

ACIP's Support to Charities

For the last few years ACIP's charity of choice has been the Croix Rouge and a number of donations have been made as a result of the generous contributions made by members at social events. Such donations have been recorded in the Treasurer's Annual Reports.

The previous Committee decided in February 2017 to support all three local charities - choosing a different charity in each ACIP year. The charities in question - Secours Catholique, Restos du Coeur and the Croix Rouge - do similar work locally supporting those in need both financially and practically. The Committee named Secours Catholique as the charity for 2016-17 but no funds have in fact been raised by ACIP for this charity. Restos du Coeur is to be our charity for 2017-18.

Some members have recently raised concerns about ACIP's 'support' to charities – specifically Secours Catholique and its religious affiliation. This concern was discussed at the committee meeting on the 16th October. Please note that the minutes of this meeting are now on the website.

The new Committee would like to make clear to all members that:

- we will give further careful consideration to this matter. The issue of the religious and political affiliation of any charity will form part of this consideration. We will take a fresh look at how we nominate the charities ACIP may wish to support and draft a clear policy to put to members as soon as is practicable in the new year.
- donations to charities have never been given directly out of ACIP's own funds. Monies are raised at social events where members know the charity being supported and can exercise their individual choice as to whether or not to give. We propose to continue with this approach.
- at a non-ACIP event early this year, €40 was raised by those present specifically for Secours Catholique. These fund raisers (some of whom were ACIP members) asked ACIP to pass the donation on to the charity in question and we did so. This transfer is recorded in the Treasurer's report. No funds have subsequently been raised by ACIP for this nominated charity.
- the February 2017 minutes record that Restos du Coeur is to be our charity for 2017-18 and the Croix Rouge the year after.

We will be making a collection for Restos du Coeur at our social events leading up to Xmas and New Year.

Finally, we welcome any thoughts and suggestions you may have regarding ACIP's future support to charities. Please send them to Jenny West, ACIP Vice President at jennyjonesspirallearning@gmail.com

Thank you.

**ACIP Committee
November 2017**