

BÉBHINN MULLINS

CLONMANY COMMUNITY PANTRY, CLONMANY, DONEGAL

STAND



THE STORY

Meet Bébhinn, the manager of Clonmany Community Centre. Clonmany is a tiny town on the Inishowen peninsula but through Bébhinn's sense of purpose, innovation and ambition, its community centre is having an immense impact.

The idea for the Clonmany Food Pantry, a project which diverts food from landfill to feed bellies not bins, was conceived when Bébhinn was mortified to realise the crab she was eating was not from down the road in Inishowen but from Indonesia.

"That was my light-bulb moment. I knew I had to do something to make a change."

Bébhinn teamed up with Food Cloud, a redistribution social

enterprise, and the community pantry's walk-in container now stores donations which are perfectly edible but were heading for landfill due to faulty packaging or over-ordering.

The community can fill their bags with groceries and leave with a box of cereal under one arm and a bag of spuds under the other, all for 5 euro a pop. That money is then reinvested into the pantry.

The pantry has sparked a spin-off project at Galway University, where more than 70 students each day are given access to nutritious food. Bébhinn and the Clonmany team have since teamed up with the local housing dependency unit and the elderly house residence to create a community garden.

THE WHY

"The pantry is a successful project that can be replicated in towns all over Ireland to address the issue of food waste and make good food accessible to more people."

THE IMPACT

"The purpose of the pantry stretches beyond reducing and repurposing food waste. It has created an important space for the community to meet, share recipes, swap seeds, trade jams, and catch up."

THE CHALLENGE

"Be an ethical eater. Source locally when you can, or grow your own."

THE HOPE

"What gives me hope is listening to the impact this grassroots project has had on my community. Small projects like this have a big impact. It makes people question, think, and make changes that are sustainable for them and the planet."

THE RECOMMENDATION

DOCUMENTARY - *Kiss the Ground: How We Can Reverse Climate Change*.
DOCUMENTARY - *Every Heart Beats True: The Jim Stynes Story*.

To find out more visit:
clonmanycommunitycentre.ie
or follow the centre on
Instagram: @clonmanycentre

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If we all made small changes, we would have a seriously wonderful impact.

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