

TIFS News June 2023

Welcome Reception for the Ireland Rugby Seven's Team



On 5 April 2023, The Ireland Funds Singapore held a **Welcome Reception for the Ireland Rugby Seven's Team** to give the visiting team a warm welcome to Singapore in advance of the HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens. It was fantastic to get an insight into life on the Sevens' circuit and the importance the players place on promoting rugby to the younger generation of upcoming talent.

Thanks to Ambassador of Ireland to Singapore, H.E. Sarah McGrath for hosting the event at her residence and members of the Singapore rugby community who came to support the event and the players, raising just over \$8,000 for TIFS and our beneficiaries.

Thanks to our emcees for the evening, Kelly Latimer and May Wan Teh and our wonderful sponsors for the event TritonLake and Pecavvi Wines.



TIFS Young Leaders – Unveiling Beneficiary for 2023

H.E. Sarah McGrath, Ambassador of Ireland to Singapore kindly hosted our Young Leaders Network at her residence in early May for the unveiling of their selected beneficiary for 2023, [New Life Stories](#). Mdm Saleemah Ismail, CEO, shared an insight into New Life Stories who support the children of incarcerated parents in Singapore and work to break the cycle of incarceration through a holistic approach with the families of prisoners, including in-prison workshops to prepare incarcerated parents for their release and successful reintegration back into society.

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The Young Leaders aim to raise at least \$5,000 over the course of the next year to support New Life Stories and to raise awareness of the organisation and got their fundraising efforts off to a great start with over \$1,900 raised from the event. Many thanks to Ambassador Sarah McGrath and event sponsors Oche Singapore.

Look out for the Young Leaders next fundraising event the **YL Global 5K Run on Sat 23 September** – more details coming soon.

For more info on our Young Leaders Network email: singapore@irelandfunds.org or follow the [Young Leaders on Instagram](#). You can also support the Young Leaders fundraising for New Life Stories [here](#).



Red Dot Green Dot

12 and 13 May 2023 saw the return of our flagship arts collaboration with LASALLE College of the Arts **Red Dot Green Dot**, celebrating Irish and Singapore cultures...

"Brilliant covers of Billie Eilish, Hozier and The Corrs; original songs by an amazingly talented local singer-songwriters; a folk-influenced jazz improvisation; traditional Singapore songs, Irish music and ballads; a ukulele version of a Van Morrison number that will blow your mind with its virtuosity; dramatic poetry readings; written prose extracts; and oral storytelling. You will weep with sorrow, hilarity and sheer appreciation."

Thanks so much again to the amazing performers at our **Red Dot Green Dot** and to all who joined us over two fabulous evenings of talent, camaraderie and craic, celebrating the cultures of Singapore and Ireland, which makes **Red Dot Green Dot** the unique event it is!

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We were so pleased to showcase the amazing talent of LASALLE College of the Arts students and alumni, and the often hidden talents of our wonderful Irish community including Ambassador Sarah McGrath and many others – thanks for stepping on to the stage for your terrific performances. Almost \$7,000 was raised for our McNally Legacy at LASALLE College of the Arts, supporting a new generation of artists in Singapore. These two fabulous evenings of talent, culture, camaraderie and craic make Red Dot Green Dot the unique event it is! We look forward to doing it all over again in May next year!



Special thanks to our two amazing Artistic Directors, Frankie Meehan and Tom O'Dwyer and to the fabulous Production Team at LASALLE for making it all happen!

All proceeds from Red Dot Green Dot will be supporting The McNally Legacy at LASALLE College of the Arts, continuing the legacy of Brother Joe McNally and supporting a new generation of emerging artists.



Irish Graduates Association of Singapore: Four Decades of the Irish Graduates of Singapore Book Launch.



Congratulations to **Rosemay Lim** and **The Irish Graduates Association of Singapore** on a wonderful public launch of the recently published book **Irish Graduates Association of Singapore: Four Decades of the Irish Graduates of Singapore** book, supported by a grant award from The Ireland Funds Singapore. With honoured guests Ambassador Sarah McGrath and a wonderful interview Dr Lily Neo, a graduate of Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. A terrific event!



Boys' Town - 'Project Mettle' in Ireland

After a Covid pandemic related delay of over three years, The Ireland Funds Singapore supported Adventure Leadership Programme at Boys' Town was finally able to get under way this year. Eight residential boys participated in the **Project Mettle expedition in Ireland** between 31 May 2023 to 15 June 2023. This is part of a transformative 12-month journey-based programme, funded by TIFS grant award, designed to enhance the confidence and resilience the Boy's Town boys through engagement in outdoor adventures.



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In Phase 1 of Project Mettle, the boys were equipped with fundamental outdoor skills, immersing themselves in activities such as outdoor cooking and camping in Singapore. These experiences served as a stepping stone to prepare them for Phase 2 in Ireland.

In Ireland, the boys ventured into adventure-based learning at Killary Adventure Company in Galway where they did turf challenge, cliff-jumping, and kayaking. The subsequent week was dedicated to cultural immersion and in Dublin, allowing the Boy's Town boys to gain an understanding of the Irish community and culture through exchanges.



As part of the final Phase 3 of this transformative journey, the boys will take part in a service learning experience in Balai, Indonesia at the end of the year. The trip has left lasting impressions and insights on each boy, inspiring them to integrate these valuable teachings in their everyday lives.

"I had an amazing experience stepping out of my comfort zone by completing the activities at the campsite such as the cliff jump! The highlight of the expedition was when we visited a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) where we had an opportunity to interact with Irish youths and play football together".

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TIFS volunteers engaged with the boys at Boys' Town in advance of their visit to Ireland, taking part in their outdoor pursuit training and holding a Q&A session to share some insights to Ireland – food, weather, culture, sports - and what to expect from their exciting trip. The Ireland Funds also arranged for the group to meet with City Wise Education and Belvedere Youth Club for activities and exchange with Irish youth during their trip.



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We look forward to hearing more and for some of our Young Leaders to join on Phase 3 for their service trip to Batam later this year!

In the meantime, congratulations to Boys' Town on their 75th Anniversary! We were delighted to join the Family Fiesta event on 10 June 2023, with Guest of Honour, President Halimah Yacob.



Boy's Town are currently looking for volunteer tutors (mainly for secondary school subjects) for their residential boys. Please contact Pamela at singapore@irelandfunds.org if interested to know more.



Dates for Your Diary! Join us for other Ireland Funds events coming up this year...

- **Young Leaders Global 5K Run** – Sat 23 September 2023
- **Emerald Ball** – Sat 25 November at St Regis Hotel

To support TIFS fundraising for our beneficiaries in 2024 visit our [Sense of Ireland giving.sg campaign](https://www.senseofirelandgiving.sg/campaign).
Cash donations eligible for 250% tax-deductible receipt!

For further information on [The Ireland Funds Singapore](https://www.theirelandfunds.org/singapore) email Pamela at singapore@irelandfunds.org or follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/irelandfunds), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/irelandfunds) and [Linked In](https://www.linkedin.com/company/irelandfunds).