



THE  
IRELAND  
FUNDS  
AMERICA

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

—  
Progress  
Through  
Philanthropy  
—

# 2017



**In 1976, Dan Rooney, owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team and the former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, along with fellow Pittsburgh-based businessman Sir Anthony O'Reilly, created what was then The Ireland Fund. The Ireland Fund and the American Irish Foundation, founded by Irish President Eamonn De Valera and U.S. President John F. Kennedy, merged at a White House ceremony on St. Patrick's Day 1987, to form what is today, The Ireland Funds America.**

**The Ireland Funds is a global philanthropic network** established in 1976 to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland, and Irish-related causes around the world. With chapters in 12 countries, The Ireland Funds has raised over \$600 million for deserving causes in Ireland and beyond, benefiting more than over 3200 different organizations.



# 2017

was a very good year for The Ireland Funds. Without accounting for earnings from our international chapters, The Ireland Funds America generated revenues that exceeded \$35 million. This was made possible, as always, by the profound generosity of our donors.

Our donors enabled remarkable things for Irish nonprofits in 2017. The revenue generated not only allowed us to fund 352 projects across the island of Ireland and around the globe, but in particular enabled five Flagship Grants: significant investments that build capacity, core funding and sustainability for outstanding established projects. Thanks to our events and unrestricted income generated, The Irish Film Institute, Irish Men's Sheds Association, Integrated Education Fund, Speedpak and Blossom each received two-year investments that are helping to scale their impact and increase their reach. We're pleased to show you some of those accomplishments and milestones in the pages that follow.

Our event roster was strong with close to 150 events and an increasingly active Young Leaders program. Through those events we were able to introduce our work to new friends as well as deepen our relationships with existing friends and donors. People are at the heart of The Ireland Funds and our events continue to serve as a key opportunity to gather and reinforce our love and care for the island of Ireland.

There are so many stories of how The Ireland Funds is changing lives and improving the day-to-day lives of people across the island of Ireland and around the globe. On page 4 we share some of that testimony from organizations ranging from The Native Woodland Trust which is preserving Ireland's natural environment, to the Children's Medical Research Foundation which is saving children's lives. One privilege as an organization is that we get to address such diverse needs and make a difference for thousands of people. This is the core mission of our organization: to harness the power of a global philanthropic network of friends of Ireland to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development across the island of Ireland and among Irish communities around the world. It is only through your philanthropy that we succeed and we are immensely grateful.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR MISSION AND FOR CHOOSING TO EXPRESS YOUR LOVE OF ALL THAT IS IRELAND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IRELAND FUNDS AMERICA.**

*—John Fitzpatrick, Chairman of The Ireland Funds America*

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE IRELAND FUNDS AMERICA



# PROGRESS THROUGH PHILANTHROPY



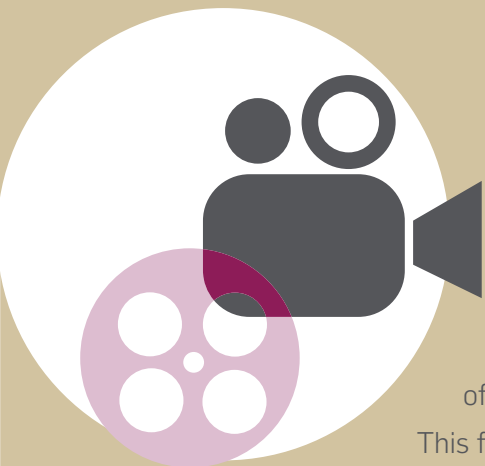
## ACROSS IRELAND AND AROUND THE WORLD, THE IRELAND FUNDS IS:

- Creating jobs
- Promoting Irish art & culture
- Promoting dialogue across communities in Northern Ireland
- Advancing social entrepreneurship
- Strengthening transparency & accountability in the non profit sector
- Providing inner city after-school programs
- Bringing meals to thousands of people on society's margins
- Providing access to education
- Helping the homeless
- Ensuring the next generation is a music generation
- Providing guide dogs for those with disabilities
- Protecting the environment



## The Ireland Funds Impact: 798 grants were made in 2017.

The impact of our donors' philanthropy and investment was felt across 352 projects such as:



Support for **The Irish Film Institute** processed and digitized **1000+ HOURS** of culturally significant film. This film is being made globally accessible on the IFI Player.



Support for **Integrated Education** in Northern Ireland advanced the integration of **4** more schools. Support also enabled **40** additional registrations on the Integrate My School Platform, initiating the transformation conversation across schools in Northern Ireland.



Funding for **Irish Wheelchair Association** established sports clubs for children with disabilities and brought activity opportunities to **120+** new participants.



Support for the **Irish Men's Sheds Association** has enabled the training of **25** Shed Support Volunteers to support the **440+** Sheds and **10,000** members throughout the Island of Ireland.

# Thank You

## Integrated Education in Northern Ireland

**"THE IRELAND FUNDS HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS SUPPORTER OF INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR OVER 35 YEARS.** It was there to help when the very first integrated school, Lagan College, opened in 1981. Its support has been unstinting to the present day."



## Co-operation Ireland

"Co-operation Ireland is committed to peace-building on the island of Ireland and we will continue to deliver innovative programs which challenge people's thinking and attitudes. **SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM THE IRELAND FUNDS HIGHLIGHTS WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED** with funding that allows for more creativity and input from the people the programs aim to help."



## Children's Medical Research Foundation

**"THE IRELAND FUNDS HAS STAYED WITH US AND ALLOWED US TO CONNECT WITH THE BROADER NETWORK** so we can sustain and grow. They have an immediate and passionate connection to what we are representing here which is improving the lives of sick children and their families in Ireland."



## PeacePlayers Northern Ireland

"We are recognized as being a key component to making Northern Ireland a better place. The grant makes such a difference for us. PeacePlayers is a great program but **NONE OF THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE IRELAND FUNDS.**"



## Native Woodland Trust

**"OUR SUPPORTERS LIKE THE IRELAND FUNDS, ARE PRESERVING PIECES OF IRELAND.** Protection means that it will no longer be subject to destructive practices. There is so little left that to be able to say, 'I saved that for perpetuity' means it is a gift for generations to come."



## ALONE

"I think sometimes people can think donating money or supporting a cause doesn't actually make a difference. I think the important thing to take away is that it does. It changes lives. The Ireland Funds' support demonstrates that people care. **IT'S REAL MONEY, GOING TO REAL SERVICES, FOR REAL PEOPLE.**"

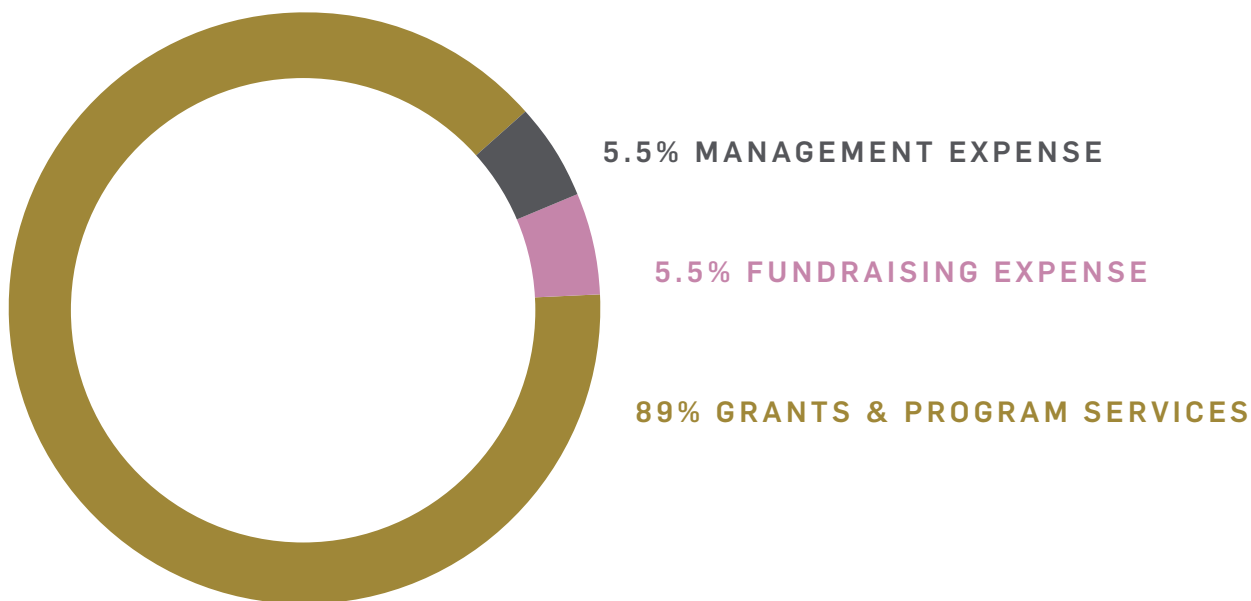


## IN 2017, THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WERE AMONG THOSE ASSISTED BY THE IRELAND FUNDS AMERICA.

174 Trust	COPE Galway	Irish Film Institute	The Pushkin Trust
Abbey School	Cork ARC Cancer Support House	Irish Georgian Society—Dublin	The Queen's University of
The Abbey Theatre	Cork Counselling Services	Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind	Belfast Foundation
Ablevision Ireland	Corrymeela Community	Irish Hospice Foundation	Rebel Wheelers
ACET (AIDS Care Education & Training) Ireland	Crosscare	Irish International Immigrant Center	Rights Watch UK
Age Concern Network	Cuan Mhuire	Irish Martial Arts Academy	Rowing Ireland
Aisling Irish Community Center	CyberSafeIreland	Irish Men's Sheds Association	Royal Irish Academy of Music
Aisling Return to Ireland Project	Cystic Fibrosis Ireland	Irish Repertory Theatre	Rural Area Partnership in Derry
Alcohol Forum	Daisyhouse	Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	SAFE Ireland
ALONE	Dance Theatre of Ireland	Irish Wheelchair Association	The Salvation Army Ireland
Alzheimer Society of Ireland	DCU Educational Trust	iScoil	Science Gallery
American Irish Historical Society	DePaul Ireland	Iveagh Trust	Scoil Chríost Rí
An Taisce	DIT Foundation	Jewish Home of Ireland	Self Help Africa
Angel Eyes NI	Dogs for the Disabled	John F. Kennedy Library Foundation	Sensational Kids
The Ark	Dogs Trust	Kerry Hospice Foundation	Sharing Point
Arthritis Ireland	Donegal Clinical Academy Trust	Lauragh Community Council	ShoutOut
Ashoka	Donegal Family Resource Centre	Leitrim Calling	The Soar Foundation
AsIAm	Down Right Brilliant	Lime Tree Theatre	Social Entrepreneurs Ireland
Baboró International Arts Festival for Children	Down Syndrome Ireland	Limerick Institute of Technology	Social Innovation Fund Ireland
Backstage Theatre	Druid Theatre Company	The Little Museum of Dublin	Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Bantry Development and Tourist Association	Dublin Jewish Board of Guardians	Longford Women's Link	Solace House
Bantry Hospice Project	Dublin Simon Community	Lyric Theatre	Solas Project
Bantry Rowing Club	Dublin/Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team	Mae Murray Foundation	Special Olympics Ireland
Barnardos	Dunbrody Famine Ship	Making Connections	Specialisterne Ireland
Barretstown	Elemental Festival Team	Marie Curie - Belfast	Speedpak Limited
Baseball Ireland	Emerald Isle Immigration Center of New York	Marie Keating Foundation	Spinal Injuries Ireland
BeLonG To	Enactus Ireland	Mark Pollock Trust	Spraoi agus Spórt Family Centre
Belvedere College S.J.	Express YOUR Gender	Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation	St. Brigid's Church Belfast
Belvedere Youth Club	The Festival of Curiosity	McAuley Place	St. Jarlath's Court Residents' Association
Benefacts	Fighting Words	Meningitis Research Foundation	St. Malachy's College
Blackrock Castle Observatory	Flax Trust	Merchants Quay Ireland	St. Mary's Youth & Community Centre
Blackrock College	Focus Ireland	Midlands Science	St. Patrick Visitor Centre
Blossom Ireland	FoodCloud	Milford Care Centre	St. Patrick's Cathedral—Dublin
The Blue Box CLC	Foxford Community Garden	Mobility Mojo	St. Ultan's Childcare project
British-Irish Association	Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC)	Move4Parkinson's Foundation	Suas Educational Development
Cahoots NI	Friends of the Cancer Centre	Moy Hill Community Farm	SWAN Youth service
Camara Ireland	Friends of the Derry Walls	MS Ireland	Together-Razem Centre
Cancer Support Sanctuary LARCC	Front Line	Na Piobairí Uilleann	Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Care After Prison	Gaelic Players Association	Narrative 4 Ireland	Trinity Foundation
Carrickfergus YMCA	Galway Community Circus	Nasc	UCC Cork Cancer Research Center
ChangeX	Galway Rape Crisis Centre	National College of Ireland— Early Learning Initiative	UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business
Charities Institute Ireland	Galway University Foundation	National Gallery of Ireland	Ulster University Foundation
Chester Beatty Library	The Gate Theatre	National Library of Ireland	The Undergraduate Awards
Children, Adults, Parents and Autism	Glenstal Abbey	National Women's Council of Ireland	University College Dublin Foundation
Children's Law Centre	Gonzaga College S.J.	Native Woodland Trust	University of Limerick Foundation
Children's Medical Research Foundation	Good Shepherd Cork	New York Irish Center	Vineyard Compassion
ChildVision	Greater Dublin Independent Living	Newpin NI	Washington-Ireland Programme
Cill Rialaig Project	Ground Zero 360	North Offaly Community Development	Waterford Healing Arts Trust
Cinemagic	Haven	North West Clare Family Resource Centre	West Cork Music
Clara Family and Community Resource Centre	Hawk's Well Theatre	Northern Ireland Hospice	West Cork Rural Transport
Clonard Monastery	Helium Arts	Not So Different	West Cork Women Against Violence Project
Cloughjordan Circus Club	Holywell Trust	NUI Maynooth	Wexford Festival Opera
Community Action Network	The Hunt Museum	NYU Glucksman Ireland House	Wicklow Hospice Foundation
Community Centre for Music and the Arts	The Icon Walk	O'Hanlon Park Boxing Club	Wicklow Travellers Group
Concern Worldwide	Institute of Technology Tralee	Origin Theatre Company	Women For Election
Connemara Therapeutic Riding	Integrated Education Fund	Our Lady's Hospice	Women in Business NI
Conradh na Gaeilge	Ireland US Council Foundation	Peter McVerry Trust	Women on Air
Co-operation Ireland	Irish American Heritage Center	Philanthropy Ireland	Yeats Society Sligo
	Irish American Writers & Artists	Pieta House	Youth Initiatives
	Irish Arts Center		Youth Work Ireland—Tipperary
	Irish Chamber Orchestra		
	Irish Film Festival		

# Financials

The Ireland Funds America is committed to supporting projects across the island of Ireland that promote education, cultural and community development and peace and reconciliation. Through the generosity of donors linked to Ireland by interest, ancestry and compassion, The Ireland Funds America provides ongoing support to organizations whose initiatives directly serve the people of the island of Ireland. **Thanks to the generosity of our donors, The Ireland Funds America awarded more than \$29 million in grants and program services to 352 worthy projects in 2017 across the island of Ireland and Irish communities worldwide.**





**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

	2017	2016
REVENUES, SUPPORT, OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$38,336,118	\$25,363,968
Contributions	\$24,707,610	\$9,936,185
Fundraising events	\$11,262,165	\$11,473,383
Less: fundraising event expenses	\$(4,118,326)	\$(3,700,710)
Fundraising events, net of direct costs	\$7,143,839	\$7,772,673
Other income	\$75,096	\$119,515
Net Unrestricted Revenues & Support	\$31,926,545	\$17,828,373
Investment Income and Foreign Exchange	\$1,762,482	\$354,494
Other Contributions		
Contributions of art and literary collections	\$16,800	\$48,250
Changes in Temporary Restricted Net Assets-Contributions	\$511,965	\$1,047,103
Changes in Permanently Restricted Net Assets-Endowment Contributions	—	\$2,385,038
Total Other Contributions	\$2,291,247	\$3,834,885
Net Revenues, Support, Other Contributions	\$34,217,792	\$21,663,258
GRANTS AND PROGRAM SERVICES		
Grant awards	\$27,232,325	\$13,403,283
Other program services	\$2,244,586	\$2,356,535
Total Grants and Program Services	\$29,476,911	\$15,759,818
SUPPORTING SERVICES		
General Administration	\$1,789,120	\$1,749,065
Fundraising	\$1,739,405	\$1,647,697
Total Supporting Services	\$3,528,525	\$3,396,762

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

AS OF DECEMBER 31

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
ASSETS					
Cash and Investments	\$11,135,811	\$14,186,728	\$14,897,992	\$17,022,964	\$22,546,267
Receivables	834,542	830,607	813,679	3,071,706	1,291,473
Works of art and literature on public display	292,666	241,691	344,916	219,491	236,291
Other assets	809,572	954,709	901,828	1,038,123	902,296
Total Assets	\$13,072,591	\$16,213,735	\$16,958,415	\$21,352,284	\$24,976,327
LIABILITIES					
Grants and accounts payable	\$2,232,457	\$3,596,011	\$5,177,262	\$6,866,435	\$9,332,817
Accrued liabilities	210,550	123,749	115,304	184,752	217,516
Deferred revenue	72,455	278,526	60,800	189,370	101,910
Total Liabilities	\$2,515,462	\$3,998,286	\$5,353,366	\$7,240,557	\$9,652,243
Total Net Assets	\$10,557,129	\$12,215,449	\$11,605,049	\$14,111,727	\$15,324,084
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$13,072,591	\$16,213,735	\$16,958,415	\$21,352,284	\$24,976,327

Grant Thornton, LLP,  
performed the 2013  
— 2017 audits for  
The American Ire-  
land Fund. To review  
our audited financial  
statements and IRS  
Forms 990, please visit  
[www.irelandfunds.org](http://www.irelandfunds.org)

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# Thank You

"The American Ireland Fund is a further exemplar of those values of openness, generosity and hospitality. You are recognized as one of the most dynamic and successful diaspora and philanthropic organizations in the world. We are proud of the work you do and thank you for doing it. It is making a real difference to the lives of people on the ground, many of whom are still feeling the effects of the financial crisis which afflicted us in recent years. I want you to know that your work is deeply appreciated at home in Ireland. "

— *PRESIDENT OF IRELAND, MICHAEL D. HIGGINS*

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THE IRELAND FUNDS

The Ireland Funds' mission is to harness the power of a global philanthropic network of friends of Ireland to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development across the island of Ireland and among Irish communities around the world.

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Progress  
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Philanthropy  
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[www.irelandfunds.org](http://www.irelandfunds.org)