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Attending the event were scholarship recipients: Roy Hartigan, Corbally; Sam Mullins, Janesboro; Aaron Griffin, Castletroy View and Killian Woods, Glenbrooke with Sue Ann McManus

WHEN the latest round of JP McManus scholarships was allocated to eight students from Sexton Street CBS at the Dunraven Arms Hotel in Adare last Friday 15 night, it brought the total amount awarded by the Limerick businessman and former pupil to almost €2.5million since the Sexton Street scholarship scheme was established in 1997.

To date, 137 students have received scholarships from the scheme, which costs around €185,000 a year and is in addition to the All-Ireland scholarship scheme which is also financed by the JP McManus Foundation.

97 of them have graduated with third level qualifications and this year's winners, presented with their scholarships by Sue Ann McManus, were Ross Conway, Bryan Collopy, Aaron Griffin,

Roy Hartigan, Sam Mullins, John O'Dea, Killian Woods and Alex Naughton.

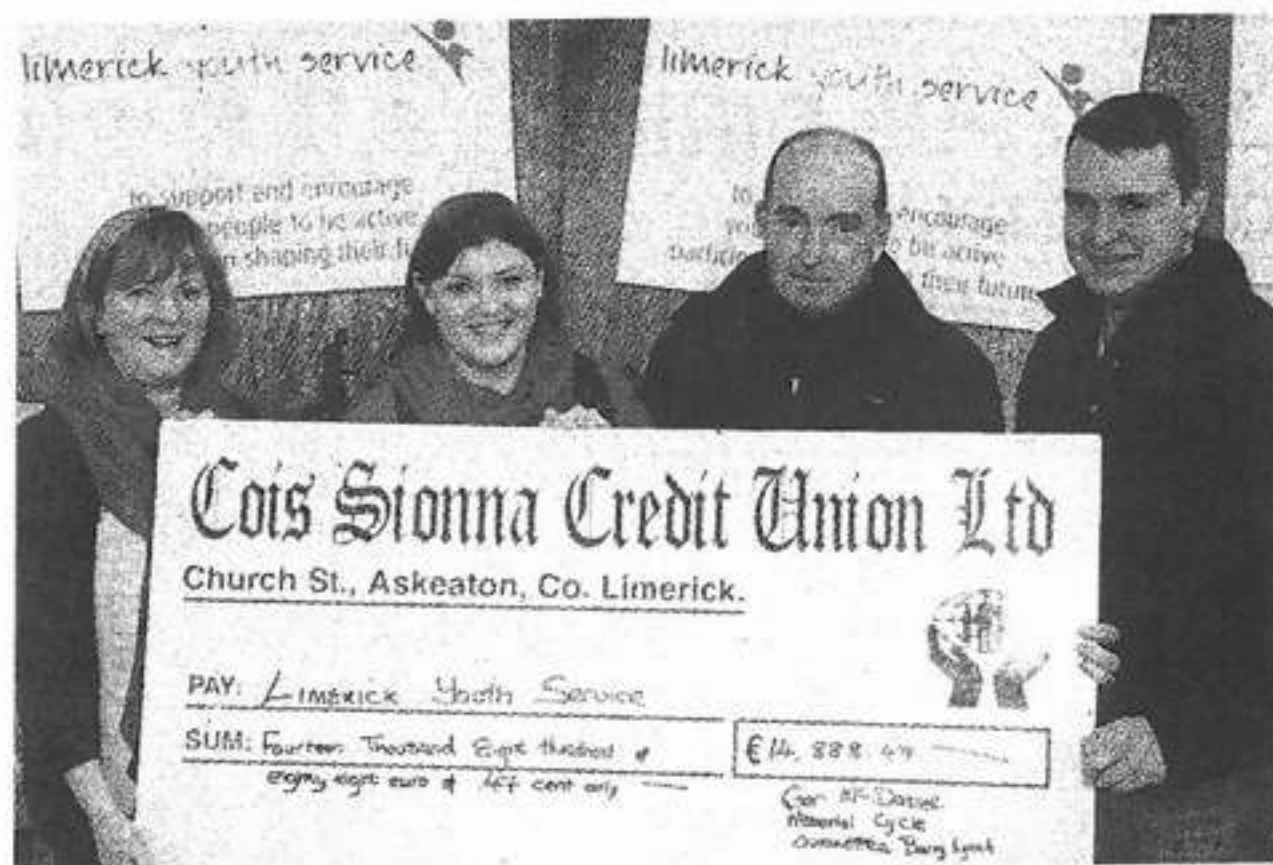
Commenting on the awards, JP McManus said it was wonderful to see yet another group of students working so incredibly hard to achieve such high standards in their education.

Sexton Street CBS principal Tom Prendergast said that the scholarships would allow the students concentrate on their studies without having to take part-time employment and would remove a lot of financial stress from their families.

Guest of honour at the ceremony was former student Sean Burke, who is recently appointed CEO of the Limerick and Clare Education Board, and other speakers included City Mayor Kathleen Leddin and County Council Cathaoirleach, John Sheahan.

YOUTH SERVICE

Ger's cycle scales new heights



Catherine Kelly, Limerick Youth Service; Siobhan Guinan, Kildimo and Limerick Youth Service, Barry Lynch, Kilcornan and JJ McDonnell, Kilcornan of the Cycle Committee

by Alan Jacques
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THE Ger McDonnell Memorial Cycle has this year raised €15,000 in funds for Limerick Youth Service.

The charity cycle, which has taken place for the past five years, is dedicated to the memory of Kilcornan native Ger McDonnell. Ger was the first Irishman to reach the summit of K2, the world's second highest peak. He lost his life along with ten other climbers following an avalanche on their descent in 2008.

Since its inception, the Ger McDonnell Memorial Cycle has helped raise much-needed funds and awareness for local charities. The late mountain climber's brother JJ, a member of the cycle committee, said Ger would be

"humbled" by the event.

"Ger died helping others and it's a fitting tribute that in his memory this cycle is helping others," said Mr McDonnell.

"With 140 cyclists this year's event exceeded all expectations. I am in awe of the massive support we received from Limerick Youth Service and the wider community," he added.

LYS has seen its funding cut by almost 25 per cent in recent times and the funds raised from the cycle will contribute to running much needed programmes for young people.

Accepting a cheque on behalf of Limerick Youth Service, director Catherine Kelly, thanked the committee for choosing their service and the many volunteers and cyclists who supported the event.

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