

For the love of Bantry

THE MARY DALY FUND

CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

OF IMPACT FOR WEST CORK

**1971 BROUGHT THE DALY FAMILY FROM MASSACHUSETTS
TO THE SMALL TOWN OF BANTRY IN WEST CORK.** CHARLES

“CHUCK” DALY, HIS WIFE MARY AND THEIR SONS DOUGLAS AND MICHAEL ESTABLISHED A HOME
IN BANTRY WHERE THEY FULLY EMBRACED COMMUNITY LIFE AND OVER THE YEARS, CONNECTED
DEEPLY WITH THE PEOPLE OF THIS COASTAL AREA.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVED GRANTS FROM THE MARY DALY FUND INCLUDE:

Atlantic Challenge Ireland
Ballylickey Tourist & Development Association
Bantry Agricultural Show Society Ltd
Bantry Athletic Club
Bantry Bay Sailing Club
Bantry Care for the Aged Association Ltd.
Bantry Development and Tourist Association
Bantry Group Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann
Bantry Historical and Archaeological Society
Bantry Hospice Project
Bantry Inshore Search & Rescue Association Ltd
Bantry Integrated Development Group
Bantry Irish Red Cross Society
Bantry Juvenile Basketball Club
Bantry Mussel Fair
Bantry Rowing Club
Bantry Task Force Ltd
Bantry Town Clock
Cappabue National School
Captain Francis O'Neill Memorial Company Ltd
Carriganass Castle Ltd
Chief O'Neill Festival
Co-Action West Cork
Cork ARC Cancer Support House
Derrycreha National School
Gaelscoil Bheanntraí
Kealkill National School
Kealkill Youth Theatre
Mealagh Valley Resource Community Development Association
Muintir Bhaire Community Council Ltd
Munster Rugby Club
Pencil Short Story Competition
St. Column's Youth Drama Group
The One Fund
Ulster University Foundation
West Cork Music Ltd
West Cork Music Schools Project
West Cork Rural Transport
West Cork Women Against Violence Project

Mary died in 1987. After attending her funeral, Taoiseach Garret FitzGerald wrote in the Irish Times:

"Mary Daly cared passionately for people... she found violence intolerable...all the more so because for her the real Ireland was epitomized by the warmth and decency of the people of Bantry with whom she had come to know and love so well."

Chuck Daly, a close friend of Sir Anthony O'Reilly and Dan Rooney, the Co-Founders of The Ireland Funds, was a member of the original Ireland Fund Board and served for almost four decades. He currently is a Life Trustee. Chuck, Mary's family and friends established the Mary Daly Fund in her honor. Chuck brought Bantry community leaders Sean O'Luasa, Jack Matson, Matt Kingston and Deirdre Kingston on board as principal advisors to this donor advised fund. With life-long roots in West Cork they were able to seek, shape and propose the grants and impact of the Mary Daly Fund for 30 years, serving as the "guiding lights" as Chuck best described their role. With a particular eye out for small grant opportunities, they enabled the Daly family, working with The Ireland Funds, to assist community development, cultural, sport and educational programs that today are still strengthening the West Cork area.

THE FIRST GRANT – FUTURE FORESTS

"The first grant the Mary Daly Fund gave went to Mike Collard who, in a very rural area, had recently set up a small roadside nursery with the dream of making widely-available an extensive range of trees and shrubs for shelter, timber and beauty," says Chuck. "In 2017, while I was in Bantry for the weekly fair, there was a young woman selling a wonderful array of plants beside a van labelled Future Forests. After buying a couple of plants from her, I identified myself. 'Wait!' she said, 'I remember you! I have a picture of the two of us.' She reached into the van and pulled out a copy of an old photo showing a little girl handing me a piece of ancient bog oak in the moment after Mike and her mother had received that very first grant.

Today, thanks to Maria and her husband, Future Forests has become an international enterprise housed in a substantial hand-hewn building containing a gift shop, offices and a facility shipping plants and crafts all throughout Ireland and beyond."

In late 2017, Chuck, observing that he and other key donors were, as he puts it, "more than a bit long in the tooth," announced that after 30 years and hundreds of small grants, many now self-sustaining, the Mary Daly Fund would conclude with three gifts of particular significance to his family, one of \$5,000 to ARC Cancer Support and a second grant of \$5,000 to Bantry Hospice. Both organizations had helped Chuck honor Mary's wish that she would spend her final days in her Irish home overlooking Bantry Bay.

THE FINAL GRANT — WEST CORK WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE

The final grant, for \$100,000, was given to West Cork Women Against Violence. It was the largest grant ever made from the Mary Daly Fund. The grant went to address the cause nearest to Mary's heart. It will assist hundreds of endangered women and children. "The Mary Daly grant gives us the opportunity to introduce new services and extend existing ones," says Kathleen Harnedy, Chairperson of West Cork Women Against Violence. "It will allow us to focus on the future and our vision of a safe place for women and children in West Cork fleeing domestic violence."

THE POWER OF SMALL GRANTS TO BANTRY AND BEYOND

At the concluding press event that announced the final grants, Chuck reflected on the partnership with The Ireland Funds. "Small grants not only encourage a broad range of persons to feel a part of the philanthropic process but in cases like Future Forests have helped them grow large enough to attract major donors and clients."

1988

The First Grant: Future Forests

This 1988 photo shows Chuck and the Collard family just after they received the first grant ever made by the Mary Daly Fund. To mark the occasion, Maria is shown handing Chuck an ancient piece of bog oak which today rests in his Irish home.



2017

The Final Grant: West Cork Women Against Violence



"THE DALY FAMILY WILL ALWAYS HAVE VERY GOOD FRIENDS AROUND THE PLACE. I THINK THE COMMUNITY OF BANTRY OWES A LOT OF THANKS TO THE DALY FAMILY BECAUSE OVER 30 YEARS THEY'VE SIMPLY DONE TREMENDOUS THINGS."

— Sean O'Luasa, Trustee of the Mary Daly Fund

L-R: Michael Daly (son of Mary Daly); Kathleen Harnedy, Chairperson of West Cork Women Against Violence; Sean O'Luasa, Mary Daly Fund Trustee; Charles "Chuck" Daly, Chairperson of The Mary Daly Fund; Marie Mulholland, Coordinator of West Cork Women Against Violence.

Photo: Brian Moore