



Overnight shanty town aims to raise poverty awareness

ALLISON BRAY

A TEAM of Irish volunteers from the Niall Mellon trust shocked residents of Manchester, England yesterday after they built a replica shanty town in the city overnight to highlight the urgent need for housing in South Africa.

Mancunians were stunned to

wake up to a string of shacks made of corrugated metal and other debris materials that had gone up overnight in some of the city's most salubrious neighbourhoods, including Piccadilly Gardens, Market Street, St Ann's Square, Exchange Square and Cathedral Street. The centrepiece of the project was a replica township

village in Albert Square outside Manchester City Hall that was officially opened by the city's mayor Alison Firth yesterday to show her support for the Irish charity's "Make Manchester Proud" campaign.

The shacks were built to resemble the conditions in which 4.3 million South Africans live without electricity, running

water or sanitation. The volunteers will stay in the shacks until they are taken down tonight.



Irish 'builders' at work in Albert Square, Manchester in a bid to attract more volunteers to the **Niall Mellon Township Trust**. NATHAN COX