



THE
IRELAND
FUNDS
AMERICA

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



—
Progress
Through
Philanthropy
—

Our **MISSION** is to harness the power of a global philanthropic network of friends of Ireland to promote and support **peace, culture, education** and **community development** across the island of Ireland and among Irish communities around the world.

Our **FOCUS** in 2020 was to respond to the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. We concentrated on the areas of:

- Access to Education
- Disability Support
- Mental Health
- Elderly Services
- Community Support
- Domestic & Child Abuse (Family Support)
- Food & Food Distribution

Letter from the Chairman and President & CEO of The Ireland Funds America

2020 was a year that required all of us to face challenges we never could have imagined. Yet we faced these challenges together. As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and adversely affected so many nonprofit organizations across Ireland, The Ireland Funds immediately responded with our COVID-19 Response Fund. We reached out to organizations across Ireland we knew were on the front lines and listened to their immediate needs. Almost overnight, organizations adapted and thanks in part to our quick response providing grants, ensured that their services could be delivered. Education went digital, food was safely delivered, and family supports continued uninterrupted. The resilience we saw in the projects we support was inspirational.

The sustained support of our donors was extraordinary and the mission we carry out to strengthen and support the island of Ireland has never wavered. The Ireland Funds community of donors was and is committed now, more than ever, to be here for the island of Ireland and the thousands of people that need our support.

You will see that commitment here in our 2020 Annual Report. The ways we are supporting education through The Ireland Funds No Mind Left Behind program and the great potential we are nurturing through The Ireland Funds George Moore Scholars program. The community development we are supporting through the 174 Trust in Northern Ireland and the mental health initiatives we are strengthening through MyMind. These are just some of the **612 grants** made to **208 projects** with the **\$14.3 million** we granted in 2020.

All of this is possible thanks to you, our donors, and your belief that we as a community can affect positive change in challenging times. We thank you for your investment in our work and in our mission.

KIND REGARDS,



Gene McQuade
Chairman,
The Ireland Funds America



Caitriona Fottrell
President & CEO,
The Ireland Funds

EXAMPLES OF IMPACT

2020

In 2020 our donors' support enabled The Ireland Funds America to make 612 grants totaling \$14.3 million which supported the work of 208 outstanding organizations.

THE IRELAND FUNDS COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND provided immediate support to 40 organizations on the frontlines of the crisis in Ireland. Seven priority areas were identified and addressed: Family Support, Community Support, Disability Support, Mental Health, Elderly Services, Access to Education, Food & Food Distribution. **Examples include:**



COPE GALWAY

served over **40,000** meals to older people in the community after the demand for its meals program increased by **300%**

JIGSAW

provided online mental health services to over **112,000** people since the pandemic began.



THE EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE

brought remote home visits and materials to over **1,000+** educationally disadvantaged children and their families.



FOODCLOUD

was able to continue delivery of food to **700** charity partners reaching **250,000** people in need.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

mobilized **100** volunteers to provide shopping, emotional support and phone monitoring for older people in need.



SAFE IRELAND

provided for the immediate needs of over **300** women and **600** children in domestic abuse crisis.



BARNARDOS

worked with over **2,700** families affected by domestic abuse, mental health challenges, addiction and homelessness.



ASIAM

reached over **2,000** members of the autism community online with services and support.



FIGHTING WORDS NORTHERN IRELAND

adapted the delivery of all its creative writing programs. Support helped over **1,000** young people write their stories through the quarantine.



MYMIND

had almost **2,000** clients relying on its mental health counseling services. Support improved and delivered online counseling at a time when face-to-face counseling could no longer be provided.



THRESHOLD SPECIALIST COVID-19 HOUSING SERVICE

was able to support **120** families to remain in their homes, no longer under threat of illegal eviction.



EXAMPLES OF IMPACT *Continued*

As the world faced the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, key services provided to Ireland's communities by nonprofits were never more vital. Yet organizations faced limited resources and collapsing fundraising streams as they strived to deliver. For some, the crisis challenged not only their reach but their very existence. The Ireland Funds came alongside organizations with aid for immediate and long-term needs delivering support for organizations such as:



Thank You

“

“We are incredibly grateful to The Ireland Funds for supporting our work during this particularly challenging time, helping us ensure that our frontline staff can provide essential assisted living services and outreach to people with physical disabilities. Thank you so much!”

— Irish Wheelchair Association



“

“THANK YOU to your Donors. The support helps ensure we can continue operating the food hub that’s currently helping in excess of 350 families every week as the crisis continues. Thanks to The Ireland Funds for helping us keep the doors open!”

— the 174 Trust



“

“Cancer won’t stop during the coronavirus pandemic and neither will we. Thanks to the support of The Ireland Funds we have made a difference for so many children and families battling cancer. With your continued support, we can be here for children and young people at a time when they need us more than ever.”

—Cancer Fund for Children



“

“When the pandemic entered our lives, The Ireland Funds was there for us – it listened to our worries and with its support and financial assistance we were able to address our immediate concerns.”

— Leitrim Calling



2020 FOCUS ON EDUCATION

The Ireland Funds invests in high-quality education by supporting programs that widen access. 2020 saw a significant investment in two programs administered by The Ireland Funds: No Mind Left Behind and the George Moore Scholars.

NO MIND LEFT BEHIND

No Mind Left Behind is an initiative designed to give young people an opportunity to complete third-level education by providing an annual scholarship to cover the costs of books, accommodation, and other key expenses.

FROM 2020 – 2021



139 STUDENTS

RECEIVED A NO
MIND LEFT BEHIND
SCHOLARSHIP



€553,000

AWARDED BY THE
NO MIND LEFT BEHIND
PROGRAM



STUDENTS ENROLLED
AT **23** THIRD-LEVEL
INSTITUTIONS ACROSS
IRELAND, NORTHERN
IRELAND AND THE UK



9 COUNTIES
ACROSS THE ISLAND
OF IRELAND WERE
REPRESENTED



51 NEW STUDENTS
COMMENCED THEIR
FIRST YEAR OF STUDY



88 CONTINUING
STUDENTS RETURNED
TO YEARS **2, 3** OR **4** OF
UNDERGRADUATE STUDY



58% OF STUDENTS
WERE FEMALE AND
42% WERE MALE



31 SCHOOLS
SELECTED TO
RECEIVE SUPPORT

The NMLB scholarship came as a blessing. This scholarship enabled me to pursue my aspirations of attending third level education in Dublin, in UCD. I will be the first from my family to ever go to university. Growing up, I have watched as my mum struggled to keep things afloat as a single parent, both emotionally and financially. This financial support came as a huge relief to my mum and I as it meant my first-choice college/course could finally become a reality." – A 2nd Year Student of BSc Science at University College Dublin

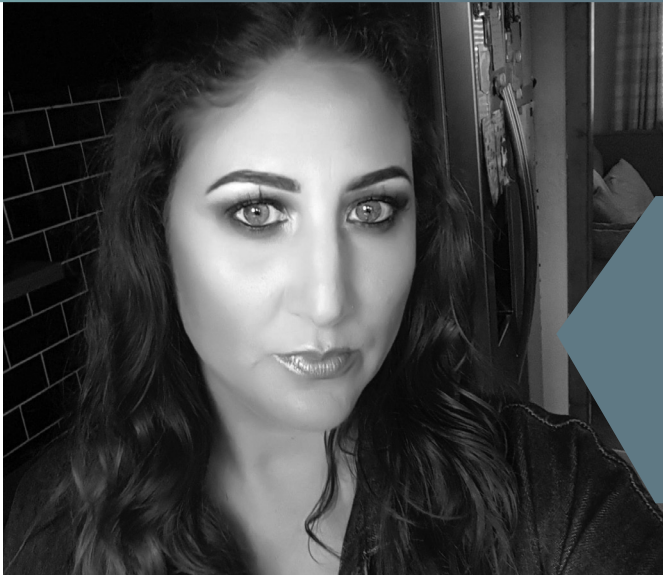
THE GEORGE MOORE SCHOLARS

In February 2020, The Ireland Funds launched the George Moore Scholars program, an ambitious all-Ireland scholarship program that offers extraordinary supports to academically talented students who wish to undertake a master's degree in the US, UK, or Canada to realize their full career potential. The high-value scholarships support the costs of pursuing postgraduate education abroad.

IN JUNE 2020, SIXTEEN GEORGE MOORE SCHOLARS WERE SELECTED AFTER A RIGOROUS APPLICATION PROCESS, WHICH INCLUDED ACADEMIC REVIEW AND INTERVIEWS.

"The George Moore Scholarship will allow me access to an educational opportunity like no other."

— Eric Reynolds, George Moore Scholar studying a Master's in Statistics and Data Science at Yale University



"I will be able to build on my knowledge of the Northern Ireland system by examining other education systems to learn best practice."

— Emma Shaw, George Moore Scholar studying a Master's in Educational Policy at University of Texas

"This Scholarship will allow me to continue my education at the University of Notre Dame, bringing me closer to my dream of becoming an entrepreneur. I hope to follow in George's footsteps, and use my (hopefully) future success as a means for good."

— Gabriel Ogundipe, George Moore Scholar studying a Master's in Engineering, Science, Technology and Entrepreneurship (ESTEEM) at the University of Notre Dame



2020

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019 IN US\$

	2020	2019
Revenue and Support		
Contributions	15,440,803	9,745,486
Fundraising Events, net *	3,950,468	7,440,446
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	1,416,877	1,220,081
Other	38,349	(50,825)
Total Revenues and Support from Operating Activities	20,846,497	18,355,188
Contributions of Art and Literary Collections	-	15,000
Changes in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions: Contributions & Net Assets Released	(1,366,877)	(951,331)
Investment Income	1,700,072	2,925,634
Total Revenues	21,179,692	20,344,491
Expenses		
Grant Awards	14,301,830	12,700,672
Other Program Services	1,443,589	1,922,745
Total Program	15,745,419	14,623,417
Management and General Administrative	1,616,704	2,223,137
Fundraising	1,531,039	1,792,361
Total Expenses	18,893,162	18,638,915
Change in Net Assets	2,286,530	1,705,576
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	16,999,410	15,293,834
Net Assets at End of Year**	19,285,940	16,999,410
% of Contributions Revenue from the largest single contribution received in each year	12%	6%
# of Organizations who received Grants from The Ireland Funds America in each year	208	275
Notes:		
* The impact of COVID 19 led to the cancellation of in person fundraising events in Q2-Q4, 2020		
** Endowment Balance at End of Year (included within Net Assets at End of Year)	14,879,004	13,083,981

Grant Thornton, LLP, performed the 2013–2020 audits for The American Ireland Fund.
To review our audited financial statements and IRS Forms 990, please visit irelandfunds.org

Your legacy



THE
IRELAND
FUNDS

THE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Make a Lasting Gift to Ireland

JOIN THE HERITAGE SOCIETY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR
LOVE OF IRELAND BENEFITS GENERATIONS TO COME.

The Ireland Funds America can help you identify the best options to fulfill your philanthropic vision. Bequests are the most popular and flexible planned gifts. **We invite you to learn more about how to create a lasting legacy for Ireland.** Your legacy will be treated with care.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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The Ireland Funds' mission is to harness the power of a global philanthropic network of friends of Ireland to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development across the island of Ireland and among Irish communities around the world.

In 1976, Dan Rooney, owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team and the former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, along with fellow Pittsburgh-based businessman Sir Anthony O'Reilly, created what was then The Ireland Fund. The Ireland Fund and the American Irish Foundation, founded by Irish President Eamonn De Valera and U.S. President John F. Kennedy, merged at a White House ceremony on St. Patrick's Day 1987, to form what is today, The Ireland Funds America.

Thank you

our team

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