs,



Pedigree is delighted to announce the launch of the 2010 Pedigree Adoption Drive, which will run from 1st April through to the end of June 2010.

In its third year, the

Pedigree Adoption Drive continues to raise awareness of animal welfare and encourage Irish dog lovers to adopt a dog from their local shelter or welfare organisation. In addition, for every pack of Pedigree dogfood bought, during the Pedigree Adoption Drive, a donation goes to help Irish dogs. The campaign aims to help raise much needed funds for rescue centres nationwide, Pedigree plan to match last year's achievements by donating €100,000 to Irish dog charities.

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