



DR VINNIE WALL

MEDICINE, 2012. DELHI 2008

Meet Vinnie, a paediatric anaesthesiologist and cycling advocate from Dublin. He joined UCDVO in 2012, motivated by amazing stories from friends and past UCDVO volunteers.

"It was their enthusiasm that made me seek out the programme."

True to the programme's ethos, Vinnie found more than just a volunteering opportunity - he discovered a community.

"UCD is so big and in UCDVO there is such a sense of community - it's a very special thing to be part of."

He attributed this sense of unity to the late Fr Tony Coote, the programme's founder.

"Fr Tony Coote was the loveliest human I've ever met. His kindness and values live on through this programme."

Vinnie set off to India with a team of 27 volunteers whose mission was to build a school and teach English and Maths in Delhi. The memories from that summer still resonate.

"Not a day goes by when I don't think about the experiences we had out there."

His volunteering experience later inspired him to pursue a diploma in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Vinnie explained that while the overseas element of the programme was transformative, it was the work he did when he returned to Ireland that was most impactful.

"You just can't learn this stuff in a lecture hall."

His time away set the wheels in motion, motivating Vinnie to challenge the status quo and advocate for

cycling rights in Cork. He volunteered with the Irish Doctors of the Environment, leading the active transport working group to petition for safer cycle routes between the city's largest hospitals.

"Our purpose is to create a city that is resilient and orientated towards health. Not dependent on cars, but on mobility and independence."

Looking back on his UCDVO journey, Vinnie expressed gratitude for the positive impact the programme has had on his life.

"UCDVO was instrumental in shaping my perspective and it guided me in making choices that allow me to make a real difference."

Vinnie's story is a welcome reminder of the impact that individuals can make when they are supported by a community, united with a shared purpose and driven to effect positive change.

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UCDVO has given me a panoramic view of global issues and taught me how I can make choices that benefit the global collective.



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