

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

**The Worldwide Ireland Funds to honour United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.**

**Lifetime Achievement Award to be made in Belfast on December 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Worldwide Ireland Funds will present a Lifetime Achievement Award to The United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Belfast on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Clinton is attending the OSCE Conference in Dublin on December 6<sup>th</sup>. She will travel the next day to Belfast where the Funds will host a luncheon in her honour. The event will take place in Belfast's iconic Titanic Signature Building. This year, this award winning facility marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction in its native city of the world's most famous ship.

Several hundred guests will attend the event including First Minister Peter Robinson, deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness and former Special Economic Envoy for Northern Ireland, Declan Kelly, who was appointed by Mrs. Clinton.

Commenting Kieran McLoughlin, President and CEO of The Worldwide Ireland Funds said, "It is a high honour for us to recognise Secretary of State Clinton on perhaps her last visit to the island of Ireland in her current role. She has shown unstinting commitment to Northern Ireland as First Lady, Senator and now as Secretary of State. As well as representing her personal commitment to completing the Peace Process, her visit is a signal of ongoing American commitment to the same goal."

Ends.

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**About The Worldwide Ireland Funds:**

The Worldwide Ireland Funds is an international philanthropic network operating in 12 countries that have raised over \$430 million for worthy causes in Ireland, North and South, and around the world. The mission of The Worldwide Ireland Funds is to be the largest network of friends of Ireland, North and South, dedicated to supporting programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland. Founded in 1976, the Ireland Funds have assisted over 1,200 organizations.

In response to the severe economic downturn, The Worldwide Ireland Funds launched the *Promising Ireland* Campaign in 2009 to raise funds over a five-year period to support charities that are experiencing an increased demand for their services at a time of a major reduction in resources. The initial campaign goal of raising \$100 million was revised to \$140 million when the initial goal was exceeded 19 months before the campaign's end. The campaign's title, "Promising Ireland", reflects the Funds' pledge to these groups as well as their belief in Ireland's future. Over 350 outstanding projects and organizations have received support from the *Promising Ireland* Campaign.