

# The Ireland Funds at Forty



Celebrating four decades of philanthropy for Ireland



THE IRELAND FUNDS



Co-founders of The Ireland Funds, Dan Rooney and Tony O'Reilly

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CELEBRATING FOUR DECADES OF PHILANTHROPY FOR IRELAND

1976–2016



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**Ambassador Dan Rooney** • Chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Founder and National Board Member of The American Ireland Fund and former United States Ambassador to Ireland.

# Peace first and always

Looking back 40 years, this was an idea whose time had come; we had great purpose, primarily to help Ireland.



**Above: Dan Rooney, Tony O'Reilly and George Taber, director of Pittsburgh's Mellon Foundation**

Our first efforts were for peace, but soon found that those who loved Ireland were willing to make contributions to worthy charities. However, The Ireland Funds had to overcome the stigma of money for guns.

Tony O'Reilly and I discussed the direction to take. He kept us on the right path. At first, many people thought we were just another group trying to get guns to fight the peace effort; but we carried on and the idea for peace came to the fore. We were for peace and we were going to stay with it. It worked. We felt we could accomplish our mission.


In addition to Tony and I, there were many who gave their all, with financial contributions, willingness to participate, and efforts to take it to a new level. Loretta Brennan Glucksman was a gem, always there to help and encouraging us to reach new heights.

I thank God for the involvement of so many. We can now go forward and take on new challenges.









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new challenges.’*

**AMBASSADOR DAN ROONEY**

**Chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Founder and National Board Member of  
The American Ireland Fund and former United States Ambassador to Ireland.**