

Thieves stole ramp from disabled man

Liveline caller offers €800 to mother for replacement

By Leah McDonald

THE mother of an innocent victim of gun violence described her shock after thieves stole a wheelchair ramp she uses for her son from outside her home.

Postman Robert Delany was shot in the face in October 2008 as he looked out of an upstairs window at his home in Tallaght, south Dublin.

The shooting left the father of two, now 31, in a vegetative state and he requires full-time care.

Yesterday his devoted mother, Noleen, expressed her shock on RTE's Liveline after thieves took a removable wheelchair ramp from outside her home, which helps her to get Robert inside.

She told the programme: 'My son is in a nursing home and I take him home four days a week. And when I went to pick him up yesterday, when we got back to the house the wheelchair ramp was taken from the front of the house.'

'I take him from the nursing home to my home four days a week and I have a ramp, a removable ramp and it was ready for Robert to come back and when I got home the taximan said to me, "Where is your ramp?" Someone came along with a van and took the ramp and there is no funding for another ramp.'



Shot: Robert Delany and his partner Mags Purtill before the attack

Mrs Delany said the ramp was specially made for Robert and it cost €800 to be built.

She said she could not believe someone would come into her property and take a ramp, when they would have known how

important it is to the family. She said she had no idea who took it but it must have been someone with a van as the ramp is 6ft long and 3ft wide.

She added: 'It makes it impossible for me to have him home, now

I've no ramp. I'm just wondering if anyone knows of anyone trying to sell it, that they would get in touch me.' She said the attack on her son had left the family devastated.

After the show, Mrs Delany said she had contacted Liveline to ask if anyone had seen the ramp or if they knew anything about it to contact Tallaght Garda Station.

And she described the recent spate of robberies as highlighted on the show as 'awful'.

After hearing of her plight on the radio, a caller who had also been the recent victim of crime phoned up the show to say he would be glad to provide the funding for the family to get a new ramp. Dick Redmond is one of the owners of Super-

'Impossible to have him home now'

rior Racking Ltd, a company which sells racking and shelving and they were burgled only six weeks ago.

Mr Redmond told the show: 'My heart goes out to her, it's absolutely shocking, as you remember Joe only a couple of weeks ago we were the victims of a crime. Superior Racking, we would only be too glad to pay for a ramp. The people who did this, who took away that ramp, ought to be ashamed of themselves and we would love to help.'

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