

# Advertiser charity fund to help impoverished Nepalese families and young women in Galway



Shauna Maher, *Galway Advertiser*, presents Brigid Donnelly, founder/director of Life Support Accommodation Service Galway, with the proceeds of the homeless youth appeal. Also pictured is Rosita Mahony of On Yer Bike Craughwell, which sponsored a pair of children's bicycles valued at €300. Photo: Mike Shaughnessy.

Donations to this year's *Galway Advertiser* charity fund will benefit a charity which works with underprivileged families in Nepal, and a centre which looks after young women experiencing a crisis pregnancy in Galway.

Life Supported Accommodation provides accommodation for young women experiencing a crisis pregnancy, as well as emotional support and practical assistance in accessing healthcare and social welfare services. Founded in 2003, the charity has helped more than 100 young women and provides safe, modern accommodation to women during pregnancy and their children's early years. Money from this year's *Advertiser* fundraising drive will go towards helping the charity to continue this good work. Craughwell based company On Yer Bike has also donated two children's bicycles, valued at €300, to the organisation.

Foundation Nepal, a

Galway-based charity, works with women and low-caste families in the remote and impoverished Humla region of northwestern Nepal. The organisation focuses on healthcare, education, food production, and business and finance projects in the area. Humla is a highly disadvantaged area perched high in the Himalayas. There are no roads in the region, the nearest hospital is a 15 day walk away, average yearly income is approximately €10 to €134, 65 per cent of children under five suffer from malnutrition, and in some communities only 70 per cent of children live to see their fifth birthday.

Formerly known as the Nepalese Children's Foundation, the charity is run on a voluntary basis by Nicky Deasy, former director of corporate finance with Ernst & Young. Ms Deasy employs a target-driven business approach to the charity's work with a focus on efficiency and return on

investment. The organisation provides healthcare and education support, as well as micro-finance and business projects which have benefited hundreds of families in the region.

Following recent Budget cutbacks the organisation is funded entirely by donations. For more information on Foundation Nepal visit [www.foundation-nepal.org](http://www.foundation-nepal.org)



Geraldine Smith, *Galway Advertiser*, presents Nicky Deasy of Foundation Nepal with the proceeds of the Third World Christmas appeal. Photo: Mike Shaughnessy.

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## Observatory open nights

BY MARY O'CONNOR

NUI Galway's Centre of Astronomy will continue its programme of open evenings at its Imbusch Astronomical

Observatory in 2010.

The observatory provides state-of-the-art facilities for NUI Galway's astrophysics students. An informative hour-long lecture will take place at 7pm on January 20 and

February 17, weather permitting. This will be followed by a hands-on viewing of the sky by night.

Numbers are limited to two per person and admission is by ticket only

allocated on a first come first served basis. Bookings are by email and those interested should send requests to [tara.shanahan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:tara.shanahan@nuigalway.ie)

A public lecture which will focus on applied physics will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday January 13 at the McMunn Theatre, Arts and Science Building, NUI Galway. Tickets are not limited for this free event.

The lecture, presented by Dr Mark Foley, lecturer with the NUI Galway School of Physics, will focus on medical and laser physics. This lecture will focus on cutting-edge clinical technology and also on the fundamental principles behind the technologies used to diagnose and treat cancer patients.

The second part of the lecture will be given by Dr Gerard O'Connor, also from the School of Physics, and will focus on laser physics. The lecture will introduce the concept of laser light, describe the applications of laser technology and look at the future of laser light.

More details of all the talks can be found at [www.astro.nuigalway.ie/ outreach.php](http://www.astro.nuigalway.ie/ outreach.php)

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