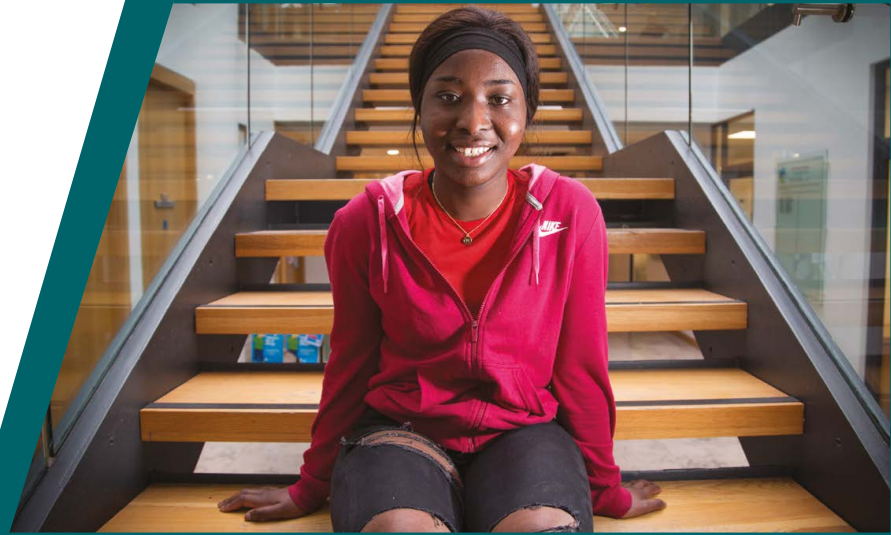




THE  
IRELAND  
FUNDS  
GREAT BRITAIN



# Delivering Impact 2023

Driving change together





We channel support



THE IRELAND FUNDS GREAT BRITAIN

We are a proud chapter of The Ireland Funds; a network of friends of Ireland dedicated to creating a positive social impact and making a real difference to communities in need. For 35 years we have raised funds to support community, culture, education, and peace on the island of Ireland and across Great Britain.



We connect People



We change lives

## The Ireland Funds GB Board of Directors

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# Thank you

From Yeats's poetry being read aloud at the Embassy of Ireland by Sir Bob Geldof, Denise Gough and Lennie Goodings, to the standout success of our inaugural Women in Business & Philanthropy Lunch, and the continued expansion of our Young Leaders network; 2023 was full of moments to remember.

All of this was achieved in our 35th year of dedicated support to the Irish community in the UK.

Thanks to our donors and supporters, £400k in grants was awarded to 46 organisations working with communities in need across Great Britain and Ireland, providing hope and support where it is needed most.

We are proud to have played a part in the delivery of initiatives that help families struggling during the cost of living crisis; give ill children hope in hospital; support women at their most vulnerable; and help tackle isolation amongst our elderly community members - these among a myriad of other outstanding work from the organisations you help us support.

2023 was also a year that saw a change of leadership at The Ireland Funds Great Britain with Rory Godson stepping down after six years as Chairman and Bridget Walsh, Global Head of Private Equity at EY assuming the role, with Declan Tiernan, Co-Head Europe and Partner at Oak Hill Advisors, voted in as Vice Chair.

As always, none of our work could be achieved without your unwavering support, and we wish to express our most grateful thanks for your friendship and philanthropy.

Kind regards,

**Katie Jemmett**, Executive Director

**Bridget Walsh**, Chair

The Ireland Funds Great Britain



# How did we deliver for our communities in 2023?

The generosity of our donors and supporters in 2023 allowed us to grant over £400,000 to 46 organisations, helping thousands of people across Great Britain and the island of Ireland.



## The Ireland Funds supports organisations across 4 pillars



Supporting people with a disability

Enhancing the quality of outcomes in education

Working with vulnerable families

Encouraging community regeneration

Empowering women

Providing legal support

Engaging with the arts

Enabling mental health programmes

Supporting the LGBTQIA+ community

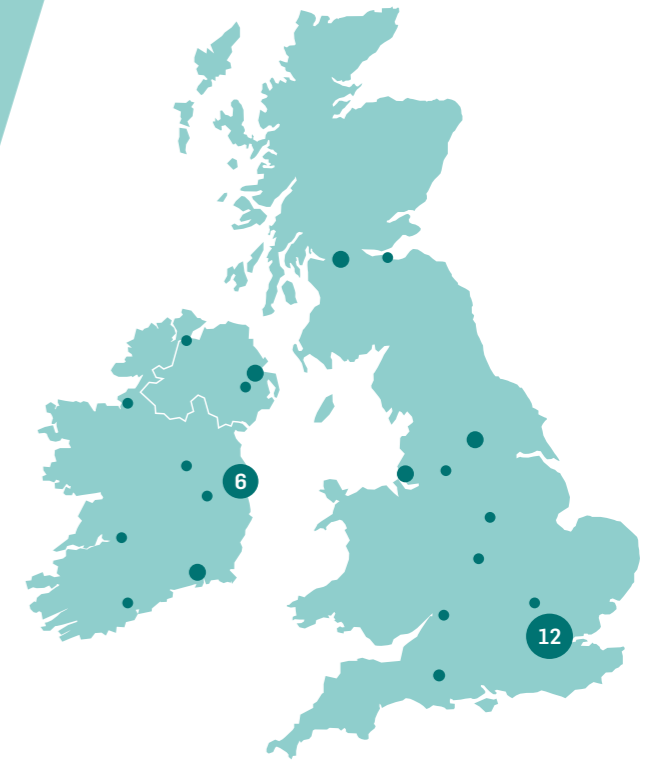
Encouraging sustainability

Supporting people with addiction

Protecting the environment

The Ireland Funds Great Britain has supported charities and not-for-profit organisations in six key ways:

- Curating a Powerful Network of Support
- Giving Visibility to Charitable Causes
- Connecting Donors with Charities
- Supporting the Irish Diaspora
- Donor Advised Grants
- Annual Grant Round



## Where did we deliver in 2023?

Working with trusted organisations, across Great Britain and Ireland, The Ireland Funds Great Britain delivers wide ranging support, funding and impact directly to the heart of the community.

# How did we raise funds in 2023?

Good things happen when great people come together. Vital funds are raised thanks to Private and Corporate Donors, our 100 Club, Fundraising Events, and the Young Leaders Society.



Everything we deliver is made possible by the generosity of our donors and supporters. Their passion for Ireland and commitment to the mission of The Ireland Funds allows us to deliver transformative change together.





**160**

160 therapy sessions were provided for financially and emotionally vulnerable women. Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy



**757**

757 vulnerable people assisted to access welfare, healthcare, social care and housing benefits. Luton Irish Forum

# Stories of Impact

## Leeds Irish Health and Homes

“The support of Leeds Irish Health and Homes has been life changing for me and my mum, who has Alzheimer’s. My mum is like a different woman at LIHH events. She finds comfort hearing music there, with a cup of Barry’s Tea and a biscuit in hand. It’s a place where she can feel ‘normal,’ despite her condition.”

- Service user



## Support in Numbers



**320**

Families availed of 320 hours of home nursing respite care thanks to grant support. The Jack and Jill Children’s Foundation



**1200**

1,200 ill children and young people at the Royal Belfast Children’s Hospital enjoyed 500 brand-new books. Read for Good



## Community Sports Network

Regular exercise, educational workshops and teamwork skills from the Community Sports Network helped rehabilitate ex-offenders.

**Our Impact:** The project helped 66 men adopt physical activities, establish positive routine, and engage in activities such as boxing, football and hiking to stay away from bad influences.

## Parallel Histories

“Our young people will be the leaders of the future, so it is important that they face up to conflicting narratives. It’s vital that they have the chance to put forward their opinions and to consider those of others in a safe and encouraging environment.”

- Joanna, teacher in Derry/Londonderry





## Royal Irish Academy of Music

“Studying at RIAM brings me a step closer to my dream of having a career as a performer. Without financial aid, that dream would be impossible. I intend to bring honour to RIAM and my generous donors in all that I do as a singer.”

- **Seán Tester**, vocal student



## Blackwater Valley Opera Festival

Blackwater Valley Opera Festival is a classical music and opera festival held in Co Clare.

**Our Impact:** Grant support helped deliver a schools education programme to 2,000 children and young people across 42 schools and community groups. It also provided performance opportunities to 79 artists at an eight-day festival.

## Social Entrepreneurs Ireland

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland identify and nurture leading social initiatives. This helps entrepreneurs to amplify their impact across multiple projects, such as empowering women.

**Our Impact:** Donor-advised grants provided crucial financial backing for SEI, enabling them to successfully reach at least 80 social entrepreneurs, address community needs effectively and provide support in strategy development, leadership, mentoring and coaching.



## The Blackmore Vale Charity

“Thanks to The Ireland Funds we have been able to help more than 190 families so far this year to get back on their feet. Our aim is to get people back to independence and feed them along the way.”

- **Carole Jones**, Trustee



## Lewisham Irish Community Centre

“I really appreciate the weekly meal and look forward to chatting with the lovely volunteers. Fridays have made such a difference to my life.”

- **Service user**



## Read for Good

Read for Good encourages children to love reading and works in schools and hospitals across the UK to make reading accessible and fun.

**Our Impact:** Seriously ill young patients at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children were provided with some relief through 500 brand-new books, reaching around 1,200 children and young people.

## Irish Community Care

Irish Community Care provide support and services to Irish communities and Irish Travellers.

**Our Impact:** 78 community members received financial support to ease the burden of the cost of living crisis, while 50 people experiencing social isolation and loneliness saw improvements to their health and wellbeing through making community connections and engaging in cultural activities.



## IAmIrish

“The help my children received through the back-to-school grant was immense. I can’t express enough gratitude. It’s a massive relief that has alleviated stress. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.”

- **Shelly and family**, Back to School Project





## The Parent Rooms

“Talking to other parents made me realise that anxiety is normal. A lot of parents go through it. I love that The Parent Rooms is normalising this conversation. I feel better now about how I’m doing as a new mum.”

- Ingrid, participant



## Irish Elderly Advice Network

“The befriender scheme makes me feel like I am not on my own. Ciara never lets me down with the calls. We always have a great chat and I feel better after I have spoken to her.”

- Sylvia, service user

## Learning Hub Limerick

The Learning Hub provides a safe and inspiring learning environment for young people in the Limerick area where they can get support to reach their true potential.

**Our Impact:** Grant support helped maintain, develop and expand the community garden and café. These have become focal points for the community using the health hub to improve the health of the community for generations to come.



## Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy

ICAP provides culturally sensitive counselling for the Irish community in Britain, helping to heal and manage emotional distress.

**Our Impact:** Vulnerable women between the ages of 40 and 60 years benefited from more than 160 therapy sessions thanks to grant support. This was a group of women with the highest demands on them and the least amount of financial and emotional resources.



## Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith

“Brilliant and invaluable for my mental health, the musical gathering has been such a great way to meet a variety of people from different backgrounds.”

- Joe, service user



## Irish Pensioners Choir

“Joining the Irish Pensioners Choir was the best decision I ever made. I was very depressed after I retired, with no sense of purpose. The choir and the friends I’ve made have changed all of that.”

- M, aged 78

## My Bag Charity

My Bag provides comfort items for every child who enters foster care. Bags and boxes include hygiene products such as shower gel, shampoo and sanitary products.

**Our Impact:** Young people in care have around £6 a day to live on. Grant support helped My Bag to provide them with some basic food, hygiene and cleaning items four times a year that ordinarily they may not choose to buy for themselves.



# No Mind Left Behind Scholarship Programme

No Mind Left Behind scholarships give promising young people from areas of significant economic and social disadvantage in Ireland, an opportunity to both enter and complete third-level education. An annual scholarship of €4,000 is awarded for the duration of their undergraduate degree to cover the costs of books, accommodation, travel and other key expenses.

The No Mind Left Behind programme, developed by The Ireland Funds, is designed to ensure that a student's full potential is met. The Ireland Funds works closely with leaders at DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools) schools to identify students who will benefit from a scholarship. As many as 98% of our scholars complete their undergraduate studies, compared to 75% of the general student population.

“One parent began to cry when I called her...The other student's dad was over the moon as this will remove his financial worries for his daughter...Our third student could not believe this was happening for her. It was compared to winning a jackpot.”

- **School Principal** after sharing the news with selected students



“ The Ireland Funds made a huge impact on my career. I wouldn't be where I am without them. People who didn't even know me believed in me. They believed I was good enough to go into the world and achieve whatever I wanted to do. ”

- **Roisin Gallagher** No Mind Left Behind Scholar now working at Abbott Diagnostics

## 2023 / 2024 Academic Year



**46 Deis Schools**

Selected to receive support through these scholarships



**204 Continuing students**

Supported to return to year 2, 3, 4 or 5 of undergraduate study



**101 New Students**

Supported to commence the first year of undergraduate study



**24 Third-Level Institutions**

Represented across the island of Ireland, UK and Europe



**305 Students**

Received a No Mind Left Behind scholarship



**€1,212,000**

Awarded in scholarships. €4.9m+ awarded to date



**13 Counties Represented**

Cavan, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kilkenny, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Waterford, Tipperary



# Young Leaders Society

An emerging generation of philanthropists make up our Young Leaders Society, a network of young professionals dedicated to supporting charitable causes.

Predominantly based in London, membership fees raised through the Young Leaders programme support The Ireland Funds Great Britain and the delivery of our Annual Grant Round.

“Across the year we host several Leadership Series events with prominent members of the business, community, arts & culture sectors, as well as more casual socials. In 2023, we revamped our YL Steering Committee, welcomed many new members, and curated a programme of sold out events. And with more in the pipeline, it’s an exciting time to get involved!”

- **Dermot Skinnader**, Chair of The Young Leaders Society

## Young Leader Society Events 2023

Hosting vibrant events throughout the year, the Young Leaders society provides a fantastic way for the young Irish diaspora to connect. Curated events held in 2023 included:

- Breakfast session with the Ambassador of Ireland, HE Martin Fraser
- Tour of The Houses of Parliament
- Leadership Series with Bridget Walsh, Global Private Equity Industry Market Leader at EY and Chair of The Ireland Funds Great Britain
- Summer social at The Coach & Horses in Covent Garden

If you would like to be part of this society or know someone who would, please contact [ifgb@irelandfunds.org](mailto:ifgb@irelandfunds.org)



Thanks to Young Leaders Society membership fees, two important initiatives received funding:

## Irish Heritage

Talented young Irish composer, Michael Hughes received a bursary from Irish Heritage thanks to the support of our Young Leaders.

“This award will make a significant difference at a crucial stage of my career, Small opportunities in composition are starting to emerge, but completing a full time doctoral degree whilst working a busy teaching schedule in order to fund it is a huge challenge. This bursary will help enormously.”

- **Michael Hughes**

## Irish Community Services

An intergenerational project to help link older community members with local school students in their area was supported thanks to grant support from The Ireland Funds. Two tablet devices and a laptop helped provide ‘Tech Talk’ - a project that sees students and their elders discuss all things cultural and community and provides IT support to the elderly.





# 100 Club

## Make a difference with us

The 100 Club is a group of like-minded individuals committed to making a difference. Every month, members of the 100 Club donate £100 to The Ireland Funds; 100% of your donation is ring fenced for our Annual Grant Round, providing grants and funding to charities and communities in need.

## The power of your support

The 100 Club made a significant impact to Luton Irish Forum, an organisation that provides welfare, social and cultural support for the Irish community in Luton:



Grant support helped assist more than 757 vulnerable people who were having difficulties accessing benefits such as welfare, healthcare, social care and housing. More than £1 million was accessed in around 1,000 cases. The impact of such support on clients included decreased levels of stress, anxiety and depression, as well as the monetary gain.

Join the 100 Club today by scanning the QR code on this page.

**Thank you.**



“Luton Irish Forum made me feel that I wasn’t alone,” said one service user. “They guided me through the application process, supported me and now that I’m financially stable my mental health has improved immeasurably.”

# Supporter Spotlight

# McCANN FITZGERALD

Sponsor of the annual London City Lunch for 5+ years.

“Our partnership with The Ireland Funds supports our purpose as a responsible business to make a positive social impact in our communities and on our environment. Joining forces with a global network of like-minded individuals and businesses allows our contribution to go further and enables a collective response to deliver more impact.”

- McCann FitzGerald LLP



# Events in 2023

## 35th Anniversary Celebration

The late Josephine Hart, founding chair of IFGB, was honoured at a celebration of our 35th anniversary at the Embassy of Ireland. Distinguished guests including Lord Saatchi, Bob Geldof, Denise Gough, Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack celebrated the occasion with friends of The Ireland Funds.



## The Ireland Funds Worldwide Conference

More than 200 global supporters of The Ireland Funds gathered at The K Club in Kildare to witness first-hand the impact of their philanthropy and to see The Ireland Funds' strategic investment in the nonprofit sector and its plan for a strong future.



## The London City Lunch

The best of the Irish in Britain gathered at Mansion House to celebrate and support the work of The Ireland Funds Great Britain. Guest of honour, Ray O'Rourke received a lifetime achievement award.

## Ambassador's Dinner

The annual Ireland Funds dinner at the Embassy of Ireland, hosted by Ambassador Fraser, was an occasion to remember. Retiring Board Director, Seamus McGarry, was fêted for his 35 years of service to the Irish community.



## Women in Business & Philanthropy Lunch

180 guests came together for the inaugural Women in Business & Philanthropy Lunch, celebrating the achievements of Irish business women and entrepreneurs.

**Thank you to our sponsors who have supported us with our events in 2023.**

# Thank You

Every donation to The Ireland Funds has the potential to change a life. This is the extraordinary impact of your generosity. We are proud of the charities we fund throughout the year and we are grateful for the support of our donors, without which this important work could not be achieved.

“The Ireland Funds’ help has been invaluable. Our charity has been called the 4th Emergency Service. Providing food on the tables of the families we help is only possible through funding. Without the money to purchase the food nothing is possible. Your support has enabled us to help people to get back on their feet again.”

- Carole Jones, The Blackmore Vale Charity.

## Helping your Donations to go Further



From You   Gift Aid   From Government

The Ireland Funds works with donors to channel support to causes they are passionate about. Donations made to The Ireland Funds Great Britain may be eligible for Gift Aid, adding a valuable boost to your donation and offering tax relief to higher rate taxpayers.

Contact Katie Jemmett to request a Gift Aid declaration, and to discuss your charitable objectives for the coming year.

“The Ireland Funds’ support is foundational to our ability to serve our community, fulfil our mission and create meaningful change. It has empowered us to contribute positively to society.”

- Lets Unite for Autism



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# Progress Through Philanthropy

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**The Ireland Funds Great Britain raises funds to support community, culture, education, and peace in Great Britain and on the island of Ireland.**

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