

March 11, 2014
For Immediate Release
The American Ireland Fund
Washington DC

**An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny to Give Keynote Address as The American Ireland Fund Honors
Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
and UBS Americas CEO Robert McCann at National Gala in Washington DC**

The American Ireland Fund will host its *22nd Annual National Gala* on Thursday evening, March 13, 2014 in Washington, D.C. As the focal point of the evening, The American Ireland Fund will recognize **The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.**, for his distinguished public service as Vice President of the United States, with **The American Ireland Fund Peace Award**, a rarely-presented award whose past recipients include President Clinton.

“We are delighted to recognize the enormous contributions Vice President Biden has made to the welfare of Ireland,” said Kieran McLoughlin, President & CEO of The Worldwide Ireland Funds. “Vice President Biden has been committed to the cause of strong U.S.-Irish relations throughout his public service. As Senator, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and then as Vice President, Joe Biden has been an invaluable voice for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.”

The American Ireland Fund will also recognize **Robert J. McCann**, Chief Executive Officer of **UBS Group Americas**, with **The American Ireland Fund International Business Leadership Award** for his role as an exemplary business leader and philanthropist.

“Bob McCann has had a great impact on communities throughout Ireland as a philanthropist and in his professional life by making investments there,” said Kieran McLoughlin. “He has a focus on reconciliation in Northern Ireland and has been very generous to the Integrated Schools movement in particular.”

“I am honored to receive this award in recognition of my and UBS’s commitment to serving our communities,” said McCann. “There is no more important service I can think of than to contribute meaningfully to the development of the communities in which we live and work – and I am proud to know that these contributions have made a lasting impact.”

The Gala will feature a keynote address by **An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D., John Fitzpatrick, Chairman of The American Ireland Fund**, will join Gala Chairs, Irish and Irish American leaders, leaders in business, the media and the arts at the event celebrating Irish culture and heritage and generating funds for The Worldwide Ireland Funds’ *Promising Ireland* Campaign which has assisted over 650 Irish charities to-date.

WHAT: The American Ireland Fund 22nd National Gala
WHO: Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D.
Rt. Hon. Peter Robinson MLA, Honorary Chair
Mr. Martin McGuinness, MP MLA, Honorary Chair
Cong. Peter King and Cong Richard Neal, Honorary Congressional Chairs
WHEN: Thursday, March 13, 2014 - 6:30PM Reception - 7:30PM Dinner
WHERE: The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

For More Information Contact:

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About The American Ireland Fund

The American Ireland Fund is part of The Worldwide Ireland Funds, a philanthropic network across 12 countries that has raised over \$450 million for worthy causes in Ireland and Irish causes around the world. It is the largest network of friends of Ireland dedicated to supporting programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture,

education and community development. Founded in 1976, The Worldwide Ireland Funds have benefited over 3,000 organizations. Funds raised are contributed by private philanthropists and organizations.

In response to the severe downturn in the Irish economy, The Worldwide Ireland Funds launched the Promising Ireland Campaign in 2009 to raise \$100 million for charities experiencing an increased demand for their services at a time of a major reduction in resources. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of donors, the initial goal has been exceeded and the target has been doubled to now raise \$200 million. As a result, one third of the Funds' total earnings since foundation have been raised during the five years of the Campaign. Over 650 outstanding projects and organizations have received support from the Promising Ireland Campaign.

The American Ireland Fund holds a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator in recognition of efficiency, sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

www.theirelandfunds.org