

# A Celebration of Cherish House

Reception and Exhibition  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

One Family was founded as Cherish in 1972. This year, our 45th anniversary, we will say farewell to our Headquarters, Cherish House. We will hold all of its memories and take them with us to our new HQ in Smithfield where we can support more families to have happier futures.

We celebrate Cherish House with an exhibition featuring photographs, documents, letters and other items from our archives.



We are delighted to welcome home our founding members, first staff, clients and our Presidents, Mary Robinson and Mary Henry.

This evening, we know there will be both tears and laughter. We know that memories will be shared and new ones created. And all the while, we will hold hope close as we continue to envisage and to build a brighter future for one-parent families in Ireland, as we have done since 1972.

Thank you for being part of our journey.  
Thank you for allowing Cherish/One Family to be part of yours.

Thank you to F.X. Buckley  
for supporting this event.

**F. X. BUCKLEY.**  
STEAKHOUSES & BARS

  
**onefamily**  
Founded as Cherish in 1972  
Celebrating 45 years in 2017



## Our History



In 1972, One Family began life as Cherish. In that year, Maura O’Dea Richards placed an ad in the *Irish Press* in the hope of reaching other women who were unmarried with children. A small group of brave, determined women soon banded together: Maura, Annette Hunter Evans, Colette O’Neill, Evelyn Forde, Margaret Murphy and Mary Kerrigan with the first staff members, Nuala Feric and Anna Lee. Colette suggested Cherish as a name for the group, taken from the 1916 Proclamation which declared that Ireland would ‘cherish all of the children of the nation equally’.

Unfortunately, in 1972, this was not the case. Single pregnant women were often thrown out of their homes, lost their jobs and were rejected by their communities. It was extremely difficult for them to keep and raise their children themselves. Cherish provided them with a voice and empowered women to help themselves and their families.

Mary Robinson, then a Senator, became our first President.

As an organisation, Cherish not only provided services to single parents and their children, but also campaigned for change. While many changes were brought about, two of the most significant were the introduction of the unmarried mother’s allowance and the abolition of the status of illegitimacy.

In 1990 Mary Robinson resigned as President of Cherish when she was elected President of Ireland, Ireland’s first female President.

Senator Mary Henry became our next President.

When developing our Strategic Plan for 2004–06, it became clear that society was changing and that one-parent families now existed in many forms in Ireland. In recognition of these changes, we extended our services to all members of all one-parent families and renamed ourselves One Family.

## Today

Cherish/One Family celebrates its 45th anniversary in 2017. We also say farewell to our Headquarters, Cherish House. We are sad to leave Cherish House but our clients must always come first. The families who access our services need a modern, fit for purpose, accessible building. We’ve worked hard to secure just such a building in Smithfield and will move in July. Cherish House became a place of hope and sanctuary, of bravery and determination, and we know that our new building in Smithfield will become the same.

In 2017, 45 years on, we remain dedicated to forging a more just society where all children are cherished equally.