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90 Fundraisers to Abseil Down Ireland's Tallest Hotel

Limerick abseil set to raise over €25,000 for 12 charities

More than 90 thrill-seeking charity fundraisers will become the first members of the public to abseil down Ireland's tallest hotel on Saturday.

Some 92 people have signed up for the Age Action abseil from the roof of Limerick's iconic Clarion Hotel. Up to now only members of the fire service (training) and window cleaners have come down the outside of the 17-storey, 200 foot structure.

"It is shaping up to be a fantastic day for Limerick and we have received huge support from the abseil sponsor Bluebird Care and the local community," Age Action fundraiser Rhona O'Connor said. "But the big winner on the day will be charities – with abseilers using the challenge to raise more than €25,000 for Age Action and 11 other local and national charities."

Managing Director of Bluebird Care Ireland Brian MacGoey says, "in a show of support and in the spirit of this Guinness World Record attempt, we came on board as sponsors for this magnificent event. Our staff spend their days with elderly people who more often than not meet life head on.

"This abseil actually personifies the strength of character of a generation of people in this country who live life to the full. Despite our own greatest fears we are taking on the abseiling challenge and will really feel the fear and do it anyway," says Brian.

Among the other organisations due to benefit are Barretstown, Blue Box, Limerick, Cheverstown, the Diabetes Federation, the Irish Heart Foundation, the Special Olympics, 22q11, Mid West Spina Bifida, Spinal Injuries Ireland, St. Gabriel's School, Limerick and The Children's Ark (hospital ward) Limerick.

Age Action organised its first abseil last year when almost 50 people abseiled down the Irish Life offices in Dublin city centre. One of the oldest abseilers that day was pensioner Dave Henshaw (71), from Athy Co. Kildare. “I have had a stroke, two hip operations, a heart attack, a by-pass and I have got a tumour and I thought: ‘nothing can kill me if none of them have not killed me’” Dave said. “I really enjoyed the abseil and would advise anyone to do it.”

Age Action will accept abseilers on Saturday. To take part in this year’s abseil, participants must pay a €100 registration fee at the Clarion Hotel on the day and make a commitment to raise a minimum of €250 for charity. In return they will receive full training and equipment for the event. The abseiling will take place from 10am to 5pm.

Age Action urgently needs funds to enable it continue its work with older people. It currently provides computer training course, a home DIY and visitation service, an information service, life-long learning groups and research and advocacy service for older people. Last year the charity directly helped over 30,000 older people.