

PRESS RELEASE  
12th June 2005  
Immediate release.

**ORDER OF MALTA GRAND HOSPITALLER OPENS NEW CHALETS AND LAUNCHES  
“WOODS FOR THE FUTURE” IN CO FERMANAGH**

An all-island initiative to provide much needed respite for carers as well as promote the personal development of people with disabilities was launched at the Share Holiday Village in Lisnaskea in Co Fermanagh this weekend (Sunday, 12th June) by the Grand Hospitaller of the Order of Malta, Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager.

Baron von Boeselager officially opened two Order of Malta chalets at the Village. The Order of Malta chalet purchase is part of the Order's community services. The new facilities will allow the Order to develop a respite care facility as well as adventure weekends for people with disabilities. Each top-of-the range chalet accommodates a maximum of 12 people.

The Share Holiday Village itself is the largest activity centre in Ireland. It works for the inclusion of disabled and non-disabled people by providing opportunities for all to participate in a wide range of education, recreational outdoor pursuits and creative arts programmes.

Another initiative unveiled over the weekend was the “Woods for the Future” fundraising campaign organised by the Order of Malta and the Woodland Trust. Baron von Boeselager planted the first trees for the new Order of Malta grove at Lisnaskea. The “Woods for the Future” is not only a valuable fundraising initiative but is essential in restoring Ireland's woodland.

Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, whose responsibilities include the offices of Minister of Health and of Social Affairs, Minister for Humanitarian Action and Minister for International Co-operation, co-ordinates and supervises the initiatives of Grand Pories and National Associations worldwide such as the Order of Malta in Ireland.

He stated: “The community services offered by the Order of Malta are focused on supporting the most marginalised in society. It is about supporting their efforts to reach their full potential and enjoy life to the full. Our clients are often invisible in their communities. Their voices are not heard. Their needs are, all too often, not met. A true measure of the progress enjoyed by a country is how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. The Order is expanding the community services it offers in an effort to create a more equal and just society for all.”

Order of Malta operates and manages a range of charitable activities throughout Ireland. It runs Day Care Centres, Lunch and Supper Clubs for older people in Dublin and Galway; holidays for older people; organises pilgrimages to Lourdes, Knock and Croagh Patrick in Co Mayo and participates in the annual Order of Malta International Camp for Young Disabled.

In Drogheda, Order of Malta delivers a range of services for people with physical and intellectual disabilities, including rehabilitative and vocational training; daily activities; workplace learning and computer training. With lifelong learning at its core, the primary aim is to provide an holistic developmental environment for clients. The centre employs twenty-two staff and the service caters for over 75 clients daily.

The Order of Malta Ambulance Corps is Ireland's leading first aid, transport and community care charity. Through its 80 unit areas, it runs a fleet of 130 ambulances and provides a range of first aid, nursing, ambulance and emergency care services in over 130 communities in most of the principal cities and towns nationwide.

The Order of Malta in Ireland is part of an international organisation which was founded in the 11th century in Jerusalem and operates in over 115 countries worldwide.

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For more information,  
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#### **NOTE TO EDITOR**

“Woods for the Future”

Under the “Woods for the Future” campaign, people will be able to dedicate a tree while also helping the Order of Malta and the Woodland Trust. People can pay £15/€20 to dedicate a tree in the new Order of Malta wood at the Share Village in Lisnaskea and the funds generated will be used to support the activities of the Order and the Trust.

The tree dedication scheme is a unique opportunity to celebrate a special occasion such as a birth or an anniversary, support charitable work while also creating greener and healthier place for the future. In dedicating a tree, a person will receive a special Certificate of Tree Dedication and the Order of Malta will enter the person’s name in the Register of Donors for the wood.

Ireland is one of the least wooded regions in Europe. Northern Ireland has only 6% woodland cover and Ireland just 10%. Yet the European average is 46%