



THE IRELAND FUNDS

FALL / WINTER 2020

Connect

PROGRESS THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

COMMITMENT AND CARE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Proud to partner with **The Ireland Funds**
in support of **The Integrated Education Fund** and
**Cranmore Integrated Primary
and Nursery School.**

Kevin Curley

*Board Director,
The Ireland Funds America*



**Cranmore Integrated Primary
and Nursery School**
Belfast, Northern Ireland



45

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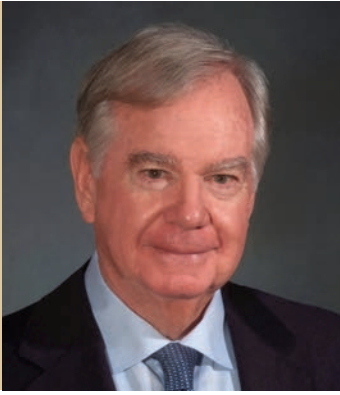
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*Read Connect Magazine online and
see expanded coverage of all events
at irelandfunds.org*





Connect



Dear Friends, Welcome to the latest edition of *Connect* magazine. The opening letter to you in our last issue began with “This year is off to an exciting start.” How little we knew then what 2020 was about to bring.

The year has required all of us to face challenges we never could have imagined. Yet we are facing these challenges together. The Ireland Funds immediately responded to the pandemic with our COVID-19 Response Fund. We reached out to organizations across Ireland we knew were on the front lines and listened to their immediate needs. We saw how nimble so many were in reacting to the crisis. Almost overnight, organizations adapted and ensured that their services could be delivered. Education went digital, food was safely delivered, and family supports continued uninterrupted. We hope you’ll take a moment to turn to page 10 and see what your generosity has done and continues to do for so many.

The resilience we’ve seen in the projects we support has been inspirational to our own operations as well. Our staff around the world quickly shifted to working safely from their homes without missing a beat. Some of our events such as the Global Leadership Series and The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition moved to a digital format. Other events were held but went remote like our Global 5K and yes, some events had to be cancelled or postponed. But what we are grateful to hear from you is that *it is the mission that matters*. We deeply miss being able to gather, to share the camaraderie of filling a ballroom or networking together under The Ireland Funds’ banner. But the mission we carry out to strengthen and support the island of Ireland has never wavered. The Ireland Funds community of donors is committed now, more than ever, to be here for the island of Ireland and the thousands of people that need our support.

We are grateful to Kevin Curley (CEO, Curley Financial Group and National Board Director of The Ireland Funds America), for his sponsorship of this edition of *Connect* Magazine. We hope that as you read this issue, you are proud of what is being accomplished through your philanthropy with The Ireland Funds. You will read some of these stories in this issue of *Connect*: children and their families who don’t have to face cancer alone thanks to our Flagship Award to Cancer Fund for Children, elderly members of the community who are no longer isolated because of our investment in Leitrim Calling, the great potential we are nurturing through The George Moore Scholars program.

All of this is possible thanks to you, our donors, and your belief that we as a community can affect positive change in challenging times. We thank you for your investment in our work and in our mission. Together we are doing great things.

Kind regards,

Gene McQuade
Chairman,
The Ireland Funds America

Caitriona Fottrell
President & CEO,
The Ireland Funds

Connect

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 3,200 different organizations.

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*For copies of The Ireland Funds America's
audited accounts,
go to irelandfunds.org*

*We welcome your comments about The Ireland
Funds and Connect magazine. Please send all
correspondence to the Editor.*

irelandfunds.org

Progress
Through
Philanthropy



ON THE COVER

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Ireland Funds continued its **mission 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.

We thank our donors and friends around the world for their continued commitment to our work at this challenging time. *photo: Aengus McMahon*



THE IRELAND FUNDS

thank you

—
Progress
Through
Philanthropy
—



THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS HAS CHANGED THOUSANDS OF LIVES ACROSS THE ISLAND OF IRELAND AND AROUND THE WORLD.

The Ireland Funds has never wavered in its commitment and core mission: to deliver private philanthropic support to worthy causes that promote peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development. On behalf of the organizations doing extraordinary work, we thank you.

“

“We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in The Ireland Funds both in Ireland and around the world who have supported us enormously on our journey from the kitchen table to one where we are planning to give every young person with intellectual disability a chance to live a life like any other.” — AUVEEN BELL, FOUNDER OF BLOSSOM IRELAND



BLOSSOM IRELAND



THE ABBEY THEATRE

“The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition taught us how to validate an idea and how to make sure we were building what customers wanted. We pivoted mid-way through the six-week program due to our customer discovery findings and Safecility is what emerged. We wouldn't be here without the Business Plan Competition.” — SAFECILITY, A FINALIST IN THE IRELAND FUNDS BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

“

“Support from The Ireland Funds has played an enormous role in setting Sensational Kids up as a national organization that can meet the needs of children with additional needs from all over Ireland. With continued support from the Flagship Award, we are now on course to exceed our targets and change the lives of over 28,500 children...” — KAREN LEIGH, FOUNDER OF SENSATIONAL KIDS

Below is a selection of the outstanding organizations your generosity has assisted. The Ireland Funds is proud to support these organizations through our Small Grants Round, the larger-scale investment of our Flagship Awards, and with Donor-Advised Grants that fulfill our donors' extraordinary philanthropic vision.

174 Trust	Belvedere College S.J.	Community Action Network	Equine Enrichment CIC	Irish Georgian Society
Abbey School	Belvedere Youth Club	Community Centre for Music	The Festival of Curiosity	Irish Heritage Trust
Ablevision Ireland	Benefacts	and the Arts	Fighting Words	Irish International Immigrant Center
The Abbey Theatre	Birdhill N.S.	Conradh na Gaeilge	Fighting Words Northern Ireland	Irish Men's Sheds Association
ACET (AIDS Care Education & Training) Ireland	Blackrock Castle Observatory	Conary Community	First Fortnight	Irish Repertory Theatre
Adare Recreation & Community Complex	Blackrock College	First Responders	Flax Trust	Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Age Action Ireland	Blossom Ireland	Co-operation Ireland	Focus Family Resource Centre	Irish Traveller Movement
Age Concern Causeway	Brain Injury Matters NI	Concern Worldwide	Focus Ireland	Irish Wheelchair Association
Age Concern Network	British-Irish Association	COPE Galway	FoodCloud	iScoil
Aisling Irish Community Center	Burrenbeo Trust	Cork ARC Cancer Support House	Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC)	IT Sligo
Aisling Return to Ireland Project	Business to Arts	Cork Counselling Services	Front Line	Iveagh Trust
Alcohol Forum	Butler Gallery	Cork Penny Dinners	Fund it (Business to Arts)	Jack and Jill Children's Foundation
Alliance Française Dublin	Cabragh Wetlands	Corrymeela Community	Future Voices Ireland	Jigsaw
ALONE	Development Trust	Crosscare	Gaelic Players Association	Kanturk Community Hospital
Alzheimer Society of Ireland	Camara Ireland	Cuan Mhuire	Gaelscoil na gCeithre Máistrí	Kerry GAA Centre of Excellence
Amal Women's Association	Camcor Community & Recreation Centre	Cuan Modh Day Centre	Galway Autism Partnership	Kerry Writers' Museum
American Irish Historical Society	Camp Camilla	CURE	Galway GAA	Killaloe Community Development Co.
An Taisce	Cancer Fund for Children	CyberSafeIreland	GIY - Grow It Yourself	Kinship Care Northern Ireland
Anam Cara	Cancer Support Sanctuary LARCC	Cystic Fibrosis Ireland	Glenstal Abbey	Laois Sports Partnership CLG
Angel Eyes NI	Cappagh Hospital Trust	Daisyhouse	The Global Undergraduate Awards	L'Arche Belfast
ARC Healthy Living Centre	Care After Prison	Dance Theatre of Ireland	Gonzaga College S.J.	LauraLynn Ireland's Children's Hospice
Archbishop Marsh's Library	Carmichael Centre	Darndale Belcamp Village Centre	Good Shepherd Cork	Learning Hub Limerick
Ardoyne Holycross Boxing Club	Castlerea Community Arts Group	Depaul Ireland	Grace Park Educate Together N.S.	Leitrim Calling
AREMOJA Women's Group Sligo	Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York	Dogs for the Disabled	Graffiti Theatre Company	Letterkenny Institute of Technology
The Ark	The Cavan Centre	Dogs Trust	Grow in Ireland	Limerick Autism Group
Arthritis Ireland	ChangeX	Dolmen Clubhouse CLG	HADD-ADHD Ireland	Limerick Institute of Technology
AslAm	Charities Institute Ireland	Down Syndrome Centre	Helium Arts	Little Castle Playgroup
Athlone Institute of Technology	Chernobyl Children's Project	Down Syndrome Cork	Holywell Trust	The Little Museum of Dublin
Athlone Sub Aqua Club	Children in Crossfire	Down Syndrome Ireland	Hope 4 Life NI	Longford GAA
Atlantic Challenge Ireland	Children, Adults, Parents and Autism (CAPAA)	Druid Theatre Company	The Hunt Museum	Longford Women's Link
Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland	Children's Grief Centre	Dublin City University	Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland	Lyric Theatre
Avoca Community First Responders	Children's Law Centre	Dublin Institute of Technology	The Icon Walk	Mae Murray Foundation
Baboró International Arts Festival for Children	Children's Medical Research Foundation	Dublin International Piano Competition	Imaginosity, Dublin Children's Museum	Making Connections
Backstage Theatre	ChildVision	Dublin Jewish Board of Guardians	In Your Space NI	Marie Curie - Belfast
Ballymun Adult Read & Write Scheme	Cinemagic	Dublin Simon Community	Inner City Enterprise	Marino Institute of Education
Banbridge Amateur Boxing Club	Citizens of Senior Years (COSY) Club	Dublin Talmud Torah	Institute of Technology Tralee	Mark Pollock Trust
Bantry Development and Tourist Association	Clare GAA	Dublin/Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team	Integrated Education Fund	The Mater Foundation
Barnardos	Clonard Monastery	Eastern Harps GAA Club	Ireland's Great Hunger Museum	Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation
Barretstown	Cloughjordan Circus Club	Educate Together	Irish Arts Center	McAuley Place
Bedford Row Family Project	Cnoc na Gaoithe	Emerald Isle Immigration Center of New York	Irish Chamber Orchestra	Meath GAA
Behind the Stable Door	Coláiste Chú Chulainn	Empowering People In Care (EPIC)	Irish Children's Museum	Meath Springboard Family Support Services
BeLonG To	Common Ground N.I. C.I.C.	Enable Ireland	Irish Cultural Centre	Meningitis Research Foundation
		Enactus Ireland	Irish Culture Bay Area	
		Enniscorthy Rugby Club	Irish Deaf Society	
			Irish Film Institute	

Mental Health Reform	Newpin NI	Ramelton Town Hall	Solas Project	Tyrone GAA
Merchants Quay Ireland	Newry City AFC Special	Development Co.	Special Olympics Ireland	UCC Cork Cancer
Mercy Law Resource Centre	Olympic Club	Rapid Prompting Method	Specialisterne Ireland	Research Centre
Midlands Science	The Next Step	Rebel Wheelers	The Spectrum Centre Trust	UCD Michael Smurfit School
Migraine Association of Ireland	No Mind Left Behind	ReCreate	Speedpak Group	of Business
Milford Care Centre	North Offaly Community	RESPECT	Spinal Injuries Ireland	Ulster University
Miltown Malbay	Development	Rights Watch UK	Sport Against Racism Ireland	University College Cork
Development Company	North West Clare Family	The Rory McDonagh Trust	Spraoi agus Spórt Family Centre	University College Dublin
MountEagles Community	Resource Centre	Rosemont Secondary	St. Bernadette's Boxing Club	University of Limerick
Association	Northend United Youth FC	School for Girls	St. Camillus Bethany Bereavement	Via Wings
MS Ireland	Not So Different	Rough Magic Theatre Company	Support Group	Walkinstown Greenhills
The MS Society of Ireland -	NUI Galway	Rowing Ireland	St. James's Hospital Foundation	Resource Centre
South East Region	NUI Maynooth	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	St. Jarlath's Diocesan Trust	Waterford Institute of Technology
Music Generation	NYU Glucksman Ireland House	Royal Irish Academy of Music	St. Munchin's College	Waterside Women's Centre
Mustard Seed Ireland	O'Hanlon Park Boxing Club	SAFE Ireland	St. Patrick Visitor Centre	West Belfast Partnership
MyMind	Origin Theatre Company	Science Gallery	St. Patrick's Cathedral - Dublin	West Clare Family
Na Piobairí Uilleann	Ossory Youth	Scoil Chríost Rí	Strokestown GAA	Resource Centre
Narrative 4 Ireland	Our Lady's Boys Youth Club	Sensational Kids	Suas Educational Development	West Cork Music
Nasc	Our Lady's Hospice	Shalom Centre for Conflict	Suttonians RFC	West Cork Women Against
National College of Ireland -	Our Steps Foundation	Reconciliation	Tallaght University	Violence Project
Early Learning Initiative	PeacePlayers International	Shannon Paddlers Club	Hospital Foundation	Wexford GAA
National Gallery of Ireland	Peter McVerry Trust	ShoutOut	Teesside University	Wicklow Hospice Foundation
National Library of Ireland	Philanthropy Ireland	Siel Bleu Ireland	Temple Street Foundation	Wicklow Travellers Group
The National Trust	Pieta House	Smock Alley Theatre	Thoor Ballylee Development	Women for Election
National Women's	The Playhouse	The Soar Foundation	Transition Town Kinsale	Women in Business NI
Council of Ireland	Poetry Ireland	Social Entrepreneurs Ireland	and Plastic Free Kinsale	WOMEN'STEC
Native Woodland Trust	Purple House Cancer Support	Social Innovation Fund Ireland	Trinity Centre for People	Yeats Society Sligo
New York Irish Center	The Pushkin Trust	Society of Saint Vincent de Paul	with Intellectual Disabilities	Youth Initiatives
	Queen's University of Belfast	Solace House	Trinity College Dublin	Youth Work Ireland - Tipperary



MAKE
A GIFT:

**Your gift will help The Ireland Funds to identify and support
even more outstanding organizations.**



COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

AS THE WORLD FACES THE UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE IRELAND FUNDS HAS COME ALONGSIDE THE ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT WITH AID FOR IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM NEEDS.

The COVID-19 pandemic is proving devastating to nonprofit organizations across the island of Ireland. The key services they provide to Ireland's communities have never been more vital. Yet organizations are facing limited resources and collapsing fundraising streams as they strive to deliver. For some, this crisis is challenging not only their reach, but their very existence.

“We are very grateful to The Ireland Funds for helping us support those in our community that need assistance, especially during COVID-19.” — *COPE Galway*

“We are incredibly grateful to The Ireland Funds for supporting our work during this particularly challenging time, helping us ensure that our frontline staff can provide essential assisted living services and outreach to people with physical disabilities. Thank you so much!”— *Irish Wheelchair Association*

The Ireland Funds COVID-19 Response Fund has identified the following priority areas:



Food & Food Distribution



Disability Support



Domestic & Child Abuse
(Family Support)



Elderly Services



Access to Education



Mental Health



Community Support

Examples of Impact:



174 Trust

174 Trust in Belfast has pivoted its cross-community services and is now serving as a food-hub to the local neighborhood. Support is now ensuring that 174 Trust can safely deliver meals each week to hundreds of vulnerable people in the community.



Alone

ALONE coordinates the care and support of all older people in Ireland. The Ireland Funds COVID-19 Response Fund is helping meet the cost of training and vetting volunteers to ensure that the 1,100 daily calls to its hotline can be answered and older people in need can be helped.



AsIAM

2000+ people have remotely accessed AsIAM programs since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Support is ensuring that it can continue to innovate to effectively support members of the autism community



Barnardos

Barnardos is currently working with over 1,500 families affected by domestic abuse, mental health challenges, addiction and homelessness. Support is delivering crisis services, safety planning for those faced with domestic abuse, food parcels, diapers and other essential items.



Cope Galway

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, COPE Galway has seen the demand for its meals program increase by 300%. Support is providing thousands of meals to older people in the community and much-needed services to those affected by homelessness and domestic abuse.



Depaul

Depaul cares for Ireland's homeless population many of whom are at high risk for COVID-19. Support from The Ireland Funds COVID-19 Response Fund is helping provide hundreds of beds each night that safely adhere to social distancing. Support is also providing medical equipment to care for this vulnerable community.



Early Learning Initiative (ELI)

Support for Early Learning Initiative (ELI) of the National College of Ireland is providing remote home visits, activity packs and materials to 1,000+ educationally disadvantaged children and their families to create a positive home learning environment during the COVID-19 crisis.



Fighting Words Northern Ireland

Closure of schools in Northern Ireland has forced Fighting Words Northern Ireland to adapt the delivery of all its creative writing programs. Support is providing for staff members who are directly helping over 1,000 young people make sense of their experiences of this quarantine through the most compelling and human act of writing stories.



FoodCloud

Food distribution is facing unprecedented challenges. Support for FoodCloud is helping continue delivery of food to 700+ charity partners across Ireland reaching 250,000 people in need.



Good Shepherd Cork

Good Shepherd Cork provides emergency shelter and services to families in crisis. Support is helping up to 100 families with safe accommodation, tablets for homeless children to access education, and other emergency supplies.



Irish Men's Sheds Association

Irish Men's Sheds Association provides critical social and supportive environments. All 450 sheds have now closed following the Government's instructions. Support is ensuring that the program will exist once the pandemic is over and social isolation will not once again become the norm for many users.



Irish Wheelchair Association

Irish Wheelchair Association serves over 4,000 people a week. Essential services of food shopping, filling of prescriptions and vital daily care are still being provided. Support is purchasing Personal Protective Equipment to ensure that frontline staff and medically vulnerable users are protected while still receiving vital care.





JIGSAW
Young people's
health in mind

Jigsaw

COVID-19 has exacerbated the long-existing youth mental health crisis in Ireland. Support is enabling Jigsaw to meet the rising costs of their digital resources which ensure that any young person, parent or teacher in Ireland can turn to Jigsaw as a resource. To date over 112,000 people have used their online services since the grant was made.



Learning Hub Limerick

Support from The Ireland Funds COVID-19 Response Fund is helping Learning Hub Limerick pivot to deliver its educational and mentorship programs in a secure, child-friendly and safe online environment. Hundreds of families, many deeply disadvantaged, are benefitting.



Making Connections

Support for Making Connections is helping ensure that those most at risk/living alone are supported during the COVID-19 crisis. It has mobilized 100 volunteers to provide shopping, offer emotional support and monitor phone lines for older people in need. Nutritious, hot meals are provided 6x a week for older people and those with underlying health conditions.



MyMind

MyMind has almost 2,000 clients who rely on its mental health counseling services. Support is improving and delivering over 9,000 online counseling sessions at a time when face-to-face counseling can no longer be provided. It is anticipated that these improvements will be of great benefit even after the pandemic is over.



SAFE Ireland

Support for SAFE Ireland is providing for the immediate needs of over 300 women and 600 children experiencing domestic violence including food, basic supplies, and accommodation to keep women and children safe in the face of the COVID-19 crisis.



Tech2Students

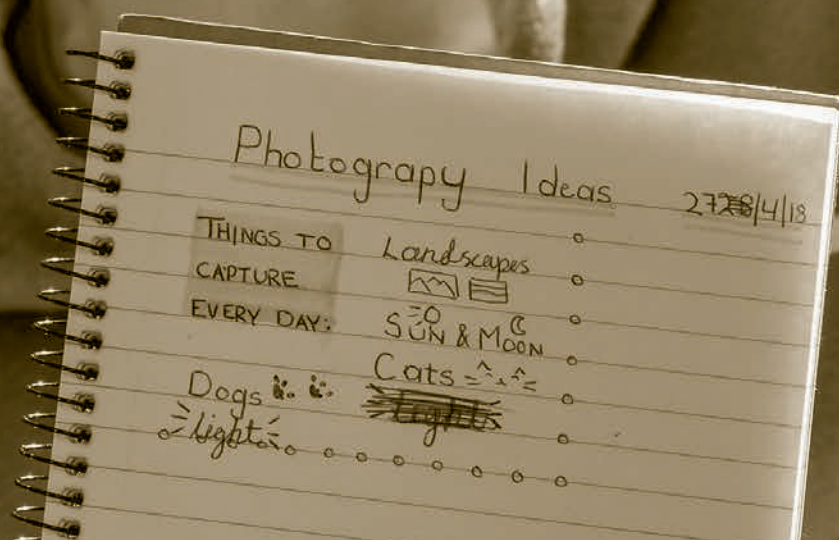
Education is not being accessed by many of Ireland's most vulnerable and disadvantaged students due to lack of technology at home. Support for Tech2Students – a collaboration between Trinity Access Program & Camara Ireland – is providing computers and software to ensure all students can continue their education during these challenging times.

To watch video about the impact of The Ireland Funds COVID-19 Response Fund visit:





cancer fund
for children



THE IRELAND FUNDS
IS HELPING TO ENSURE
NO CHILD
FACES CANCER ALONE

EVERY WEEK ACROSS THE ISLAND OF IRELAND 10 CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER. CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN OFFERS FREE THERAPEUTIC SHORT BREAKS TO FAMILIES ACROSS IRELAND WHO HAVE A CHILD DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER AT ITS SPECIALIST SHORT BREAK CENTER DAISY LODGE, CO. DOWN. • HERE, RACHEL BURGOYNE, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER AT CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN SHARES THEIR WORK AND MISSION: TO SUPPORT EVERY CHILD IMPACTED BY CANCER, SO THEY ARE BETTER EQUIPPED TO COPE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE.

At Cancer Fund for Children, we support children and young people (aged 0-24) who have been diagnosed with cancer, their siblings and also young people who are struggling to cope with their parent's cancer.

Cancer treatment is frightening, challenging, and isolating and can devastate families emotionally, physically, and financially. For a diagnosed child, months of gruelling treatment and its side effects can impact their mental health, their education, and their friendships.

This is also an extremely uncertain and worrying time for siblings who can feel like the forgotten child as their parents focus their attention on their sick sibling. For many parents struggling to care for a child with cancer, whilst working and maintaining a family routine, a childhood cancer diagnosis can place an enormous strain on their relationships. From the point of diagnosis our team of Cancer Support Specialists are here to help, guide and support young people at home, in their community, and at our therapeutic short break center, Daisy Lodge.

Daisy Lodge is a nurturing and restorative space that is purpose-built to support families at the most vulnerable, difficult, and exhausting time in their lives. Hospitals help children with their medical needs, but weeks and months as an inpatient can bring a family to breaking point. Daisy Lodge is a wonderful haven of peace and tranquillity. Families receive the right level of support to relax, connect, and meet other families living through cancer.

The RISE Program

We know that young people diagnosed with cancer are six times more likely than their peers to face mental health issues like depression and anxiety. Some of the issues young people have told us they face include uncertainty about their future, loss of friendship groups, isolation, anxiety, and they can struggle with changes in their body image. With the support of The Ireland Funds, the RISE programme helps teenagers and young people tackle these issues head on.

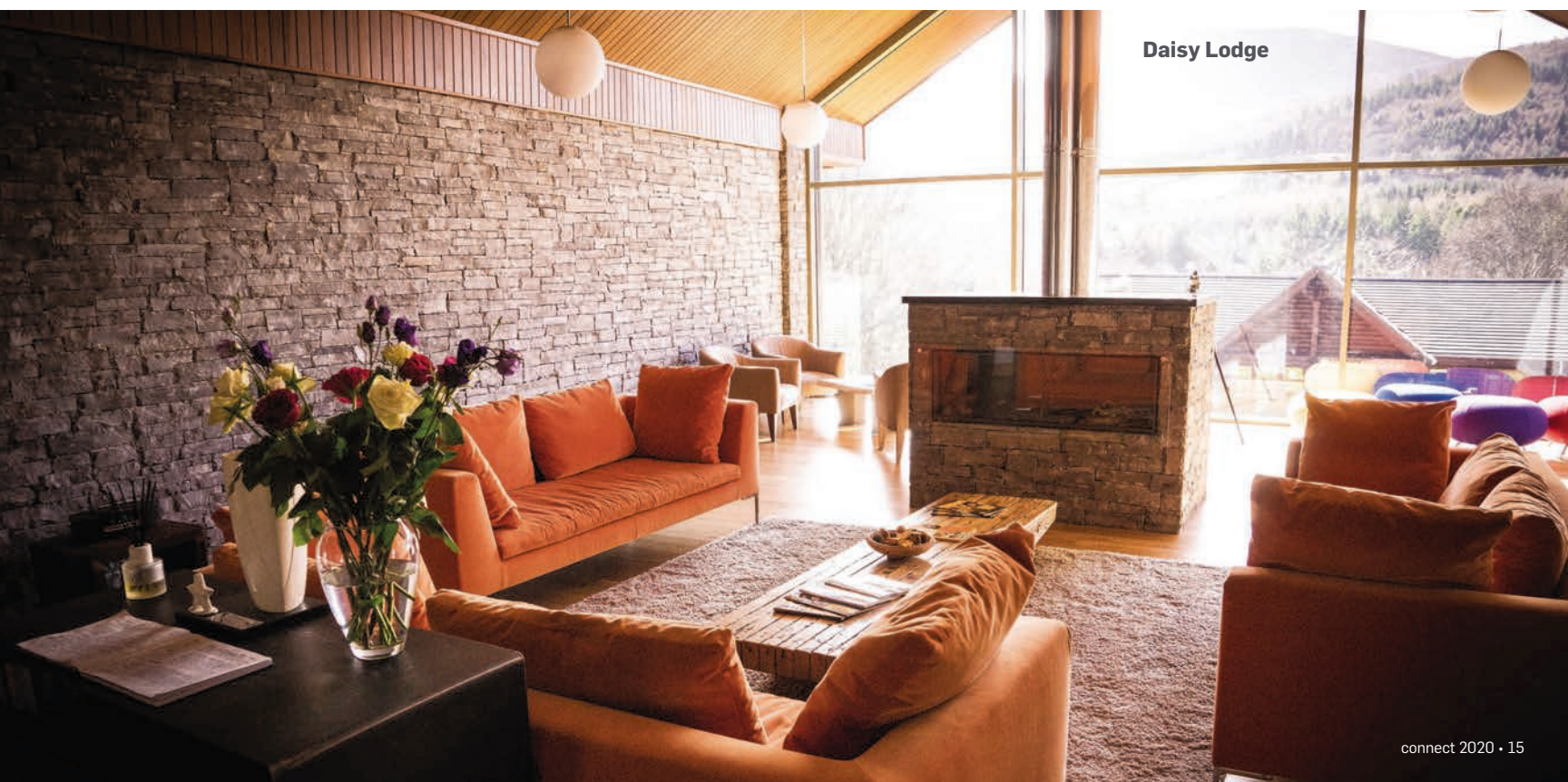
WHAT IS RISE?

The RISE Program supports young people age 8-17 diagnosed with cancer and their siblings and aims to help improve their

mental health and emotional well-being. Each young person supported through the RISE program benefits from a tailored plan of individual support, group support and individual follow up. Our team of Cancer Support Specialists create a safe space for young people with cancer to come together and talk about their cancer with their peers.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to The Ireland Funds for providing €100,000 of funding over the next two years for the RISE Program. The Ireland Funds grant will enable Cancer Fund for Children to provide 80 children and young people impacted by cancer with vital emotional support.

Each young person will benefit from a program of eight individual support sessions and three residential group support sessions. Participation in the RISE program will help young people rebuild their confidence, improve their emotional wellbeing and resilience, and enable them to reflect on their personal experience of cancer. It will also provide them with the opportunity connect to others going through a similar experience, away from the medical environment.



AUSTIN'S STORY

Austin Rothwell (12) was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) in 2018. He was in intensive care for three months and spent a year learning to walk again. Austin was supported through the RISE program.

Speaking of his experience his mum Nicola said, "I had forgotten what my son was like before his cancer diagnosis. Being at Cancer Fund for Children's residential log cabin lit a spark in my boy that I had not seen in a very long time. For the first time in a long time, I saw Austin as a 12 year old boy. His shoulders were light, and he was actually living and loving life.

COVID-19 came just as Austin was about to go on his second residential. I really wondered how Cancer Fund for Children could continue to offer support. Within days a Zoom meeting was set up. I was a little unsure how Austin would respond, but two hours later he emerged for his room beaming. I totally underestimated how important social contact of this kind was to Austin.

He has had a weekly Zoom chat with the charity's Cancer Support Specialists ever since. They just understand these kids. They listen and engage with them on a level that mums and dads cannot. As parents we worry about cancer treatments and side effects, about income and the impact of cancer on our other children.

Sometimes we just don't have the mental capacity to deal with the other stuff. Cancer Fund for Children let our children be children. They allow our kids to escape for a time and to be free from treatment and worry. It's a very special gift they give our children."





Cancer won't stop during the coronavirus pandemic and neither will we. Every day throughout Ireland one more child is diagnosed with cancer and the reality is that currently we can only support one in seven families.

We're building our second short break center Daisy Lodge on the beautiful shores of Lough Corrib, beside Cong village in Co. Mayo, which will be situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty. We are delighted to say with the support of Rory McIlroy we've purchased the site, received full planning permission, and completed the design stage.

We have launched our capital campaign to help build Daisy Lodge Co. Mayo. A new therapeutic short break center will allow us to increase the number of families we support from 450 to 1000 a year, helping to ensure no child in Ireland has to face cancer alone.

Thanks to the support of The Ireland Funds we have made a difference for so many children and families battling cancer. With your continued support, we can be here for children and young people at a time when they need us more than ever.



LEITRIM CALLING

THE IRELAND FUNDS IS HELPING FIGHT ELDERLY ISOLATION ACROSS IRELAND, ONE PHONE CALL AT A TIME.

Leitrim Calling is a friendly confidential telephone call support service available to older and vulnerable persons primarily across south of Co. Leitrim and its borders. Here, Marion Quigley, Co-Founder of Leitrim Calling shares how its services change the lives of older people.

Our service was set up in 2007 following a review of the 2006 Census figures which cited Leitrim as having a high percentage of older people living alone – 12.5% which was higher than the then national average of 8.2%. This reality was, in fact, the spring board for our decision to explore if we could in some way respond to this growing concern of rural isolation. This also coincided with a time when many young people within the communities had to emigrate for employment due to the country's financial uncertainty. In establishing the service of Leitrim Calling we sought to address the loneliness and rural isolation experienced by older people in Leitrim.

With the support of our area Health Service Executive, we began from very humble beginnings with 7 referrals for the service operating then 2 mornings per week. At the end of 2019 we had approximately 100 service-users, operational Monday to Friday, all bank holidays, through all holiday periods and anyone who is alone on Christmas Day receives a call from us.

The Power of The Ireland Funds Small Grants Award

Our relationship with The Ireland Funds began around 2014 when we made an application for a Small Grant Award to train additional volunteers in response to the rise in our service-user numbers. Between 2014 to 2018, we have received Small Grants of €4700 supporting us primarily around the very important work of volunteer management. The support from The Ireland Funds facilitated us to take on additional volunteers, provide them with training and further upskilling as required in specific areas such as bereavement support and early dementia support. Our service is always alert to the additional needs clients may have and we are very cognizant of the importance of early interventions. However, to provide that early intervention would not have been possible without the grants from The Ireland Funds to support us to, in turn, support our volunteers with additional and vital training.

Simplicity is Strength

The Ireland Funds has assisted us to deliver a service which not only checks in with people on a daily basis, but the additional training provided to our volunteers allowed us to bring our service to a higher level. It has been so heartening to listen to our service-users tell us what our service means to them.

It is true to say that Leitrim Calling is not only a calling/talking service, but also equally a listening service and I believe it is this practice that contributes to the success of our organization. What matters to our clients matters to us, and we are constantly moved and heartened by the trust our service-users place in us. The concept is quite simple, we both talk and listen; in fact, as one Mental Health Professional cited at an event – our simplicity is our strength. We have had tremendous success over the years with the caliber of volunteers who support our service – their dedication, loyalty and genuine commitment to care and empathy can never be underestimated.



The Pandemic Presents New Challenges

When COVID-19 imploded into people's lives in early March, Leitrim Calling changed overnight both in the necessity to move the service to a remote model and to address the immediate increased demand for our support. Local day centers and Active Age Groups across our counties had to close, so clients from those centers were directed to our service so that they would receive a phone call from us to keep an interaction and a sense of connection with people who were now placed in a situation of fear, confusion and uncertainty. We were in a situation where we had no opportunity to plan, we had to act immediately and respond. By now, our hours had extended, with call-backs for persons who were very frightened in how their lives had changed overnight. For some, our calls are literally the only constant in terms of connectedness that people have.

•

Our service-user base has increased overnight by **60%** and it is steadily rising.

•

Our regular client base of **85** clients overnight reached **145**

•

Our weekly call output went from approximately **350** calls to over **450**

•

At these numbers we would estimate annually a phone calling rate of over **23,000** phone calls.

Our local Gaelic Athletic Association sent out a call on our behalf for local volunteers and the response was so encouraging. Our volunteer call-out was responded to by students, teachers, people whose businesses had closed, Psychology students whose jobs were put on hold, parents working in the home and many others. It was, without doubt, very heartening.

Of course, due to our limited office space working remotely was the only way forward for us as a service. This necessitated providing all volunteers (19 at our highest peak) with mobile phones to carry out the phone calls. We needed to not only manage and support our now increased client base, but we needed to provide additional supports. We were in a daily situation of responding to different crises as they arose. When we realized that this was not a passing situation, we looked at our financial situation. In addition to the extra work in managing our increased client base we also needed to outlay costs (which we did not have) to train the new additional volunteers and ensure that they could confidently work remotely.

The Ireland Funds COVID-19 Response

As Coordinator of the service I approached The Ireland Funds to enquire as to whether there was any funding we could look to for support. I was received with a great sense of empathy and interest that we have, in fact, always experienced from our interactions with The Ireland Funds. Our concerns were listened to.

Within a short time, The Ireland Funds' team reverted to me. We received €3500 from The Ireland Funds to support our identified needs. Throughout the process I found the team so helpful, courteous and supportive. They were always on hand to answer any questions we had and the entire process resulting in the grant reaching our account was carried out in a very timely manner. We are extremely grateful for this support and for The Ireland Funds, again, placing trust in us.

We have trained our volunteers and trained additional volunteers, as some of our initial team had to return to their day jobs in September and we have a very good support system in place to manage our service-users. Some of our new (now permanent) service-users who came to us due to the COVID-19 pandemic have formed beautiful relationships with our volunteers. They have built up a great trust in our volunteers and in return our volunteers have gone above and beyond to be available and supportive to them.

Going Forward

We are obviously conscious and concerned with the realization that this situation is not going to change any time soon. People refer to it as a 'new normal'. While I consider it new, it is not normal. It will be a long time before our clients will feel confident to return to centers which were so much part of their lives and this is a sad reality. I see Leitrim Calling having a very significant role in supporting our clients as they transition to whatever kind of future lies ahead.

I see a great need for financial support to enable us continue supporting our clients and our volunteers.

While we are a much-valued service, we have never had the opportunity to invest money in service promotion other than through small local advertisements. It is a further source of gratitude on our behalf to The Ireland Funds to be afforded the opportunity to get our story out there to the wider audience.

Thank You

Over the years, the support from The Ireland Funds enabled us to take on additional volunteers and provide them with a very high standard of training and upskilling as required.

When the pandemic entered our lives, The Ireland Funds was there for us – it listened to our worries and with its support and financial assistance we were able to address our immediate concerns i.e. the fact that our volunteer base trebled – we were able to train our additional volunteers and are now training more volunteers who have replaced the initial group that has returned to college or work. We are also able to manage our increased client base journey through this difficult path by responding to the additional needs for support that have arisen since COVID-19.

We are exceptionally grateful to The Ireland Funds – your support, assistance care and for your genuine interest in our service.



COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK



PLACING PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF CHANGE

Community Action Network (CAN) was founded in 1987 to respond to the pressing issues of high unemployment, poor housing, endemic poverty, and the early days of the heroin epidemic in Dublin city. CAN's early work was to consult with communities about their needs. Community activists – often local volunteers working to support the people of stricken neighborhoods - were desperately in need of training in how to build community organizations. CAN showed them how to tackle these overwhelming challenges at the grassroots level. ❤️

HERE, PETER DORMAN, A STAFF MEMBER AT CAN, TELLS THE STORY OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THE DIFFERENCE THE IRELAND FUNDS IS MAKING FOR COMMUNITIES ON THE MARGINS.

CAN is a social justice organization. Our motto is Placing People at the Heart of Change. The people are groups in society that live with inequality. The change is in the systems to perpetuate the inequalities.

CAN's early work in the 1980s focused on developing innovative training programs to help local people be a voice for their communities. We also worked directly with fledgling organizations to become stronger and more effective in supporting local youth, tackling the drug problems and addressing unemployment and housing issues.

CAN's work has grown to become national. We developed accredited learning programs in community and leadership development, human rights-based responses to issues of inequality, dialogue-based methods for resolving core problems in communities and new and better tools for supporting organizations tackling inequality.

INNOVATIVE FUNDING FOR ★ INNOVATIVE IDEAS ★

A lot of our work is in social housing communities, particularly in Dublin's city center. One of the most intractable issues for these communities is persistent anti-social behavior (ASB), much of it by children and young people. Children growing up in communities marked by poverty, poor housing conditions, unemployment and drug and alcohol addiction can grow up with significant stress and trauma. Often, anti-social behavior can develop into criminality.

CAN has responded with a range of initiatives to tackle this problem. One of our first innovations was to establish the Dublin 8/12 Restorative Practice Partnership. Restorative Practice is a proven method of addressing the harm caused by offensive behavior. It focuses on improving and mending relationships through dialogue, teaching children to deal with their emotions, to learn to empathize and to appreciate fairness. It has been shown to be much more effective than traditional disciplinary methods such as exclusion from school.

THE IRELAND FUNDS SUPPORT FOR CAN INNOVATION

The Ireland Funds' grant in 2017 enabled CAN to organize Restorative Practice Training for almost 20 teachers, youth workers, community workers, Gardaí, volunteers and others working in settings marked by ASB. We also established a coalition of these professionals to work towards making Dublin district 8 and district 12 restorative communities. Since then over 60 individuals have taken training.

We have also focused on one local area, Inchicore South, where schools and youth projects will be part of programs to become "Whole Organization" restorative communities. This will mean that staff, boards of management, children and parents will all be part of these three-year programs. As these organizations are all close together in the heart of South Inchicore, their participation in these programs will impact significantly on the whole community. In all, some 300 children and young people will participate.

➡ ***All this started with The Ireland Funds' support and allowed us in turn to access funding worth three times the original grant.***

Following this success, CAN applied for The Ireland Funds Flagship Award for a wider response to anti-social behavior, focusing on the more challenging impact of drug trade related ASB in neighborhoods. Though shortlisted, we were unsuccessful in getting a Flagship Award.

Yet preparing for the application with advice from The Ireland Funds' staff, enabled us to think about what innovations could make a real difference to communities living with drug trade-related anti-social behavior. The application to The Ireland Funds Flagship Award led to a strategic plan. We began to develop additional programs, but we lacked the capacity to fully drive the plan.

However a couple of years later, The Ireland Funds introduced us to its donor Ray Wilson, a native of Rialto in south inner-city Dublin, now living in Australia. Ray met us in his native Rialto, and we took him on a whistle-stop tour of some of the projects we were struggling to launch. He visited a series of our projects:

- **Targeted Response with Youth (TRY)**— an outreach program working with 18 young men involved in drug dealing and moving them into recovery, education and employment.

- **Welcome on the Mat** — a project in our public housing neighborhoods working to positively integrate the growing numbers of migrants settling amongst existing white Irish neighborhoods.

- He also met with the activists and community workers ensuring the public build projects in the area, such as the new children's hospital, included social clauses to benefit the community.

Ray said of that experience, ***"During my visits to the above CAN projects, I was so impressed by the caliber of the individuals leading change in their communities and by the results they are achieving in addressing social inequality and the lack of access to opportunities. As a 'Liberties boy' myself, it is a privilege to be in a position along with The Ireland Funds to support these wonderful people and these game-changing projects at CAN."***

Ray made a significant Donor Advised Gift in partnership with The Ireland Funds Australia. That donation enabled CAN to accelerate our work on these projects and others.



- 1 Beneficiaries of the community benefit program
- 2 Work with community activists in December of 1989
- 3 Participants in the online intercultural program
- 4 Restorative Practice training graduates



WHAT THE IRELAND FUNDS SUPPORT HAS HELPED US ACHIEVE

➡ **Today the TRY program is working with 25 young men, a women's group connected with the men and younger children in danger of being drawn into drug dealing.** The program is now mainstream funded (though funding is uncertain for 2021) and is being invited to work in two neighborhood communities with street dealers there. It has also played a major role in keeping these vulnerable young people and their families safe during COVID-19.

➡ **The use of social clauses in the children's hospital project has led to 2,515 weeks of direct new entrant labor being delivered including the creation of 10 apprenticeships and an additional 3,611.5 weeks of labor** by workers living in the surrounding communities – all for people who would not have had this opportunity otherwise. CAN has chaired the community benefit employment and training subgroup in the hospital that guided this work. One man now working on the construction of the hospital shared, "I'm a local guy and I'm part of the new initiative in community benefits and I was proud to get the job here. It's great to be working here because it's a legacy – Though I'm a small cog in the wheel it's a big legacy for my kids...and my grandkids."

➡ **The city council regeneration builds have benefited over 20 local people** including some participants in the TRY program. CAN was also able to source funding to research the experience of social clauses in Ireland which was launched by the Minister in Government with responsibility for procurement in October 2020.

➡ **The Welcome on the Mat project has also grown with 16 participants** and CAN is developing a cultural integration quality mark for five of the largest voluntary social housing bodies in Ireland. One neighborhood participant said, "the program challenged me about where racism is coming from. I learnt so much about myself and it opened my mind."

➡ **Finally, we developed Building Community Resilience, which brings together all our strategies** for tackling anti-social behavior in one program involving communities, senior police, healthcare agencies, youth organizations and local authorities to deliver safety in the south inner city Dublin area using mostly CAN initiatives. We have managed to secure funding from the local authority to lead this program over the coming 18 months.

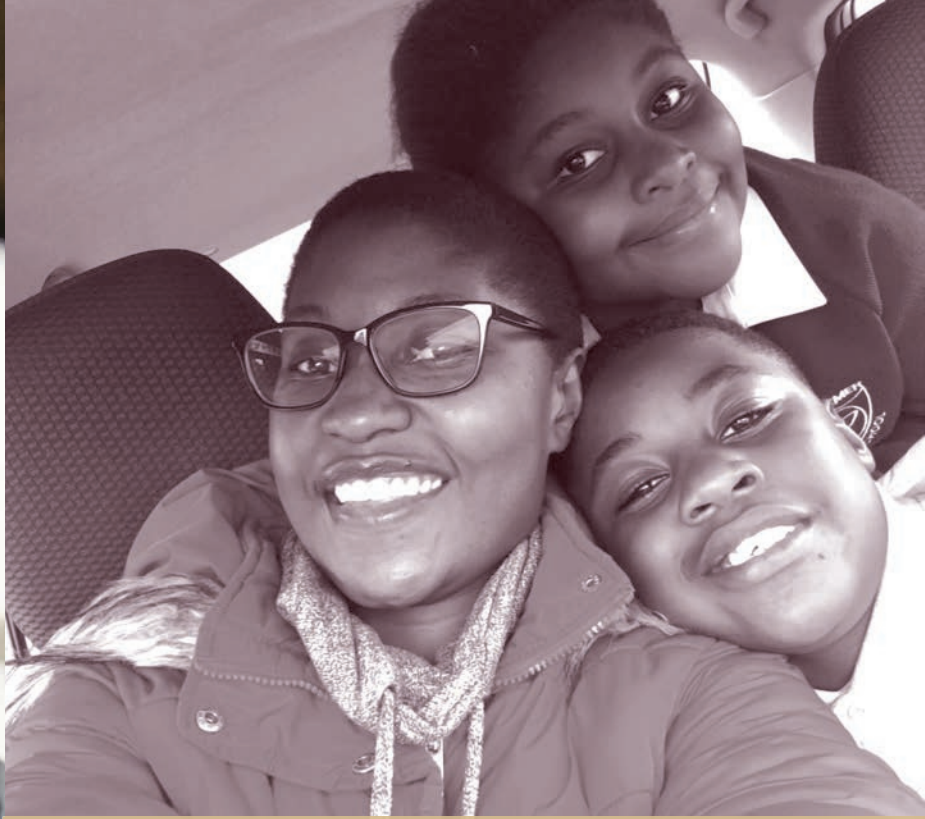
➡ **We see ourselves as social innovators and are always looking for investment in innovation to tackle inequalities. We have other ideas about how to deepen the intercultural work, to expand the specialized youthwork around Ireland, and to promote social clauses more widely. The relationship with The Ireland Funds has been crucial for CAN in our innovation work. We had ideas, but limited capacity to develop them until the core funding injections from The Ireland Funds which came at crucial times.**

DEPAUL IS A CROSS-BORDER CHARITY WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2002 IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AND 2005 IN NORTHERN IRELAND. A PIONEERING ORGANIZATION IN THE AREA OF HOMELESSNESS, DEPAUL'S FOCUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN SOCIETY. IN 2019 IT SUPPORTED OVER 4,500 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The word DEPAUL is written in a bold, hand-drawn, black ink style on a piece of torn cardboard. The cardboard has a rough, deckled edge and some faint, illegible markings on the right side.

DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place



Precious Matumba ↑ AND HER CHILDREN

“My kids and I have been blessed with the most amazing support from the Depaul caseworkers Carla and Gideon. Moving out of Direct Provision into independent living felt like being thrown into the deep end with no swimming abilities. Without the slightest idea of who and where to turn to, the service I have received from Depaul has been life-saving. From navigating the housing side, support in applying for the right social welfare payments, help in finding a doctor, to help with utilities, I have been guided in a professional and friendly way that has helped us slowly settle into our new home.”

—Precious Matumba, Service User, Cosán Nua

The support of The Ireland Funds means that individuals and families leaving Direct Provision, which is the temporary housing system provided by the Irish government for people seeking asylum, have a continuum of support which eases their transition into local communities across Ireland. This helps them to establish firm roots and paths to more positive futures.

Cosán Nua - A New Path

In early 2019, Depaul, in partnership with the Department of Justice in Ireland, began working with asylum seekers who had been granted legal status to remain in Ireland. Cosán Nua (the Irish term meaning New Path) is the bespoke Depaul service that was borne out of the need to help these new arrivals to Ireland with securing accommodation and establishing roots in the community. Throughout 2019 Depaul worked across eight counties and supported over 300 asylum seekers, including 168 adults and 160 children, to resettle in the community.

Setting up homes and integrating communities

The Ireland Funds Flagship Award, which Depaul was awarded in 2019, supports the role of a Tenancy Sustainment and Integration Worker to work with this vulnerable demographic. This worker is based in the community and provides post-resettlement support for families and individuals once they move out of Direct Provision. This support ensures that people thrive in their new communities and maintain their tenancies in the long-term.

Depaul's Integration Worker supports 25 individuals or family units at any one time and the service is available for up to 6 months. Moving from Direct Provision back into the community is a huge shift for people. It includes so many challenges including language barriers. "In Direct Provision everything is provided and then suddenly it's not," said Magda, the Depaul Manager who oversees the service.

THE IRELAND FUNDS FLAGSHIP AWARD

Essential Help for House and Home

Francine came to Ireland in 2013 from DR Congo with her little boy. Having spent some time in a Direct Provision center in Cork, Francine was then moved to another center in Mosney, Co Meath. After 5 long years she received legal status to remain in Ireland and Depaul soon began working with her. In May of this year, after 2 years of searching, Francine found a place to call home for her young family in Longford and a new chapter of her life began. However, Francine still required help and that is where Depaul's Tenancy Sustainment and Integration Worker came in.

Support provided is swift and confidential and it immediately takes weight off people's shoulders. One of the key aims of the service is empowering people so that they can start building their confidence in making connections in their own local communities.

With the help of Cosán Nua, Francine was able to get a foothold in her new community and link in with vital services. Francine says, "Since I moved to Longford Depaul have helped me with everything." Her children are now in school and crèche and Francine is linking in with the Community Support Centre in Longford. With the future looking brighter now for Francine and her family, her next step is to continue her nursing course and find a job as a care assistant within the community.

Alongside The Ireland Funds Flagship Award, Depaul have been a recipient of Donor Advised Funds for a number of years. Depaul was delighted to receive another donation in 2020 specifically for provision of basic and essential items for setting up a household for those moving from Direct Provision into their own home. This has been hugely beneficial for many individuals and families.

Adapting to the new normal

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on many of the people that Depaul supports. The team at Cosán Nua adapted quickly to new ways of working. A complete move to online working was adopted. The team stays connected with people via video call, phone and text. "It's working very well," said Magda. "People have got used to receiving video support from Depaul very quickly."

It was during a crucial time, at the height of the first wave of the pandemic in April, that The Ireland Funds stepped up again providing vital funds to Depaul through an Emergency Support grant. This grant which supported the organization's operational costs meant that there was limited impact on service provision across Depaul's services, including Cosán Nua.

Since COVID-19 hit Ireland, Depaul's Cosán Nua service has been able to support over 352 people to move away from Direct Provision living and into their own homes.

The ongoing needs

Cosán Nua continues to be incredibly successful in its life changing work, even in the face of adversity and in the difficult and changing working environment caused by the pandemic. More people than ever are being resettled into local communities, with 46% of all people the team supported in Direct Provision successfully resettled in 2019. As of the autumn of this year [2020], this figure has grown to 58%, translating to 157 households. The Integration Worker supports up to 25 households over a 6-month period and will reach 50 in total throughout the year. As there isn't the capacity to support everyone at the moment, households with the greatest need are prioritized. Additional funding would mean that more people could be supported with a smoother transition from Direct Provision, develop their stake in local communities and quickly become part of the fabric of life in Ireland.





“At Depaul we see homelessness for what it is, not what we interpret it to be. Those living in Direct Provision are at real risk of becoming homeless. Depaul is there to ensure this does not happen and the funding provided through The Ireland Funds is helping us to do just that.”

— David Carroll, Chief Executive Officer, Depaul

COPE GALWAY

COPE GALWAY

IS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL HOMELESS, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF GALWAY.





'A community where every person is valued, cared for and supported at every stage of life' is the vision of COPE Galway, the Galway-based social services charity. This unique combination of services gives COPE Galway a depth and breadth of experience and knowledge that is unparalleled and one which is underpinned by a team of professional staff and volunteers who are committed to making a positive difference in people's lives.

The Ireland Funds has been a long-time supporter of COPE Galway's work and has supported its Senior Support Service with a Donor Advised Grant and with support from its COVID-19 Response Fund. Additionally, a philanthropic donation facilitated by

The Ireland Funds, has supported the development of their Domestic Abuse Children's Service. During the COVID-19 crisis, all of COPE Galway's domestic abuse, homeless and senior support services have remained open and accessible by those who need them.

Here, Ciara Tyrrell, Children's Service Co-ordinator at COPE Galway's Domestic Abuse Service, talks about their new Children's Service, made possible with the support of The Ireland Funds, and how this support came at exactly the right time, coinciding with COPE Galway's move to Modh Eile House – the new home of their domestic abuse service and refuge.

COPE Galway has been providing a domestic abuse service in Galway for almost 40 years, where we have always sought to support people who are experiencing abuse, and the aftermath of that abuse, as well as working to address the fundamentals in our society which allow domestic abuse to happen.

For much of these 40 years we operated from Waterside House, a building in Galway city center which had become run down and unfit for purpose, containing single bedsit type refuge accommodation with shared bathrooms and no cooking facilities, and without wheelchair access or any outside space for children to play. After many years of development, and just as COVID-19 arrived in Ireland, we moved to a brand new, state-of-the-art building called Modh Eile House, which is now the new home of our domestic abuse service and refuge in Galway.

Hope and Home: Healing at Modh Eile House

Modh Eile, which means 'Another Way' in Irish, was named by women who had been supported by our domestic abuse service and wanted to give a message of hope to other women who would experience domestic abuse in the future. Modh Eile House also represented another way for us – it finally allowed us to provide a place for women and children that was not only safe, but also clean, warm, welcoming and properly equipped to support family life.

Within weeks of COVID-19 lockdown, COPE Galway opened Modh Eile House, ensuring that women and their children who were experiencing abuse within their own homes had somewhere safe they could come to. Concerned that women were either not aware that the service was available during lockdown, or that they were worried about contracting COVID-19 in a refuge setting, we undertook a publicity campaign through supermarkets, pharmacies and at bus stations to communicate the availability, and safety of our service.

Supporting the Unique Needs of Children in Crisis

Thanks in part to The Ireland Funds, the move to Modh Eile House allowed us to change our model of working with children, allowing us to finally put into practice what we knew was necessary if these children were to stand a chance of recovery and healing and of not having an abusive start dominate their life chances.

The support of The Ireland Funds has allowed us to develop a comprehensive, child-centered domestic abuse support service which recognizes and accepts the child as a victim of domestic abuse, and where children's physical, emotional, cognitive, social and behavioral development is supported. We have been able to employ three staff who work directly with children to unwind some of the adverse childhood experiences they would otherwise grow up with.

THE SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED THROUGH THE IRELAND FUNDS IS ALLOWING US TO CREATE REAL AND LASTING CHANGE, TO PROPERLY AND PROMPTLY ADDRESS CRITICAL ISSUES WHICH HINDER A CHILD'S LIFE. THE IRELAND FUNDS IS LITERALLY HELPING US TO CHANGE LIVES.

The Ireland Funds' Impact on our Work with Families

With the support of The Ireland Funds, COPE Galway's domestic abuse service has been able to hire three additional childcare workers to work directly with children who have experienced domestic abuse. This has allowed us to achieve the following:

- **We expanded our team to ensure that we can cover areas in Galway city and county.** We have partnered with other agencies and schools who facilitate us by offering a room in their service in order to make our domestic abuse service more accessible. Having additional staff can also ensure that the service that families receive while staying in refuge is consistent, and tailored to the family's needs. Each child is seen as a client in their own right with their own individual needs, and not just a member of the family.

- **It has allowed us to meet mothers and their children in that area of the county that is more convenient for them.** It is not always feasible to expect a mother to come to the city with a child for an appointment. We want to make the service as accessible as possible by coming to them in a safe place agreed by both parties.

- **We are now accepting referrals from individuals and other agencies** who are delighted to hear about the work at our Children's domestic abuse service. Previously, we could only manage the families that came to stay at the refuge.

- **We have started to work with young people 18 – 25 years who have experienced violence and abuse as a child** or who have experienced a dating relationship that was abusive. We have the expertise to identify and verify for young people that what they experienced was abusive and wrong and can offer them support in a therapeutic way on their journey towards healing.

- **The support of mothers is important for long term healing.** We have always understood that by supporting the mother to understand the impact on the child, we will double the efforts of the healing process for the child.

The Ireland Funds' Impact on Older People Across Galway

COPE Galway has also benefited from a €40,000 grant from The Ireland Funds COVID-19 Response Fund and used this grant to make sure that every older person in Galway had access to the best nutritious food delivered right to their doors, so that they could protect themselves from the COVID-19 pandemic and keep themselves healthy and well. Since March 2020 COPE Galway have provided 41,058 meals to 249 older people in Galway city and county and this number continues to increase every day.

With this COVID-19 grant funding COPE Galway were also able to reach out to 343 older people through our telephone helpline and on a one to one basis in person, and we offered practical and emotional supports where needed to some of the more vulnerable and isolated older people who are living in our community.

COPE GALWAY recently launched the TIME TO CARE program for older people and is seeking donors to help fund the costs of communicating this program to every older person in Galway city and county.



€15,000

Additional Needs

WHAT IS POSSIBLE WITH MORE FUNDING?

While our meals services have become an essential social service in responding to increasing numbers of older people cocooning, we are becoming extremely concerned about the many social supports and activities which have been suspended during the pandemic with consequent impacts in terms of isolation, loneliness, and general health and wellbeing of many older people in our communities.

There are over 4,523 people aged over 75 living alone in Galway city and county. With further support COPE Galway could make an immediate difference in the lives of older people who are becoming more and more isolated and lonely.



€40,000/year

COPE GALWAY is looking for medium and long term support to help fund the salary cost needed to roll out and manage their telephone befriending program for one year.

Earlier this year, **COPE GALWAY** was presented a National Age Friendly Award for their social enterprise Meals4Health, which produces and home delivers fresh, nutritious ready meals to older people. Additional funding would help COPE Galway expand this service beyond Galway to meet the ever increasing demand for food support for older people.



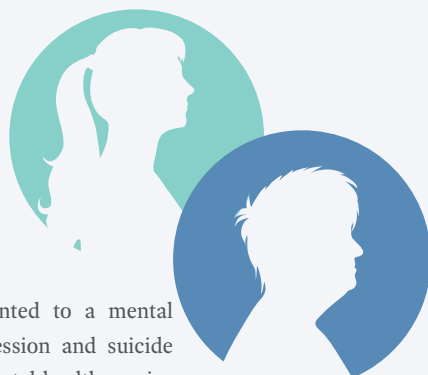
€75,000

MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE HELPED

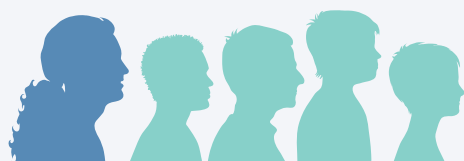
* Names have been changed

RUTH*

19



Ruth was nineteen when she presented to a mental health service with feelings of depression and suicide ideation. In meeting with her, the mental health service traced much of her trauma to an upbringing marred by abuse in the home, leaving her with feelings of isolation, inadequacy and no self-worth. The mental health service referred Ruth to COPE Galway's domestic abuse service, recognizing our expertise. Modh Eile House provided a safe and welcoming space for Ruth to come to, where our team acknowledged and validated all that she experienced, helping her to see that she was so much more than that experience. **Ruth will live with the memory of the abuse, but it will no longer define her future.**



GRAINNE*

& her four teenage sons

Grainne who has four teenage sons aged between 14 and 18, sought admission to Waterside House, following a particularly violent encounter with her husband. We could not accept her, as the building only provided for communal shower and bathroom areas, so it was impossible to have boys over fourteen on site. Grainne was faced with the unthinkable dilemma of leaving her boys to save herself, or staying, and so putting herself at risk. We were able to identify another safe location for this family, however, we were reminded of the need to provide for young men and women, who are also victimized. **Now they can be safely and appropriately sheltered in Modh Eile House.**

CATHERINE*

80s

"I am a woman in my 80s living alone and usually lead a very independent life, I have friends and family that I would see and they would visit me, so not being able to plan trips and visits made me feel alone. It was comforting to know that COPE Galway was there to help in a variety of ways and I knew that I could get help with shopping and my pension collection and a chat over the phone if I needed it. I am slowly gaining my confidence and independence back but I am still somewhat anxious about the future. **It is nice to know that COPE Galway is there for me at this difficult time.**"

JAMES*

80s



"I live alone and I have really appreciated the regular contact I have had with COPE Galway during COVID—just checking in with me means a lot and it picks me up if I'm feeling a bit down. **I know I can just pick up the phone if I need anything...."**

RITA*

late 70s



"The staff in COPE Galway has been a great support to me over the past few years, they do everything they can to help me. The months during lockdown have been very hard when I couldn't do all the things I'm used to doing and I couldn't see my friends and family so COPE Galway has become even more important to me.... **They make sure I have food, my pension and my bills are paid, but really what I love is having them call to my door to say hello and have a chat.**"



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Fighting Words Northern Ireland



Photo: Johnny Frazer

Fighting Words Northern Ireland is part of a growing network of creative writing centers for children and young people across the world that share a common ethos: a belief that creativity can and should be fostered as part of the education of every child and that this task is the responsibility of the whole community. Fighting Words received a Flagship Grant from The Ireland Funds and is now reaching thousands of children in Northern Ireland.

Here, Founding Patron Glenn Patterson shares an update on their work and goals for Fighting Words in Northern Ireland.

The Next Chapter



From the moment I heard that my friends Roddy Doyle and Seán Love had set up Fighting Words in Dublin in 2009, I thought how badly we needed something like it north of the border. It took us until 2015, but we managed it eventually, thanks to a Flagship grant from The Ireland Funds that enabled us to employ a team of two based at Skainos Square, East Belfast.

Since that time, Fighting Words Northern Ireland has provided over 10,000 creative writing opportunities to children and young people aged 6-18 right across the region. We've worked with schools and theaters, teachers' unions and community charities, running workshops, projects and after-school Write Clubs for independent teen writers, while also training over 350 volunteer mentors who give the one-to-one support that helps young writers realize what they're capable of, that they have the words at their disposal to be – as we always say – the authors of their own lives.

The murder of Lyra McKee in April 2019 was a devastating moment for Northern Ireland. But from that came the extraordinary gift from The Ireland Funds of the AWB Vincent Literary Award in honor of Lyra. I accepted the award at a memorable

event in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, with Lyra's partner, Sara Canning, and with a young writer from one of our programs who took the mic from me and (as anyone there will tell you) took the room by storm. Since then, Sara has become a Patron of Fighting Words – along with fellow 'Derry Girls' Bronagh Gallagher and Lisa McGee – and they are all helping us set up a brilliant new program of workshops in their home city.

If that wasn't already reason enough for us to be grateful, your COVID-19 Emergency Grant in early 2020 enabled us to go digital and to reach hundreds of young people and their families in their homes when they needed our support.

The pandemic has forced us to adapt and has even given us the opportunity to accelerate our growth and expand our reach. We're running Zoom workshops with schools, an online project with ten local libraries from Fermanagh to County Down, a new radio script-writing project with Riverside Theatre in Coleraine and The Playhouse in Derry-Londonderry and a new film-writing project with Derry's Nerve Centre.

Fighting Words Northern Ireland is an ambitious, creative force for the future of NI that is aiming to reach thousands of young people every year through wide-ranging partnerships.



Of course, there are challenges besides the pandemic – Brexit, and our own home-grown political uncertainties – but we are determined to rise to them. We're poised to expand our cross-community and reconciliation engagement, working with partners such as Youth Action NI, and of course we're working with Fighting Words in other parts of Ireland to bring together children and young people north and south to imagine and create new stories. To achieve all this, we need to expand our team and specifically, with the support of donors to The Ireland Funds, we're recruiting a Director to lead our expansion in a sustainable, strategic way.

Our priority is to continue to build a growing family of donors committed to our vision and values who will help us build our team and capacity so that we can continue to expand and reach the young people who need us most – those with mental health issues and those from poorer backgrounds with access to fewer opportunities.

Our goal is to reach every child in Northern Ireland with a creative writing experience by 2025. To achieve this (with around 350,000 students across 1,800 schools) we aim to provide 70,000 creative writing experiences per year by 2025.

We're here now, for the long term, broadcasting loud and clear the reality that young people on this island are all equal, creative beings.

— Glenn Patterson was born, and lives, in Belfast. A founding patron of Fighting Words NI, he is Director of the Seamus Heaney Centre, Queen's University, Belfast, a writer, novelist, journalist and playwright.

Support from The Ireland Funds has now enabled over 10,000 creative writing opportunities for young people.

In a Recent Survey:

68%

OF PARENTS/CARERS SAID IT
WAS THE FIRST TIME THEIR
CHILD HAD EVER TAKEN PART IN
A CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT.



72%

OF RESPONDENTS SAID THEIR
CHILD WAS MORE EXCITED
ABOUT WRITING AS A RESULT
OF TAKING PART IN A FIGHTING
WORDS PROJECT.



60%

OF RESPONDENTS SAID
THEY SAW A CHANGE IN
THEIR CHILD'S MENTAL OR
EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING
AS A RESULT OF TAKING
PART IN A FIGHTING WORDS
PROJECT.



40%

OF CHILDREN ASKED
MORE QUESTIONS &

71%

APPEARED HAPPIER.



LEARNING HUB LIMERICK



A Space for Limerick to Stretch & Grow



WHEN THE SCHOOL DAY ENDS IN COUNTY LIMERICK, THE ACTIVITIES AT THE LIMERICK LEARNING HUB MOVE INTO HIGH GEAR. THIS EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATIONAL SPACE OFFERS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES A PLACE TO LEARN NEW SKILLS, EXPLORE MUSIC, SCIENCE, EXERCISE, ART AND OTHER PURSUITS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT NURTURES A DESIRE TO LEARN WHILE LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY AND ITS NEEDS.



“I SUPPOSE WHEN I WAS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL WE FIT INTO THE CURRICULUM, RATHER AT THE HUB THE PROGRAMS FIT AROUND THE CHILDREN. YOU KNOW IT’S JUST DIFFERENT. IT’S SO INNOVATIVE. IT’S THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX. IT’S WHAT EDUCATION SHOULD BE ALL ABOUT.”

— TIERNAN O’NEILL, PRINCIPAL OF CORPUS CHRISTIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

HERE, JAMES BLAKE, CEO OF LEARNING HUB LIMERICK, EXPLAINS WHAT MAKES THE HUB SO SPECIAL.

LEARNING HUB LIMERICK: BREAKING THE CYCLE

The Learning Hub is in one of the most disadvantaged districts in Ireland. Socio-economic disadvantage has a negative impact on health, access to opportunity, social mobility and even life-expectancy. The Learning Hub focuses on education to break the cycle of intergenerational unemployment and underachievement. In partnership with local schools, community groups and third-level institutions we provide in-school and after-school educational programs to help raise aspirations and offer further opportunities to young people and their families. We have created a child-centered, safe, dynamic, happy and informal learning environment in which children are encouraged to be inquisitive and to explore education. We adapted the services we provided as the needs of the community evolved.

To deal with demand for diverse classes, we collaborated with third-level partners, teaming undergraduates from local universities with primary and secondary children in projects directly related to third level courses. This model grew and the Hub now takes between 15 and 20 third-level students a year on six month placement (internships) to work directly with children in the community enabling us to deal with increasing demand for our services. The third-level students share their learning, are positive role-models and sign-post routes to further education for our young people.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE HUB

Children from as young as four years of age to late teens engage weekly with after-school and in-school programs in Science, Health and Fitness, Art and Music. Seasonal and annual events such as Easter, Summer and Halloween Camps incorporate digital engagement as well as drama, film-making and song-writing. Underlying every activity is a focus on building confidence, numeracy and

literacy. Parents and adults from the community engage in our kickboxing and boxing clubs which boast a 50/50 male female participation. The Learning Hub Kickboxing Club has even produced several regional, national and European Champions.

Children are invited to try as many activities as possible. Many of the children attend more than one of the activities offered. The integrated nature of our programs connects the work we do with young people to real life. The Art Hub students designed the community garden which is used by the Science Hub for plant biology classes. The fruit and vegetables in the garden form the basic ingredients for our healthy eating programs as an essential part of the Health Hub.

Depending on the time of year, children at the Hub may be picking apples in the orchard, training for a kickboxing tournament, recording a song they have written, spinning honey from our beehive, harvesting vegetables or studying the creation of carbon. In between activities, our campus is used by young people as a safe place to play and just 'hang out'.

SUPPORT FROM THE IRELAND FUNDS

The Ireland Funds has been a tremendous supporter of the Learning Hub. Since 2018, a series of grants have boosted all of our activities. This support has helped the Learning Hub to meet the increasing demand for the services we provide.

Support from The Ireland Funds gives us the freedom to channel energy and funding to where it is most needed which includes new initiatives. It empowers the Hub to innovate to meet the needs of the community. This support can be leveraged with existing and potential funders and underscores the value of these initiatives and innovations.

It is impossible to stress enough the value of The Ireland Funds' support in a time of crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, support from The Ireland Funds helped us to deliver digital learning content and to make deliveries of learning packs to the community under lockdown. This extraordinary funding afforded us the freedom to direct funds where they were most needed as these needs arose, however unforeseen those needs were.



**MUSIC
SCIENCE
ENVIRONMENT
CHALLENGES
ART
HEALTH
COMMUNITY
NURTURE**

LIMITS ON THE SPACE WE CAN USE DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS PRESENTS A CHALLENGE, EVEN AS DEMAND FOR OUR SERVICES CONTINUES TO INCREASE. THE LEARNING HUB MUST NOW INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF EXISTING FACILITIES, REFURBISH AND EXTEND OUR CAMPUS TO MAKE THE PREMISES MORE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL IN THE COMMUNITY.

10,357 PEOPLE

ENGAGED WITH HUB ACTIVITIES IN 2013

29,625 PEOPLE

ENGAGED WITH HUB ACTIVITIES IN 2019.



“I LOVE THE ART HUB BECAUSE IT’S SO MUCH FUN. I GET TO MEET NEW FRIENDS AND LEARN NEW ART TECHNIQUES. THERE IS ALSO SOMETHING DIFFERENT EVERY WEEK.” — **STUDENT, AGE 9**

“I HOPE THE LEARNING HUB WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO INSPIRE CHILDREN TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF BUDDING KICKBOXERS, SCIENTISTS, ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS.”

— **KAREN, A PARENT**

The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition

**SIGNAL OPTIMISER
WINS €15,000 IN THE
ANNUAL IRELAND FUNDS
BUSINESS PLAN
COMPETITION**

THE IRELAND FUNDS HAS A LONG HISTORY OF SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE AND ADDRESSING NEED IN IRELAND. SINCE 2012, AND INITIALLY IN RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, THE IRELAND FUNDS HAS RUN AN ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION THAT SEEKS TO NURTURE CREATIVITY AND HONE ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS OF IRELAND'S NEXT GENERATION OF BUSINESS LEADERS. BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THIRD-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS, INNOVATION HUBS AND FOCUSING ON EARLY STAGE ENTREPRENEURS, THE IRELAND FUNDS BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION PROMOTES THE SKILLS AND RESILIENCE NEEDED TO DEVELOP INDIGENOUS INDUSTRIES, ATTRACT INVESTORS AND, ULTIMATELY, TO CREATE JOBS.



"THE IRELAND FUNDS BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION PROVIDED AN INVALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARPEN OUR BUSINESS MODEL AND FOCUS ON ADDING VALUE TO OUR TARGET MARKET."

— Lewis Twaddle Loane of Signal Optimser



FOUNDED BY SAN FRANCISCO BASED IRELAND FUNDS AMERICA BOARD DIRECTOR, BILL MCKIERNAN OF WSM CAPITAL, LLC, THE BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION FINALISTS HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN CASH PRIZES AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS AND MENTORSHIP.

"The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition in partnership with Ireland's National Digital Research Centre (NDRC) proves that entrepreneurship is flourishing on the island of Ireland," said Bill McKiernan. "The business plans presented this year illustrate that young people in Ireland and Northern Ireland are solving complex societal and business problems with innovation, creativity, and perseverance. It is very gratifying to see the energy and intellectual horsepower these young people are dedicating to solving problems."

In 2017, The Ireland Funds partnered with NDRC to deliver the Business Plan Competition. Celebrating twelve years of investing in digital companies and start-up teams, to date, NDRC has worked with over 286 companies, which have raised €250m in follow-on investment funding.

Since 2017, The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition ventures have gone on to raise more than €6.2m in pre-seed investment. These include Enterprise Ireland Competitive Start funding, Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation grants, New Frontiers programmes, Local Enterprise Office grants and private sources. Several of the teams continue to bootstrap their ventures, gaining good customer traction and generating significant recurring revenues.

A FIRST: REMOTE COMPETITION

Due to government restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Business Plan Competition was delivered entirely remotely by The Ireland Funds and NDRC. The competition offered ten weeks of rigorous, virtual workshops and mentorship to the shortlisted teams to develop a pathway towards building a viable technology venture.

On 23 June 2020, nine teams took part in The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition showcase via Zoom where they pitched their ideas and fielded questions from the panel of stellar judges: Bill McKiernan, President of WSM Capital LLC and Chair; Ronan Devins, Head of IT at St. Patrick's Mental Health Services; Shay Garvey, Founding Partner of Frontline Ventures; Harry Hartford, President of Causeway Capital Management LLC; Ben Hurley, CEO of NDRC; Angela Moore, Managing Director of Ravensdale Capital LLC; and Gareth Quinn, COO of Kairos.

More than 65 people from around the globe joined the two-and-a-half-hour program online.



SIGNAL OPTIMISER

OpinionX



SafetyFreelancer™

#1 Safety Freelancer Platform



KeepAppy



THE WINNER: SIGNAL OPTIMISER

SIGNAL OPTIMISER, led by Queen's University Belfast student Lewis Twaddle Loane, won the top prize of €15,000 for their product, a plug-and-play device, connecting seamlessly with any musical instrument to continuously deliver 100% of the sound. Described by the world's official number one music retailer as "a game changer", their innovative solution incorporates new technology to eliminate signal loss and transform the quality of music.

Second runner up this year was **OPINIONX**. Dublin City University students, Daniel Kyne and Darragh O'Flaherty, were awarded €7,000 for their product, a hybrid survey platform for engaging large groups online to gather feedback, crowdsource ideas and discover new insights about a population. Bringing together the richness of a focus group with the simplicity of an online survey, OpinionX turns a noisy crowd of opinions into a single understandable voice.

Third runner up was **SAFETY FREELANCER**, the world's first outsourcing platform exclusively for health and safety professionals and the first to offer freelancing, contracting and full-time employment opportunities. It provides a marketplace for businesses and experts to connect and collaborate on a global stage, reducing costs, increasing efficiency, and making workplace safety more accessible.

A SPECIAL FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

The Ireland Funds partnered once again with St Patrick's Mental Health Services (SPMHS) to award a prize of €3,000 to kick start a mental health focussed business plan. **KEEPAPPY** scooped the prize for their wellness app on a mission to make mental health tools accessible for all. With 10 psychologist approved wellness tools, KeepAppy is currently active in over 100 countries and is empowering consumers and employees to take control of their mental health and wellbeing daily.

Orla Gogarty, Director of Digital Health at SPMHS, said: "SPMHS is delighted once again to partner with The Ireland Funds and NDRC on The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition. This competition is particularly important at this challenging time when entrepreneurs and start-ups need our support perhaps more than ever. We are witnessing a quiet revolution in how the innovative use of technology can play a critical role in helping us all stay connected with our work, health services and social support networks, even when we cannot be together in person. The BPC similarly focuses on how the creative, collaborative development and use of technology can do good for society. We have been greatly impressed with the quality of the teams and are delighted that the Mental Health Innovation Award has gone to KeepAppy."



For gorgeous getaways...

Ireland's Blue Book is a collection of Irish country house hotels,
manor houses, castles and restaurants.

Located throughout the island of Ireland these charming
and stylish hideaways are perfect for your holiday in Ireland.

For your free copy of the Ireland's Blue Book guide, please email your postal address to mail@irelandsbluebook.com
www.irelandsbluebook.com / T +353 1 676 9914





The George Moore Scholars

Outstanding Opportunities for Outstanding Students

One of the pillars of The Ireland Funds' mission is education. The Ireland Funds invests in high-quality education by supporting programs that widen access to and participation in third-level education, and extend a broad range of learning opportunities for students of all ages. The George Moore Scholars program is an ambitious initiative to offer extraordinary academic support to some of Ireland's best and brightest students.



**George Moore
Scholars**

In February 2020,

The Ireland Funds launched the George Moore Scholars program, an all-Ireland scholarship program which supports students who wish to undertake a master's degree in the US or elsewhere, to realize their full career potential.

In the first year, sixteen scholars were supported from a fund of €500,000. By 2025, it is expected that the number of George Moore Scholars will grow to 50 per annum, supported from a fund of €2 million annually.

The George Moore Scholars program is aimed at academically talented students from all academic disciplines within the twelve universities across Ireland and Northern Ireland and supports students who have completed their second and third-level education on the island of Ireland.

The high-value scholarships cover the cost of higher education fees, research, travel, visas, health insurance and other living costs associated with pursuing postgraduate education abroad.

In June 2020, sixteen George Moore Scholars were selected after a rigorous application process, which included academic review and interviews. These outstanding students from academic fields ranging from Economics, Law and Psychology to Music Performance and Film Making, will be supported to complete their master's degrees in the US and UK, commencing in Fall 2020.

We look forward to sharing the stories of these students with you as their extraordinary academic journey continues.

*For more information visit:
www.georgemoorescholars.ie*

"The George Moore Scholarship will allow me access to an educational opportunity like no other."

— *Eric Reynolds, George Moore Scholar studying a Master's in Statistics and Data Science at Yale University*



"I will be able to build on my knowledge of the Northern Ireland system by examining other education systems to learn best practice."

— *Emma Shaw, George Moore Scholar studying a Master's in Educational Policy at University of Texas*

"This Scholarship will allow me to continue my education at the University of Notre Dame, bringing me closer to my dream of becoming an entrepreneur. I hope to follow in George's footsteps, and use my (hopefully) future success as a means for good."

— *Gabriel Ogundipe, George Moore Scholar studying a Master's in Engineering, Science, Technology and Entrepreneurship (ESTEEM) at the University of Notre Dame*





“It was such a pleasure to meet the George Moore Scholars, these are Ireland’s brightest and best. I have no doubt every one of them will be successful in their various fields of study. George would have wished for them the happiest of futures.”

— Angela Moore



George Moore grew up in Co. Louth, Ireland.

George completed a bachelor and master's degree at University College Dublin before emigrating in 1972 to undertake further study at George Washington University in Washington D.C., where he completed an MBA and a DBA. As the son of a shoemaker, George realized the transformative effect education had on his own life. The experience of studying abroad catalyzed George's potential. He went on to become a serial entrepreneur and one of the founding fathers of the data analytics industry.



2020 was a difficult year as we said goodbye to several Board Directors of The Ireland Funds America and friends of The Ireland Funds. We are forever grateful for the contributions they made to the success of The Ireland Funds.



Joe Corcoran, a Board Director of The Ireland Funds America passed away in May, 2020. Joe was one of the first supporters of The Ireland Funds' mission in its earliest days. He and the Corcoran family have been actively involved in The Ireland Funds Boston events and generously hosted the annual Irish Night on Cape Cod event at their Ocean Edge Resort and Golf Club for many years.



Jack Dunfey, a Board Director of The Ireland Funds America passed away in June, 2020. Jack participated in the brainstorming sessions between co-founders Dan Rooney and Tony O'Reilly which gave birth to The Ireland Funds. He and his brothers Walter and Bob not only supported the mission of The Ireland Funds in its earliest days but were recognized as bridge-builders and advocates of cross-community dialogue during the intense days of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.



Dan Mulvihill passed away in July, 2020. Dan was a former Board Director and Life Trustee of The Ireland Funds America and was active with The Ireland Funds on the West Coast. Dan chaired The Ireland Funds San Diego Gala for many years. He and his wife Mary were members of The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society and longtime attendees at our annual Conferences in Ireland, as well as events in San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles and Phoenix.



John Hume passed away in August, 2020. John was a dear friend to The Ireland Funds and many of us had the pleasure of meeting him at The Ireland Funds' events over the years. As a founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and one of the key players in the Good Friday Agreement, he was often referred to as an "architect of peace." In 1998 he was co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize with his political counterpart, David Trimble. His tireless work was marked by The Ireland Funds with the establishment of The John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace at the University of Ulster. During the dark days of the Troubles, the two men forged a friendship as John made many visits to the US to educate US political leaders around the need for a peaceful resolution in Northern Ireland. The Ireland Funds is proud that the Chair now equips a new generation of peacebuilders, worldwide.



Denis Healy, a Board Director of The Ireland Funds America passed away in October, 2020. He was instrumental in establishing The Ireland Funds presence in Chicago. Denis and his wife Sondra have been great supporters of The Ireland Funds for decades and over the years attended our annual conferences in Ireland as well as the Chicago Gala.

THANK YOU

The Ireland Funds America wishes **Kyle Clifford**, our Vice President of Development and **Steve Greeley**, our Vice President of Development/ New England Director, the very best as they begin new chapters. Kyle's years of service to The Ireland Funds in New York/Pennsylvania/New Jersey and Steve's deep commitment to the New England area are greatly appreciated and they will be dearly missed.

Kyle Clifford



Steve Greeley





The Chicago 10th Anniversary Green Gala

February, 2020 The Ireland Funds' Chicago Young Leaders hosted a crowd of over 200 at their 10th Annual Green Gala Celebration. The contemporary, exclusive, loft space **CHEZ** was transformed into a beautiful green and white St. Patrick's venue. **The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band** started off the evening with stirring traditional Irish music. A short program emceed by **Brian Noonan**, radio personality at **WGN-AM & WTMJ-AM**, began with the live auction of a trip to Ireland. Guests then enjoyed dancing to **Shaun Anthony Signature Entertainment**. At the conclusion of the evening attendees were invited to **Timothy O'Toole's** for the after-party. Chicago Young Leaders Chair, **Abbey Canning** and Co-Chair **James Keeley**, thanked all the event's Committee members for a very successful evening including Ticket Chair: **Jack Gordon**; Auction Chair: **Andrew Hartford**; Sponsorship Chairs: **Daniel O'Keefe** and **Quinn McCarthy** and the Steering Committee, **Tristia Barrett**, **Michael Collins**, **Teddy Gilbane**, **Dan Gibbons**, **Meghan Lee**, **Katie Nallon**, **Thomas O'Neill**, **Gregory Reintjes**, **David Shine**, **Kenzie Ungar**, **Kathleen Weber** and **Patrick Zahren**. The Ireland Funds extends a huge thank you to all our sponsors and supporters: **American Airlines**, **GCM Grosvenor**, **EY**, **Breakthru Beverage**, **Illinois & Michigan Oil**, **CIBC Wealth Management**, **DLA Piper**, **Bimeda**, **Flood Brothers**, **Premier Catering and Events**, **Mayo Steel and Erectors**, **Chicago Cut**, **Signature Bank** and **James Sheehan of Dreamtown**, and donors **Patrick & Betsy Canning** and **Nick & Meredith Parrish**.

- 1 Members of the Chicago Young Leaders Steering Committee: Jack Gordon, Meghan Lee, Kenzie Ungar, Kathleen Weber, Roseann LeFevour, Tristia Barrett, Abbey Canning, Quinn McCarthy, James Keeley, (Seated) Tom O'Neill and Andrew Hartford
- 2 Brendan Kelly, Sam Parent, James Keeley, Brynne Eberhardt, Drew Knoechel, Liz Harper, David Shine, Elizabeth Purtell, Tom Rafferty, Rishi Patel
- 3 Thomas Walsh, Kathy Minko, Mick Layton, Megan Walsh, Jenna Roach, Susie Mathias, Tess Brinckerhoff, Kerrianne Conroy, Jeremy Trevvett, Katherine Cienkus, Matt O'Brien
- 4 Back row: Charlie Dowdle, Jimmy Murray, Jack Richmond, Jack Gordon, Pat McDonough, Bo Murray, Connor Person, Ryan Bradley
Front row: Jim Lynch, Willy Palivos, Kathleen Murphy, Kari McCowry, Emily Daniels, Kelley Leyden, Casey Doherty, Jeff Daugherty, Tom Kennedy
- 5 Caroline Newell, Emma Shepard, Shannon Sullivan, Lauren Kriz, Mari Lehman, Samantha Miller, Claire Brennan, Alyssa VandenBusch

Photos: Datu Ramel



New Jersey Golf Classic

October, 2020 The Ireland Funds hosted its 18th Annual New Jersey Golf Classic at **Bayonne Golf Club** for over 80 golfers and friends. **Gene McQuade**, Chairman of The Ireland Funds America, opened the program and thanked the Golf Committee, the event's sponsors and everyone who came out to support the work of The Ireland Funds during such a challenging time. He thanked his fellow Board Directors, **Mike Higgins, Shane Naughton, Kevin Curley** and **Bill Murphy** for supporting the event and introduced **Patrick Murphy**, Chair of the 2020 New Jersey Golf Classic and President & CEO of **Trident Construction**. He noted how Patrick started as a Young Leader and was now leading one of The Ireland Funds' flagship fundraisers. Patrick announced that the event had surpassed its fundraising target which was key as the current pandemic proved devastating to so many organizations supported by The Ireland Funds. Special thanks to this year's key sponsors: **Cassin & Cassin LLP, Mutual of America, Northern Litho**, and **Trident Construction**. We are grateful to Invest Northern Ireland for underwriting this year's Cocktail Reception and the following Foursomes Sponsors: **Bank of Ireland, Children's Medical Research Foundation, Curley Financial Group, John Degan & Family, Douglas Management & Realty, Michael Higgins, KPMG, Brian & Joelle Kelly Family Foundation, Marsh, Robert J. McCann, Conor T. McCoy, Shane Naughton, The Padded Wagon** and the **Van Lenten Trust**. Special thanks to our 2020 New Jersey Golf Classic Patron **Robert J. McCann**, the New Jersey Golf Classic Chair Patrick Murphy and our 2020 committee who made this year's event possible: **Anthony Callaghan, Kevin Curley, Ed Dowling, Brendan P. Farrell, Jr., Bob Garrett, Michael P. Higgins, Michael J. Hurley, Jr., Martin P. Kehoe, Thomas N. Kelly, Conor T. McCoy, Angus Miller, William M. Murphy, Charles P. Reagan, Pat Tully**.



- 1 Gene McQuade, Patrick Murphy
- 2 The 2020 Committee: Conor McCoy, Michael Higgins, Kevin Curley, Michael Hurley, Anthony Callaghan, Patrick Murphy, Eddie Dowling, Tom Kelly, Gene McQuade
- 3 Michael Higgins, Bill Murphy, Gene McQuade, Gerry Ryan, Rory Mulcahy Sr.
- 4 Mike O'Neill, Pat O'Brien, Kevin Curley, Bill Foley, Sal Digregorio
- 5 Michael Hurley of Cassin & Cassin LLP with Guests
- 6 Brendan Ripp, Michael Ludwig, Conor McCoy, Brian Finnegan
- 7 Dr. Marcus Woo, Dan Conley, Dante DiSibato, Dr. Scott Serels
- 8 Eddie Dowling and Guests



ABOUT THE IRELAND FUNDS WINEGEESE SOCIETY

Members of The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society represent some of The Ireland Funds' most generous donors. The Society celebrates wine, food and art of Irish provenance from around the world while raising support for the work of The Ireland Funds. The name "WineGeese" comes from the story of the Wild Geese—a term coined to describe a group of Irish families who fled Ireland in the 17th century and established successful wineries around the world. Today, members enjoy access to private trips, tours, and tastings at vineyards around the world. All activities are funded by WineGeese Society members.

For more information on The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society, contact Jane McCarter O'Dowd, jodowd@irelandfunds.org

MEMBERS OF THE IRELAND FUNDS WINEGEESE SOCIETY GATHER IN DALLAS TO UNCORK NEW WINES FROM TRIPLE N RANCH WINERY

NOVEMBER, 2020

Twenty guests enjoyed a beautiful evening under the Texas stars at The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society's Outdoor *Autumn Wine Pairing* hosted by **Kevin Curley**, Chairman of The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society and National Board Director of The Ireland Funds America. The fundraiser was kicked off with a welcome from Texas Director, **Darina Padian**, who highlighted The Ireland Funds response to the needs in Ireland over the course of 2020. Kevin Curley also welcomed guests and raised a toast in memory of WineGeese Society co-founder **John Sharkey** for all he did to advance the Society and in memory of Dr. Bernard Bradley for his generous past gift to The Ireland Funds.

The evening was replete with various wines from the **Triple N Ranch Winery** — a recently established winery owned by **Michelle and Richard, M.D., Anderson**. **Michael McClendon**, the winemaker and enologist, spoke about each wine and its pairings. **Tom Codd**, National Board Director of The Ireland Funds America, proposed a toast to **Mike Corboy** who played the important "twist of fate" role in the creation of The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society. Additionally, **John Tillotson**, past Chairman of the Society, toasted former Texas Director, **Netta Blanchard** who also played a crucial role in the creation of the Society.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Shelly & Tom Codd | 4 Kevin Curley, Darina Padian, |
| 2 Lou Ann & Mike Corboy | Michael McClendon, |
| 3 Susan & Vince Bradley | Michelle & Richard Anderson |
| | 5 Kevin and Conor Curley |

Photos: Can Turkyilmaz



Texas Fall Golf Invitational

November, 2020 The autumn weather provided the perfect backdrop for the 32 golfers who participated in The Texas Fall Golf Invitational held at the prestigious **Lakewood Country Club** in Dallas. **Darina Padian**, Texas Director, kicked off the tournament with a welcome and statement of appreciation for the generous support of The Ireland Funds and its mission. Darina also recognized the Platinum Sponsors, **Tom & Shelly Codd**; **Kevin Curley** of **Curley Financial Group, LLC**; **John Tillotson** and **James Tillotson** of **St. Jude Company** for their longstanding partnership and kind generosity. **Tom Codd**, National Board Member of The Ireland Funds America, thanked the committee, shared **Tommy Gallagher's** well wishes for a good day of golf, and welcomed first timers. The tournament was a shamle format. On the 9th hole, golfers were treated to a **Kilbeggan Whiskey** tasting. During the Reception, Darina shared a special Zoom recording of some of the long-term Irish golfers who have played in past Texas Irish American Cups. Winners for lowest team score net were **Kevin Curley, Kevin Curley, II, Brian Casey**; and **Ed Garahan**. The second-place winners were **Waymon Levell, Bob Elliott, Gary Beene** and **Tim Murchison**. Closest to the pin winner was **Bob Elliott**. Overall, a perfect day for golf while supporting the many charities in Ireland. All hoped to gather again in the spring for the 22nd Texas Irish American Cup Challenge in May 10, 2021.

- 1 Jim Sullivan, Matt Sullivan, Tom Codd, Dan Sullivan
- 2 Scott Beasley, Marc Lyons, Don Hanratty, Ryan Hanratty
- 3 Ed Garahan, Kevin Curley II, Brian Casey, Kevin Curley
- 4 Cliff Miercort, Lou Ann Corboy, Dan Sheehan
- 5 James Tillotson, John Osborne, Tanya Schneider, John Tillotson
- 6 Brian Casey, Scott Beasley, Marc Lyons, Ed Garahan
- 7 Lou Ann & Mike Corboy, John Tillotson, Tanya Schneider, Cliff Miercort, Don Hanratty, James Tillotson
- 8 Zoom call with Tommy Gallagher and Irish golfers
- 9 Darina Padian

Photos: Can Turkyilmaz





Texas Emerald Ball

HONOREES: GARY KELLY AND ENDA KENNY

March, 2020 More than 240 guests attended The Texas Emerald Ball at the **Adolphus Hotel**. This year, The Ireland Funds had the privilege of honoring **Southwest Airlines'** Chairman and CEO, **Gary Kelly**. **Darina Padian**, The Ireland Funds Texas Director, kicked off the evening by welcoming guests, sponsors, and table sponsors; the Ball Co-Chairs, **Maureen Kelly Cooper** and **Kathryn Cassidy**; and the Committee for their commitment and support.

Gene McQuade, The Ireland Funds America Chairman, also thanked the attendees for their partnership and generosity, "Your involvement makes a profound difference 365 days a year and for that, we salute you."

David Cronin, The Ireland Funds America former President and CEO, presented **Enda Kenny**, former Prime Minister/Taoiseach of Ireland, with **The Ireland Funds Lifetime Achievement Award**, which honors an individual who has demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable efforts throughout one's life. **Tom Codd**, The Ireland Funds America Board Member, introduced **Tom Nealon**, Southwest Airlines President, who then introduced Gary Kelly. Nealon and Kenny presented Kelly with The Ireland Funds' 2020 Philanthropic Leadership Award, which honors an individual who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to making a positive impact on the community through giving of time, talent and resources. Kelly, who is of Irish descent, said, "I am honored to receive this prestigious award. I am so proud to be a part of The

Ireland Funds." His personal and Southwest Airlines families were on hand to congratulate and celebrate with him. To close the program, internationally known Irish tenor **Ronan Tynan** sang a few songs, closing with "God Bless America." Special thanks to the following sponsors: Texas Emerald Ball Sponsor: **CFM International**; Platinum Sponsor: **GE Aviation**; Gold Plus Sponsor: **PwC**; Gold Sponsor: **Southwest Airlines, Shelly & Tom Codd, Dolores McCall/McCall Oil and Gas**; Silver Sponsor: **Airlines for America, Altair Global, Boeing, Kevin Curley/Curley Financial Group, Cushman & Wakefield, GSD&M, H & K International**

- 1 Gary & Carol Kelly, David & Renata Cronin, Enda & Fionnuala Kenny
- 2 Jean-Marc Domergue, Michelle Domergue, Alyssa McNeil, Victoria (Vic) Adams, Adrian Adams, Tracey Repetto, Horacio Repetto
- 3 Co-Chairs Kathryn Cassidy and Maureen Kelly Cooper
- 4 Rev. Bill Shaw, David Cronin, Gene McQuade
- 5 Gary Kelly, Tom Codd, Darina Padian, Enda Kenny, Kevin Curley
- 6 Jim & Margo Keyes, Kelley & Keith Burks
- 7 Enda Kenny, Sharon & Darren Heffernan
- 8 John Tillotson, Kennedy Tillotson, Sylvia Tillotson, Vicki & Dulany Howland
- 9 Enda Kenny, Gary Kelly, Gene McQuade, Darina Padian
- 10 Gary & Carol Kelly and family
- 11 Netta Blanchard, Darina Padian
- 12 Corri Reichert, Amy Lyon, Marianne Malina, Anissa Reil
- 13 Shelly & Tom Codd
- 14 Richard, M.D. & Michelle Anderson; Lou Ann & Mike Corboy
- 15 Vince Bradley, M.D. & Susan Bradley, M.D
- 16 Rachel Gaffney, Billie Leigh Rippey, Bailey Harrison, Leslie Ann Crozier

Photos: Can Turkylmaz







Washington DC National Gala

HONOREES: HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI, MATTHEW SHAY, CONGRESSMAN PETER KING

March, 2020 The Ireland Funds hosted its 28th Annual National Gala at **The National Building Museum** in Washington, D.C. An Taoiseach, **Leo Varadkar**, TD Prime Minister of Ireland addressed the 600+ guests attending The Ireland Funds' event as part of his St. Patrick's Day visit to the U.S. The Gala's theme was "A Celebration of Irish America's Commitment to Peace and Reconciliation." and honored leaders in business and government. House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** of the U.S. House of Representatives received The Ireland Funds Distinguished Leadership Award and **Matthew Shay**, President and CEO of the National Retail Federation received The Ireland Funds Business Leadership Award. Special recognition was given to Congressman **Peter King**, Co-Chair of Friends of Ireland in Congress. The evening was a gathering of Irish and Irish American leaders in business, government, philanthropy and the arts. The event celebrated Irish culture and heritage and generated support for the work of The Ireland Funds. The annual Gala is a key opportunity to celebrate Irish-

American relations in the presence of key decision makers providing a unique platform to advance the Irish agenda in America. Guests of note included H.E. **Daniel Mulhall**, Irish Ambassador to the U.S; H.E. **Edward F. Crawford** U.S. Ambassador to Ireland; **Michael Tatham**, The British Embassy Charge d'Affaires; and Representative **Richard E. Neal**, Chairman of Friends of Ireland in Congress.

- 1 David Cronin, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Shaun Kelly
- 2 Shaun Kelly, Cong. Richie Neal, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
- 3 Shaun Kelly, Hon. Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Susan Davis, Cong. Peter King, Mark Tuohy
- 4 Shaun Kelly
- 5 An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar
- 6 Cong. Richie Neal, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
- 7 The National Building Museum

- 8 House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
- 9 Shaun Kelly, Matthew Shay, David Cronin
- 10 Cong. Richie Neal, Cong. Peter King
- 11 Cong. Peter King
- 12 Suzanne Corcoran Early and guests
- 13 John Feehery, Shannon McGahn
- 14 Guest, Paul Quinn

Photos: Erika Layne and Caitlin Taylor



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REMOTE GLOBAL 5K

#YLGLOBAL5K • SAT 19 SEPTEMBER 2020

ON SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2020, HUNDREDS OF OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS RAN, WALKED, HIKEED, AND EVEN PADDLED OUR REMOTE GLOBAL 5K TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF **THE IRELAND FUNDS**.

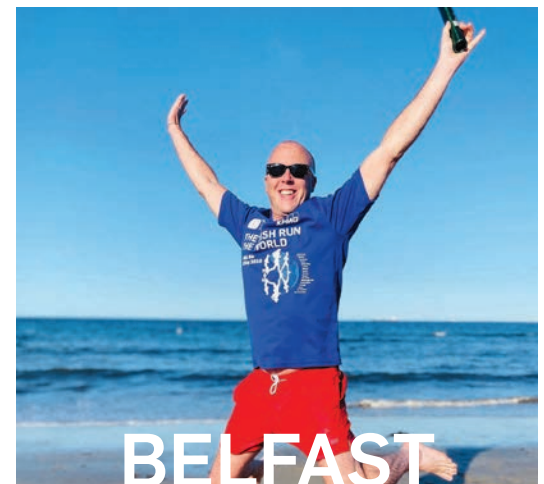
Irish Olympian and Global 5k Ambassador Sonia O'Sullivan inspired us to run and enjoy the experience no matter where we were around the world. Although everyone took part separately, in a place of their own choosing, the sense of camaraderie was strong with everyone coming together on social media under #YLGlobaL5K to share pictures of their routes and local landmarks. Special thanks to our lead sponsor AIB.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AROUND THE WORLD FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS GREAT EVENT.

AIB
Fineos
An Post
Arthur Cox
Lifestyle Solutions

The Lansdowne Club
Clonakilty
Fineos
Scentre Group
Glen Dimplex Australia
MCG Civil

Aircom
Concise Infrastructure
Consulting
Taste Ireland
Gym+Coffee
Alexa Springs





DALLAS



DOWN



DUBLIN



GALWAY



KERRY



LONDON



NEW ZEALAND



SINGAPORE



SYDNEY



TOKYO



TORONTO



Palm Beach Emerald Isle Ball

HONOREES: JOHN & AMY PHELAN

February, 2020 The Ireland Funds celebrated a major milestone at its annual Palm Beach Emerald Ball at **The Breakers**. Not only was it the 30th anniversary of the event, it was also its most financially successful to-date because of the generosity of **John & Amy Phelan**, this year's honorees and recipients of **The Ireland Funds 2020 Philanthropic Leadership Award**.

The black-tie gala, which was co-chaired by **Lore Moran Dodge, Michele Kessler, Hillie Mahoney, Sheila O'Malley Fuchs** and **Thomas C. Quick**, drew nearly 200 friends and supporters. The evening began with an al fresco cocktail reception in the Mediterranean courtyard, followed by dinner and dancing in the Circle Dining Room with entertainment by **The Bob Merrill Orchestra**.

Gene McQuade, Chairman of The Ireland Funds America welcomed guests and acknowledged the dignitaries in attendance that included the Honorable **Elizabeth Frawley Bagley**; Irish Ambassador to the United States **Dan Mulhall**; Consul General of Ireland **Shane Stephens**, and Ambassador **Earle Mack**, former United States Ambassador to Finland.

The Phelans were presented with the Philanthropic Leadership Award. John Phelan's heartwarming acceptance speech highlighted his Irish heritage and the role his parents played during his formative years. "It was my childhood, not my degrees, that made me who I am today. We like to make philanthropic

investments where the return is seen on people's faces. Real blessings come from being able to give, and giving more than you take," John Phelan said.

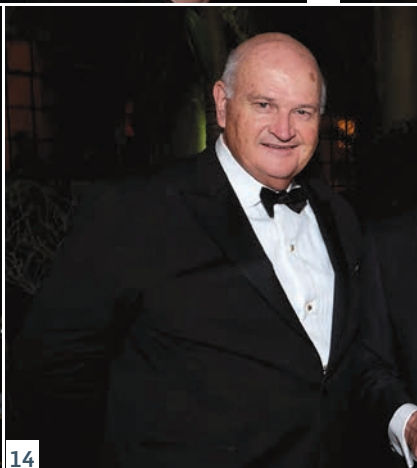
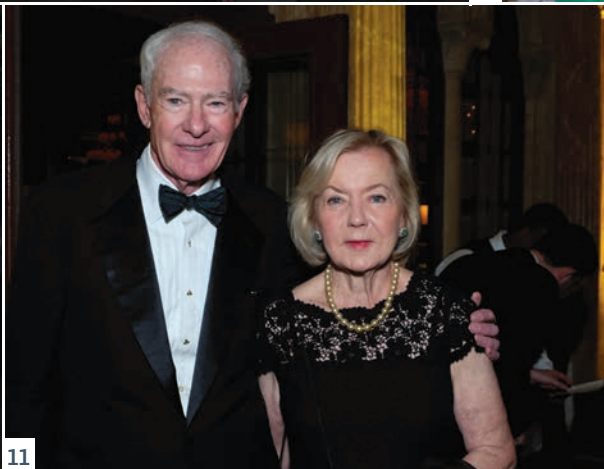
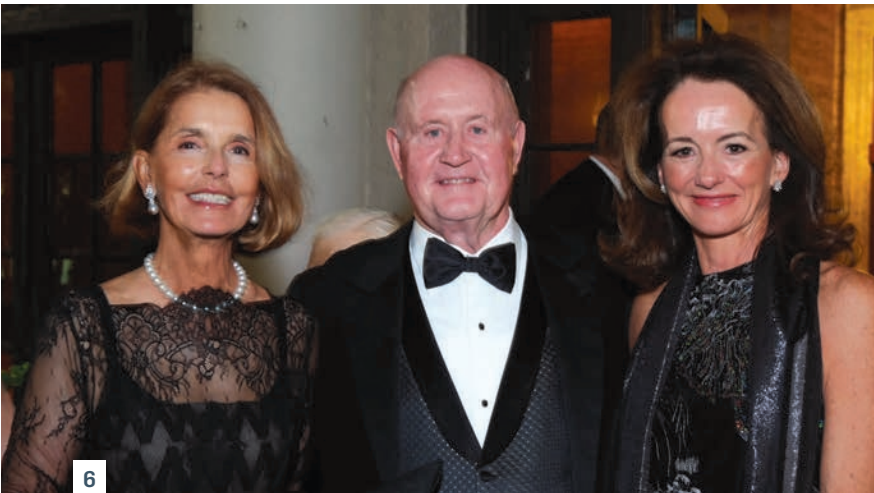
After dinner, Tom Quick, Board Director of The Ireland Funds America, conducted a live auction for items that included trips to Ireland and Monaco. After the auction, guests were entertained by a memorable live performance by Irish vocalist, **Anthony Kearns**.

Among those in attendance were **Bridget & Bill Koch, Darlene & Jerry Jordan, Don Burns, Heather Henry, Carole & Ambassador Earle Mack, Una & Bill Murphy, Mackenzie Phelan, Karin Luter, Talbott Maxey, Kelly & Joe Rooney, Pepper & Michael Jackson, Michael Donnell, Jean Van Sinderen Law, Bob Crowe, Peggy & Michael McGrath, Marietta & Dale McNulty, Diane & Victor Scaravilli, James Borynack and Adolfo Zaralegui**.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Kyle Clifford, Amy & John Phelan, David Cronin, Gene McQuade | 8 Tom Quick, Lore Dodge, James Daras, Mary Quick |
| 2 Mackenzie Phelan, Amy Phelan, John Phelan, Aisling & Gerry Purcell | 9 Hillie Mahoney, Bob Merrill |
| 3 Honorees John & Amy Phelan | 10 Greta Mulhall, Hon. Elizabeth Frawley Bagley |
| 4 Shaun Kelly, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Mary Kelly | 11 Kip & Peggy Condron |
| 5 Howard & Michele Kessler | 12 Michael & Pepper Jackson |
| 6 Esther Murray, Patrick & Mary Donaghy | 13 Amy Phelan, Loretta Brennan Glucksman |
| 7 The McQuade Family | 14 Bill Murphy |

Photos: Capehart Photography, Jim Higgins







San Francisco Gala Dinner

HONOREE: JOHN T. LYNCH, JR. AND FRANCIS C. MAHONEY

March, 2020 The Ireland Funds kicked off the St. Patrick's Day season by honoring **John T. Lynch, Jr.**, General Manager, **San Francisco 49ers** and **Francis C. Mahoney**, Vice Chair and US-West Region Managing Partner of **Ernst & Young LLP (EY)** in San Francisco at the Gala Dinner. This is the largest West Coast event of the 150+ events held globally by The Ireland Funds. John Lynch, Jr., was presented with **The Ireland Funds Distinguished Leadership Award** and Francis C. Mahoney was presented with **The Ireland Funds Corporate Philanthropy Award**. "We're delighted to honor two great friends of Ireland," said **Marjorie Muldowney**, Vice President at The Ireland Funds. "Our honorees possess a deep-rooted spirit of Ireland and have shown themselves to be dynamic in so many ways. We have the opportunity now to pay tribute to their successful careers and celebrate the importance of their philanthropic commitments to projects in Ireland and the United States."

400 guests attended the Gala at **St. Francis Hotel**, including Consul General **Robert O'Driscoll**, The Ireland Funds Board Directors **John Lynch Sr.**, **Bill McKiernan** and **Bart Murphy**. Key corporate supporters included **EY**, **Kennedy Wilson**, **Goldman Sachs** and **Google** along with **First Republic Bank**, **IDA Ireland**, **San Francisco 49ers**, **Alice Phelan Sullivan Corporation**, **Deloitte**, **DCU**, **Queen's University Belfast**, **UCD** and **UCSF**. The event was generously

supported by **Mary & Francis C. Mahoney**, **Joan & Dave O'Reilly**, **Maureen Sullivan**, and **EJ Tracy**. Longtime supporters **Jenny & Michael Caulfield**, **Mary & Tom Hunt**, **Candice & Ryan Murray**, **Mary & Joe Toboni**, **Kathleen Ryan**, **Mary & Steve Almassy**, **Mrs. Frank J. McGinnis**, **Ann King & Steve Murphy**, and **Kerri Murphy** of **Microsoft** attended as well as 49ers Coach **Kyle Shanahan**, **Al Guido (President)**, and Super Bowl Champ **Keena Turner**.

Special thanks to **Lisa Schwartz** of **Ernst & Young LLP**, **Mike Gonzalez** of the **San Francisco 49ers** and **The Merrion Hotel**, **Ashford Castle**, **Dromoland Castle**, **Sheen Falls Lodge**, **Fitzpatrick's Hotel New York**, **Cinta Salon**, **San Francisco 49ers**, **San Francisco Giants**, and **Mission Rock Resort** for their generous support.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 David Cronin, Francis C. Mahoney, John Lynch Sr., Marjorie Muldowney, John Lynch Jr., Bart Murphy, Bill McKiernan | 9 Google guests |
| 2 Francis & Mary Mahoney and family | 10 Francis C. Mahoney and guests |
| 3 John Lynch, Jr. on stage | 11 John Lynch Sr. |
| 4 Francis C. Mahoney on stage | 12 Kyle & Mandy Shanahan |
| 5 Sourdough Sam | 13 Stephanie & John Flynn |
| 6 Bill McKiernan, Francis C. Mahoney, Bart Murphy | 14 Kerri Murphy and guests |
| 7 Colin Ryan | 15 Annie Powers and friends |
| 8 Linda & John Lynch, Jr. | 16 Lindsey and Francis C. Mahoney |
- Photos: Elaine Lee*







Embassy Dinner for IFGB Supporters

HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR ADRIAN O'NEILL AND AISLING O'NEILL

February, 2020 The Ambassador of Ireland **Adrian O'Neill** and **Aisling O'Neill** hosted an intimate dinner for supporters of The Ireland Funds Great Britain (IFGB) at the **Embassy of Ireland** in London. This evening was an opportunity for IFGB to thank supporters for their membership of the recently launched 100 Club. Guests enjoyed a pre-dinner drinks reception with music provided by renowned flautist **Jacquelyn Hynes** accompanied by **Bill Faughan**. Once guests were seated for dinner, Ambassador O'Neill welcomed everyone and charted the lasting relationship between the Embassy and The Ireland Funds Great Britain. IFGB Chair **Rory Godson** also spoke, thanking the Ambassador and his wife for hosting the event and the guests for their ongoing generosity and support of the IFGB.

- 1 Aileen Patterson, Vanessa Sloan, Garrett Hayes, Seamus McGarry, Brian Dickie, Ruairi Conneely
- 2 Amb. Adrian O'Neill, Ruairi Conneely, Patrick Coveney
- 3 Emily Bohill, Jacqueline O'Donovan
- 4 Sir John Parker, Rosaleen Blair
- 5 John Feeney, Catherine Kavanagh, Michael Roddy
- 6 Zachary Webb, Brian Dickie
- 7 John Brennan, Padraig O'Connor, Ross Frenett, Victoria Wallace
- 8 Rory Godson, Des O'Connor, David Ross

Photos: Noel Mullen





The Ireland Funds Great Britain News

COVID-19 success stories

Charities in Great Britain were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the beginning of the crisis, with the help of the Young Leaders, IFGB reached out to their supported organizations working on the frontline. Despite their services being greatly affected and fundraising opportunities drastically cut, it was inspiring to hear how they were adapting in providing care and support to those most vulnerable in the community. Below are some of their stories.



◀ Irish Chaplaincy

Irish Chaplaincy provides support to excluded, vulnerable and isolated Irish people in Britain, such as seniors, Irish Travelers and prisoners. As it is the only charity supporting Irish prisoners across the whole of England and Wales, it has been on the frontline during the COVID-19 crisis. With no visiting hours allowed in prisons, all forms of income from working within prisons stopped, and most prisons operating with skeleton staff, Irish Chaplaincy's support is greatly needed. Alongside receiving and responding to post and email with hundreds of prisoners across England and Wales, Irish Chaplaincy has distributed cell resources such as books, CDs and puzzles to 120 prisons with Irish prisoners.

Southwark Irish Pensioners Project ▶

Since lockdown, Southwark Irish Pensioners Project (SIPP) has kept in touch with over 400 older people living in London with weekly phone calls, posting regular newsletters and delivering emergency supplies of groceries, medicines, cooked meals and activity parcels. The staff also provide a seven-day service collecting phone messages, offering advice, support, and information over the phone and on the doorstep. The staff have even moved two clients into sheltered housing in the midst of the pandemic. Some volunteers are also personal shoppers for pensioners who are shielding and have no family support.



◀ Anam Cara Parental & Sibling Bereavement Support

Anam Cara has been proactive in adjusting how they provide their essential services by setting up of private Facebook groups, producing videos for recently bereaved parents on their website and creating online groups on Zoom. Parents have really benefited from their online Group Support Meetings, introduced in May. These meetings online will continue, alongside face-to-face support groups which returned in September.



The Ireland Funds Great Britain News

Continued...

Leeds Irish Communities ►

Leeds Irish organizations came together to provide new services, including befriending phone calls and shopping and medication collections, for members in the community who were isolated or in need of food or medication during the pandemic. Under the banner, 'We are many groups, but we are one community,' the initiative brings together Leeds Irish Health & Homes (LIHH), Hugh O'Neill's Leeds GAA, JFK GAA, Leeds St Benedict's Harps GAA, The Irish Arts Foundation, Leeds Irish Centre, Leeds Irish Golf Society, Helen Rowland Academy of Irish Dancing, Watson McCleave Academy of Irish Dancing, The Leeds St Patrick's Day Parade, The Joyce-O'Donnell School of Irish Dancing, The Leeds Mayo Association, and Leeds Irish Ladies' Golf Society. A community newsletter was printed and distributed to over 1,000 people, a pen pal exchange was established with local schools to combat isolation, and over 230 people received 'taste of Ireland' packs with Irish goods, papers, quizzes to let people know they were not alone and how to keep in touch.

The Leeds Irish Communities

Need **SUPPORT?**



THE
IRELAND
FUNDS

The 100 Club

The Ireland Funds Great Britain has launched a new initiative to grow the funds directed towards its Annual Grant Round. Following a soft launch in November 2019, the 100 Club aims to recruit 100 members each donating £100 a month over a three-year period. The 100 Club is the perfect entry point for supporters interested in funding the work of The Ireland Funds Great Britain and directly supporting charities working within the Irish community in Great Britain and across the island of Ireland.

100% of the membership subscription is directed towards IFGB's Annual Grant Round which this year will provide much needed funding to community and cultural organizations in Great Britain and on the island of Ireland struggling in the face of COVID-19. In addition to meeting the need to grow the Annual Grant Round, membership of the 100 Club offers members new networking opportunities. In February 2020, early members of the 100 Club were thanked with an invitation to a dinner at the Embassy of Ireland in London, hosted by the Ambassador of Ireland to Great Britain, His Excellency Adrian O'Neill.

When we are able to meet again in person, we hope to provide both opportunities to meet some of the charities supported by the Grant Round and arrange more events to bring members together.



▼ Annual Grant Round

The Ireland Funds Great Britain was delighted to open its Annual Grant Round in October and has reported a three-fold increase in organisations applying for funding; demonstrating the sheer depth of need that exists in the community. Thanks to the generosity of private and corporate donors, the members of our 100 Club and our Young Leaders Society, will be able to provide much needed funding to many charities supporting Irish communities in Great Britain and on the island of Ireland. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFGB welcomed applications from organizations that have refocused or prioritized to deal with the crisis.





Sydney Supporters Reception

March, 2020 Before the world drastically changed, The Ireland Funds Australia celebrated the start of March “the Irish month,” by saying thank you to our wonderful supporters at our 2020 Supporters Reception, kindly hosted by Partner **David Murray** of **Deloitte** in their stylish Sydney offices. Chairman **Yvonne Le Bas** welcomed Amb. **Richard Andrews** who had just arrived back from his posting in Ireland, fellow Board Members, Dr. **Stanley Quek**, Chairman of The Ireland Funds Singapore, Governors and major Sponsors including **Coolmore**, **PwC** and **Lifestyle Solutions**. Chairman of **The Lansdowne Club**, **Philip O’Sullivan** was thanked for The Lansdowne Club’s continuing partnership with The Ireland Funds Australia as its “Charity of Choice.” Yvonne provided an update on how The Ireland Funds Australia had mobilized chapters all over the world to provide a global Irish response to the recent catastrophic bushfires. She also spoke on

the June 2019 Grant Round in which over \$400,000 went to support 18 projects in Ireland and Australia. Former Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Richard Andrews, also spoke. During the Ambassador’s time in Ireland, The Ireland Funds Australia worked closely with him to form a partnership with Trinity College to provide Scholarship places for Australian residents at **Trinity College**, launched by the Governor General on his visit to Ireland. Executive Director **Teresa Keating** personally thanked everyone for continuing to support The Ireland Funds Australia.

- 1 Dr. Stanley Quek, Yvonne Le Bas, Amb. Richard Andrews
- 2 Nicole Patterson, David Murray, David Kelly, Rosemary Nolan
- 3 Teresa Keating, Yvonne Le Bas
- 4 Andrew Hyland, Helen Waldron, Donal Griffin
- 5 Jennifer Najdek, Niall Ronan, Yvonne Le Bas, Teresa Keating, Richard Andrews, Donna Campbell

- 6 Amb. Richard Andrews
- 7 John Moran, Christine Conolly, Ronan MacSweeney, Patrick Lynam
- 8 David Eccles, Amb. Richard Andrews

Photos: KristyLee Photography



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Australia Virtual Events 2020

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe, The Ireland Funds Australia, like so many others, was significantly impacted by being unable to hold in-person fundraising events. Together with our dedicated Australian Young Leader committees we adapted and brought many of our supporters together, albeit virtually, and had some fun online. During isolation, we kept everyone fit from their living rooms by hosting online bootcamps, thanks to **Caroline McDonald** from **Outright Change Fitness**. To keep our minds sharp in lockdown, The Australian Young Leaders hosted two online trivia nights, with more than 80 teams participating overall. Brain-bending questions were asked to our teams over Zoom from Chairman **Yvonne Le Bas**, Irish Olympian **Sonia O'Sullivan**, Ireland's Ambassador to Australia H.E. **Breandán Ó Caollai** and his wife **Carmel**, Consul General **Owen Feeney** and Sydney Young Leaders'

Chair **Donna Campbell**. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd as well as best dressed were generously supplied by our sponsors **Taste Ireland**, **HelloDrinks** and **PJ O'Brien's**. Feeling artsy and inspired, friends and supporters of The Ireland Funds Australia created their very own charcoal drawing with an online art workshop thanks to the guidance and instruction of **Miriam Innes**. Hailing from County Mayo and now based in Brisbane, Miriam Innes is an amazingly talented Irish artist best known for her charcoal drawings and her large-scale charcoal installations of hyper-realistic sprawling streetscapes.

- 1 Virtual bootcamp
- 2 Virtual trivia
- 3 Virtual art workshop





Snapshot of our Projects

Our grant round in June 2020 totalled \$248,323*

LEARNING HUB LIMERICK

Working with parents, schools and the wider community, Learning Hub Limerick provides a safe, welcoming and inspiring learning environment where young people can explore education.



As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, LHL endeavoured to **adapt their learning delivery** and programmes to **online** resources and platforms.



Funding from The Ireland Funds Australia enabled LHL to reach more children most in need of help, **raising educational aspirations** and **creating positive experiences** in a happy, child-friendly environment.



INNER CITY ENTERPRISE

Inner City Enterprise helps unemployed individuals, social enterprises and potential youth entrepreneurs establish their own businesses in the inner-city Dublin area.



Currently, **half of people aged under 24** in Ireland are **unemployed** and the COVID-19 pandemic has only made this worse; ICE is committed to changing that statistic.



With the help of The Ireland Funds Australia, ICE is running a **Youth Enterprise Training Programme**, a 4-week course to train young people aged 18-30 in **hard and soft business skills** and **consider entrepreneurship** as a future career.

COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

Community Action Network is a social justice organisation that works with local communities to tackle local low-socioeconomic issues with innovation. As a direct result of our funding, CAN will further their work in the inner-city communities of Dublin South Central to:

RESPOND



to serious anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods arising from the drug trade

ENABLE



effective youthwork to draw young people engaging in anti-social behaviour into more productive lives

SUPPORT



the regeneration of inner-city communities especially flat complexes



WWF

After the devastating bushfires this summer where more than **12 million hectares** of forest and bushland was **burnt**, at least **1.25 billion animals perished**, **34 lives** were lost and around **2,700 homes destroyed**. The Ireland Funds Australia mobilised with our supporters, raising funds to respond to the devastation and be part of the rebuild and recovery effort by helping to regreen Australia and rescue and regenerate the wildlife population now and into the future. We have become a Conservation Partner of World Wildlife Fund Australia, aiding them in their bushfire recovery effort to:

RESPOND



with emergency support to the front line of the fires, rescuing and caring for injured and fire-affected wildlife.

PROTECT



by working together to safeguard the wildlife and restore habitats after the fires.

FUTURE-PROOF



Australia's native wildlife and precious natural resources for people and nature for many generations to come.

*Some projects not shown include Women'sTec, Extern, Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation, Men's Sheds, Trinity Access Programmes



IRISH SUPPORT AGENCY



The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been felt far and wide, and as a result, The Irish Support Agency in Australia experienced a significant increase in requests from **more than 18,000 vulnerable Irish citizens** living in Australia, most of them **young individuals and families** who fall outside any assistance from the Government and are struggling to fund their basic needs.



The Ireland Funds Australia are committed to supporting worthwhile causes in Ireland and here in Australia and supported the ISA's fundraising initiative with a **\$10,000 donation to help Irish people in need** in Australia.



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS CULINARY INSTITUTE



In 2019, **four talented young indigenous chefs** from Australia's National Indigenous Culinary Institute were invited to attend the famous international food festival in Ireland *"A Taste of West Cork"*.



With the support of the then Ambassador to Ireland Richard Andrews and The Ireland Funds Australia, amongst others, the chefs cooked in restaurants throughout West Cork and at special gala dinners in Dublin, using **Australian indigenous ingredients** such as kangaroo, pepper berry and finger lime and **exchanging culinary and cultural ideas that will only help to strengthen our nations' special bonds**.



NORTHERN IRELAND

Since our inception The Ireland Funds Australia has supported projects in Northern Ireland. This year, with the help of The Australian Young Leaders, we continued that support to impactful projects such as:

YOUTH ACTION



YouthAction
NORTHERN IRELAND

who work with young people in Northern Ireland and border counties to **tackle inequalities; improve their life chances; inspire them as activists** and contribute to flourishing communities in a peaceful, shared society.

FIGHTING WORDS



which uses the creative practice of **writing and storytelling** to strengthen **children and young people** to be **resilient and successful** shapers of their own lives.

SUAS



suas
Literacy Changes Everything

who are launching their literacy interventions in Northern Ireland in late 2020. Through their **proven literacy and numeracy education models** they have been **providing 1:1 support** to children across DEIS schools in Ireland since 2002.

SCHOLARSHIPS

As part of our commitment to supporting important projects of education, The Ireland Funds Australia has been able to provide the following scholarships:

NO MIND LEFT BEHIND



CBS James Street

which gives promising young people from areas of severe social disadvantage access to an annual scholarship to enter third-level education and **covers the cost of books, accommodation and other key expenses**. With the help of one of our generous donors, scholarships were given to help **3 worthy students** from his former school, CBS James St, to fulfil their undoubted potential.

UCD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science

via a generous donor-advised grant, a **Masters of Science in Clinical and Translational Research bursary** has been established at UCD, aiming to train the next generation of investigators who will **lead cutting edge clinical research into the future**. This **bursary will be available for many years to come** and will help ensure novel interventions are developed to improve patients' lives.



Singapore Young Leaders Launch

March, 2020 H.E. Ambassador **Patrick Bourne** and Mrs. **Sonali Bourne** kindly hosted The Ireland Funds Singapore Young Leaders launch event at their residence, just before the COVID-19 lockdown began. The highly anticipated event was well-attended by over 50 young professionals keen to know more about The Ireland Funds, hear from esteemed speakers, and network. After a warm welcome from the Ambassador, Dr. **Stanley Quek**, Chairman of The Ireland Funds Singapore, gave an opening address and shared stories of his journey from Singapore to Ireland and back spanning over 50 years, including his role as the first Consul-General to Singapore (1994 to 2000), and his decades of involvement with The Ireland Funds. **Niamh Madden**, Young Leader, organizer and moderator of the event, introduced the panel of four speakers: **Noor Quek**, Founder and CEO at **NQ International** and Board Member of The Ireland Funds Singapore; **Gareth Mcllroy**, Managing Director of **Korn Ferry** and Board Member of The Ireland Funds Singapore; **Bill McCormack**, Partner at **Shearman & Sterling LLP** and member of The Ireland Funds Singapore Executive Committee, and **Declan Halpin**, Director at **UFIT Health and Fitness**. The panel spoke about the importance of networking, community, diversity, mentorships, and a willingness to take risks as well as giving back. Each panellist gave personal insight as to why they are actively involved with The Ireland Funds. Since the event, the inaugural Young Leaders Committee has been established with a growing membership, chaired by **Louise Broderick**, and supported by six Committee members. The Young Leaders organized the Singapore chapter's Remote Global 5K Run which was a great success with over 160 registered runners (despite the limitations of the current situation), and have designated **EQUAL** as their beneficiary for 2021. EQUAL is an award-winning animal assisted intervention center drawing on skills share with a counterpart organization in Ireland, to deliver horse therapy to the elderly, disadvantaged and people with special needs. The Young Leaders' plans for the year ahead include broadening membership, social and philanthropic networking, fundraising events and a mentorship program. The next generation of emerging philanthropists in Singapore is off to a great start!

- 1 Niamh Madden, Declan Halpin, Bill McCormack, Amb. Patrick Bourne, Gareth Mcllroy, Mrs. Noor Quek, Pamela Spreckley, Dr. Stanley Quek
- 2 Gabriel Teng, Lorna Waldron and other prospective Young Leaders
- 3 Our esteemed panel – Mrs. Noor Quek, Gareth Mcllroy, Bill McCormack, Declan Halpin
- 4 Dr. Stanley Quek, Mrs. Noor Quek, physio students and graduates from Singapore Institute of Technology
- 5 Ambassador Patrick Bourne, Kelvin Tan, Mathilde Fievez
- 6 Karl Cowman, Louise Broderick, Aislinn Dwyer, Mrs. Sonali Bourne

Photos: Issysshoots





THE
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Global Leadership Series

The Ireland Funds has pivoted its popular Global Leadership Series to a new online format bringing together supporters to interact with and hear insights from business and philanthropic leaders. Speakers have included:



David McRedmond

CEO of An Post



Jim Barry

Managing Director, Chief Investment Officer of BlackRock Alternatives Investors (BAI) and Global Head of BlackRock Real Assets



Sonia O'Sullivan

Irish Olympian



David Matthews

Irish Olympian



Jim Rooney

Author and Board Director of The Ireland Funds America



Jeremi Duru

Professor at American University's Washington College of Law

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO WATCH A SELECTION OF GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SERIES INTERVIEWS:



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Adrian Jones
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New York, New York

John B. Kane
Honorary Consul General
Aspen, Colorado

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Vice-Chair
The Ireland Funds America
KPMG (retired)
New York, New York

Michele Kessler
The Kessler Family Foundation
Palm Beach, Florida

Leslie King Grenier
Boston, Massachusetts

John T. Lynch
Lartigue Ventures LLC
San Diego, California

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Boston Capital Corporation
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