

**For Immediate Release – March 15, 2015**

**The American Ireland Fund**

**Washington DC**

**The American Ireland Fund to Honor U.S. Chamber of Commerce President & CEO  
Thomas J. Donohue, Senator Richard Durbin, & Congressman Tom Rooney  
at National Gala in Washington D.C.**

The American Ireland Fund will host its *23rd Annual National Gala* on Monday evening, March 16, 2015 at The National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. As the focal point of the evening, The American Ireland Fund will recognize **Thomas J. Donohue**, President & Chief Executive Officer of **The United States Chamber of Commerce**, with **The American Ireland Fund Humanitarian and Leadership Award**. This award is for Mr. Donohue's dedication to addressing the community's challenges such as disease, poverty, joblessness and a responsibility to veterans returning from service abroad.

The American Ireland Fund will also recognize **Senator Richard Durbin & Congressman Thomas J. Rooney** with **The American Ireland Fund Leadership Award** for their service and continued interest and support for Ireland, North and South.

The Gala will feature a keynote address by **An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D., Prime Minister of Ireland**. **John Fitzpatrick, Chairman of The American Ireland Fund** and **Kieran McLoughlin, President & CEO of The Worldwide Ireland Funds**, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> National Gala  
**WHO:** An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D., Honorary Patron  
Rt. Hon. Peter Robinson MLA, First Minister of Northern Ireland, Honorary Chair  
Mr. Martin McGuinness, MP MLA, deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, Honorary Chair  
H.E. Anne Anderson, Irish Ambassador to the United States, Honorary Chair  
H.E. Kevin O'Malley, U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, Honorary Chair  
H.E. Sir Peter Westmacott, British Ambassador to the United States, Honorary Chair  
Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Patrick Toomey, Cong. Peter King, Cong. Richard Neal, Honorary Congressional Chairs  
Kieran McLoughlin, President & CEO, The Worldwide Ireland Funds  
John Fitzpatrick, Chairman, The American Ireland Fund

**WHEN:** Monday, March 16, 2015 - 6:30PM Reception - 7:30PM Dinner

**WHERE:** The National Building Museum  
440 G Street NW Washington, D.C. 20001

**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 \$480 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.