

Ethos

“There was nothing in our house”, he said, but work, work, work. “My father was a self-made man. He told me at 12 years of age: you have enough education: you are going working — and that was all the career guidance I got.”

“My grandfather were country and I spent all my summer holidays in the country, and them country houses that time had one cow, one calf. When the cow calved, you got milk from your neighbour. If your neighbour killed a pig, the pig was shared among the neighbours in the village. Everything was shared.”

When he started work for the Association for handicapped children his responsibilities were, he said, number one to the service user and number two to their parents and number three to the Association’s aims and aspirations.

When interviewed for the job, he was asked what qualifications he had. “Strictly speaking I had no qualification to do the job because I had no third level qualification. I have only a hit and miss second level education, I have no Inter Cert, Leaving Cert — nothing but a guardian angel was sitting on my shoulder at that interview and what I said at that interview which triggered something in their minds was that I had a father’s heart, and shades of a mother’s heart.”

Where did it all come from?

“It didn’t come from anywhere but it came from watching my own mother. A wise woman, a country woman, no education. Well bred. Great sense of values, So I couldn’t go too far wrong if I treated all the service users as my family.”