

**WELCOME**

# Gene McQuade

The New Chairman *of*  
The Ireland Funds  
America



On January 1, 2020, Eugene "Gene" McQuade succeeded John Fitzpatrick as Chairman of The Ireland Funds America. Gene has been involved with The Ireland Funds America for over two decades as a Donor, a Board Director, and a member of the Board's Audit and Long-Range Planning Committees.



January 2020, The leadership of The Ireland Funds America meets with the President of Ireland.  
L-R: David Cronin, President & CEO; Shaun Kelly, Vice Chairman; President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins;  
Gene McQuade, Chairman



Gene comes to the position with wide-ranging business experience and perspective. Currently Chairman of XL Group PLC, he formerly occupied the positions of President of Bank of America Corp. President & Chief Operating Officer of FleetBoston Financial Corp. and Vice Chairman & President-US Banking Unit at Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (both are subsidiaries of Bank of America Corp.), President & Chief Operating Officer for Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. He serves on numerous non-profit boards including the Boys and Girls Club of America and Catholic Charities of New York.

“I am delighted to be appointed Chairman of The Ireland Funds America,” says Gene.

“We are immensely grateful to John Fitzpatrick for the leadership he has provided since 2014 and for the growth that has happened under his role as Chairman. This is an amazing organization which makes a profound impact on the lives of people across the island of Ireland. Whether it be through creating jobs or providing access to education, The Ireland Funds America is strengthening the Irish not-for-profit sector. As a donor and

a longtime member of the board, I am excited to be taking the baton from John and working with the board, staff and fellow-donors to do great things for communities across the island of Ireland.”

Gene also expressed excitement at the blend of new and seasoned staff on The Ireland Funds’ team. “I’m seeing some bold and bright ideas which I know are going to invigorate the organization. Yet I also love that we still have an established and dedicated staff who have decades of experience and insights into how to serve Ireland.”

As donors, Gene and his wife Peggy have attended many of the annual June Conferences held by The Ireland Funds. It is there they have had a chance to visit numerous projects the organization supports.

“The most worthwhile and moving part of the conference is to see how our money is being invested. We realize the impacts that we’re making by seeing people who are the beneficiaries of these contributions,” says Gene. “seeing the people who run these organizations tell us about the difference that we’re making in people’s lives, that for me is a gamechanger. It really gives you an energy to say, ‘now I realize why I’m involved here.’”

# Shaun Kelly

The New Vice Chairman of The Ireland Funds America

In addition to Gene McQuade's appointment, The Ireland Funds America has also appointed Shaun Kelly as Vice-Chairman. Shaun is the recently-retired COO of KPMG International and has served on the Board of The Ireland Funds America on the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Audit Committee and the Grants Committee.

A native of Northern Ireland, Shaun has been involved with The Ireland Funds for over a decade. "I'm delighted to now serve as Vice-Chair of The Ireland Funds America. Working with my colleagues on the Board has given me a much deeper understanding and appreciation of the great work of the organization. Spending time with projects throughout the island of Ireland over the years has reinforced the importance of the impact of The Ireland Funds. We are looking forward to working as a team to build on the legacy and to continue this great work in the years ahead."

