



THE  
IRELAND  
FUNDS  
AMERICA

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

—  
Progress  
Through  
Philanthropy  
—



# OUR DONORS MADE 2024 ONE OF THE MOST IMPACTFUL YEARS IN THE HISTORY OF THE IRELAND FUNDS.

THE IRELAND FUNDS AMERICA MADE 618 GRANTS TOTALING OVER \$26.8 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF MORE THAN 270 ORGANIZATIONS.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US DELIVER:

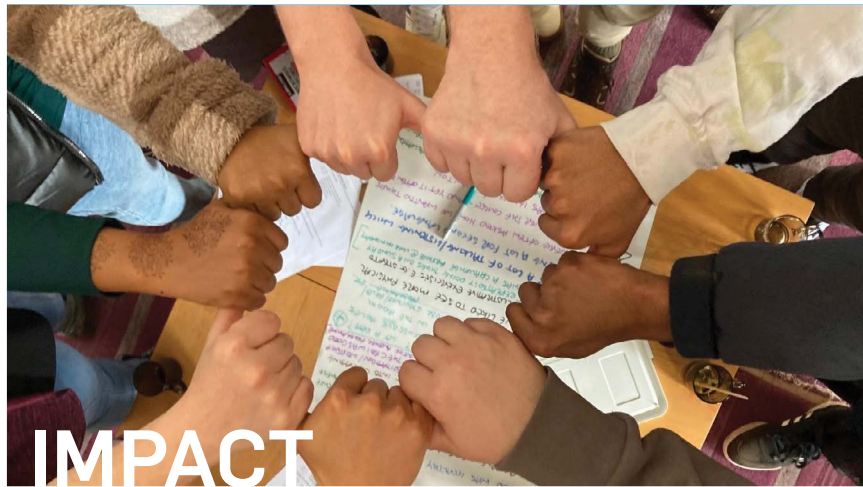
## GRANTS



## SCHOLARSHIPS



## IMPACT





## THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE IRELAND FUNDS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION  
ARTS & CULTURE  
PEACE & RECONCILIATION

### DEAR FRIENDS, 2024 WAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST YEARS OF GRANTMAKING SINCE THIS ORGANIZATION WAS FOUNDED ALMOST 50 YEARS AGO.

Thanks to our donors' unprecedented generosity, The Ireland Funds America made 618 grants totaling over \$26.8 million to support the work of more than 270 organizations.

Our supporters' investment in 2024 addressed critical needs and created opportunity for organizations and individuals. In June, our Heart of the Community Fund brought support to 93 organizations delivering vital services in 29 counties. Then, in December, our Heart of the Community Fund delivered grants to 20 organizations providing essential services to children experiencing poverty, marginalization, and difficult circumstances across the island of Ireland. Our No Mind Left Behind program increased the number of scholarships for students by 24%, an investment from our donors which positively impacts the lives of those young scholars both now and in future.

We're filled with appreciation for what our donor-advised partnerships accomplished in 2024. We worked closely with our donors to tailor significant philanthropic investments around the causes that meant the most to them. These gifts for the greater good are now helping incredible organizations working in education, healthcare, the arts and more.

Hundreds of projects and thousands of people benefitted from your extraordinary generosity to The Ireland Funds America in 2024.

### THANK YOU,



Gene McQuade  
Chair  
The Ireland Funds America



Caitriona Fottrell  
President & CEO  
The Ireland Funds

# HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2024?



UNDERGRADUATE  
& GRADUATE  
SCHOLARSHIPS



HEART OF THE  
COMMUNITY FUND  
GRANT ROUNDS



DONOR  
ADVISED  
GRANTS



NON-FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT FOR  
GRANTEES

THE IRELAND FUNDS

## STRENGTHENED THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

WITH MULTIPLE STREAMS OF SUPPORT

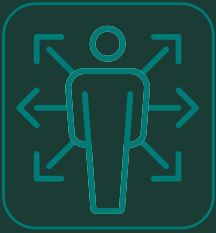


“

We were fortunate to begin our long and impactful relationship with The Ireland Funds in 2011. With its help since then, we've bred, trained, and placed 380 assistance/therapy dogs with families and treatment facilities across Ireland. This support has made our journey possible because **THE IRELAND FUNDS SUPPORTED US WHEN WE NEEDED IT THE MOST AND FOR THIS, WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL.** ”

— *Irish Dogs for the Disabled*





HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE  
ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2024?

## DONOR ADVISED GIFTS

### CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN

SUPPORTING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CANCER



**IMPACT:** Donor-advised gifts in 2024 have now helped break ground on a second respite center in Mayo. This new center will more than double the number of children and parents they support each year from 1,800 to 4,000.



### BLACKWATER VALLEY OPERA FESTIVAL

FREE AND INCLUSIVE MUSIC PROGRAMS

**IMPACT:** Donor-advised gifts in 2024 helped Blackwater Valley Opera Festival extend their reach across the Blackwater Valley, providing professional employment for more than 100 artists to perform for 5,000 audience members, while creating memorable experiences for 2,000 children and young people through its inclusive music education program.



### GOOD SHEPHERD CORK

EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATIONS AND  
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

**IMPACT:** Donor-advised gifts in 2024 enabled Good Shepherd Cork to provide educational, therapeutic and well-being supports to over 200 women and children who are homeless in Cork.



In 2024, we worked with our donors to achieve their philanthropic goals with great impact. Our team's understanding of needs and how philanthropy can make a difference across Ireland is unparalleled. We find, fund, and grow organizations worthy of investment. Our expertise enables us to make recommendations and tailor plans with donors, giving them the freedom to focus on their areas of interest. The following are just a few examples the ways in which The Ireland Funds partnered with donors to make gifts to the causes most important to them.



## 174 TRUST

A SHARED AND SAFE SPACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

**IMPACT:** Donor-advised gifts in 2024 ensured 174 Trust could deliver numerous programs that restore hope and promote peace to 200+ families and young people. Gifts also helped its Duncairn Centre welcome thousands of people from the community to participate in arts and cultural activities.

## SAILING INTO WELLNESS

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES

**IMPACT:** Donor-advised gifts in 2024 contributed to Sailing Into Wellness' core costs and unique therapeutic programs for 400+ people. The organization serves marginalized communities including at-risk youth, those improving their mental health, those with intellectual disabilities, those in addiction recovery, and those who are homeless.



## THE SEAMUS HEANEY CENTRE AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE WRITING

**IMPACT:** Donor-advised gifts supported the opening of the new building at the Centre in June of 2024. The new space expands the Centre's writing and creative areas and is home to a public exhibition area for the Seamus Heaney archive.





HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE  
ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2024?

## HEART OF THE COMMUNITY FUND

### IN JUNE

WE DELIVERED CORE COSTS  
FOR KEY SERVICES

**\$1,000,000**  
in **GRANTS**  
**AWARDED**

**93** Organizations

**29** Counties across  
the island of Ireland

93 organizations across 29 counties on the island of Ireland recently received **\$1,000,000** in funding through our 2024 Heart of the Community Fund, enabling them to deliver vital services and supports to their communities. **Thanks to you, we're helping organizations working in education, community development, peace & reconciliation, and arts & culture improve the lives of thousands of people, every day.**







## IN DECEMBER

## WE DELIVERED ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

## \$500,000+ in GRANTS AWARDED

## 20 Organizations

Grants totaling over **\$500,000** were awarded to 20 organizations that provide essential services to children experiencing poverty, marginalization, and difficult circumstances. Each organization received **€25,000** to support their work. They span a range of services, including homelessness and family supports, education, youth outreach, mental health care, and food provision.

### FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

**BARNARDOS**, providing trauma-informed family and child services.

**CAPUCHIN CENTRE**, providing homeless supports in Dublin for over 50 years.

**CITYWISE EDUCATION**, bridging the educational gap in underserved communities.

**COPE GALWAY**, alleviating hardship and social isolation for families.

**DILLON QUIRKE FOUNDATION**, providing cardiac screening for young people involved in sport.

**FOODCLOUD**, tackling food poverty through surplus redistribution.

**HOME-START NORTH DOWN**, supporting families with children facing challenges such as ill-health, domestic violence, substance misuse or disability.

**KINSHIP CARE NORTHERN IRELAND**, providing advocacy, support, and practical assistance to carers of young children.

**LAURALYNN**, Ireland's only children's hospice, offering vital palliative care.



# 2,000

**SANCTUARY RUNNERS** Funding helped create opportunities for refugees and asylum-seekers to meet their local neighbors in a safe, friendly, and fun environment. 2,000 people across 22 counties connected and strengthened their communities.

**SING IRELAND** Funding empowered 1,400 young people from marginalized communities across Ireland to discover their voice through singing.



# 1,400

**In 2024,** support from The Ireland Funds meant...



# 4,000

**CORRYMEELA COMMUNITY** Support brought over 4,000 people of all backgrounds together in 2024 to encourage understanding, dialogue, and positive relationships in divided communities.

## **CHILDREN'S GRIEF CENTRE**

Funding provided 2,478 free counseling sessions for 359 grieving children and their parents navigating loss, parental separation, and divorce.



# 2,478





## HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2024?

# NON-FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR GRANTEES



**The Ireland Funds has provided us with so much more than funding—it has offered us a truly meaningful partnership that's enriched our mission.** Their unwavering support and invaluable guidance have empowered us to make significant strides, such as achieving over 10,000 cardiac screenings in 2024. The connections, networks, and opportunities facilitated by The Ireland Funds, such as addressing guests at the Chicago 40th Anniversary Gala, continue to extend Dillon's legacy, ensuring we can undertake widespread cardiac screening for young people (aged 12-18) and reduce the number of young people dying from Sudden Adult Death Syndrome. We are profoundly grateful for its commitment and belief in our vision.

—Dan Quirke, Founder of The Dillon Quirke Foundation



### Connection

The Ireland Funds is known for its impactful philanthropy and for bringing people together. Our keen understanding of our donors' interests and vision, along with our knowledge of the nonprofit sector, means we match transformational investments to the right projects at the right time.

### Workshops

The Ireland Funds offers workshops to any organization applying to us for funding. We not only give guidance on applying, we offer guidance that can also be used when applying to other funding bodies and donors to strengthen the organization's chances of success.

### Visibility

The Ireland Funds promotes the work of organizations it supports across social media and other platforms to share their stories and their impact. Social media, public relations support, and fundraising partnerships help ensure great work gets seen by a wide audience.

### Research

The Ireland Funds conducts research that serves to benefit both the knowledge base of our donors and the projects they support. This ranges from researching 600+ organizations across the island of Ireland to inform policy and decision making to assessing grant making impact with onsite visits. Research into the Irish diaspora's demographics, genealogy, and cultural, personal and business connections increases knowledge within the community.



## HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2024?

### ACCESS TO EDUCATION

## NO MIND LEFT BEHIND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

No Mind Left Behind is an initiative that provides financial support to promising young people from areas of social disadvantage so they can access, and stay in, third-level education. Recipients of a No Mind Left Behind scholarship receive €4,000/£4,000 for each year of their undergraduate degree to help cover the cost of books, accommodation, and other living expenses. In 2024, we expanded the program to support students from Northern Ireland as well, with an initial pilot of 12 students.

#### 2024 / 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR



**379 Students**

(24% increase)\*

RECEIVED A NO MIND LEFT BEHIND SCHOLARSHIP



**81 Schools**

(76% increase)\*

IDENTIFIED STUDENTS TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS



**137 New Students**

(36% increase)\*

SUPPORTED TO COMMENCE THE FIRST YEAR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDY



**242 Continuing Students**

(19% increase)\*

SUPPORTED TO RETURN TO YEAR 2,3, 4 OR 5 OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDY



**29 Third-Level Institutions**

REPRESENTED ACROSS THE ISLAND OF IRELAND AND THE UK



**€1,468,000**

**& £48,000**

(25% increase)\*

AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS

€7.5M+ & £48,000

AWARDED TO DATE



**21 Counties Represented**

(54% increase)\*

ANTRIM  
ARMAGH  
CAVAN  
CORK  
DERRY  
DONEGAL  
DOWN  
DUBLIN  
GALWAY  
KILDARE  
KILKENNY  
LIMERICK  
LOUTH  
MAYO  
MONAGHAN  
OFFALY  
ROSCOMMON  
SLIGO  
TIPPERARY  
TYRONE  
WATERFORD

\* Indicates an increase from 2023



“

We were trying to figure out how we were going to pay for accommodation, how we were going to pay for transport, everything. Getting that call that we got the scholarship was just like a weight lifted off our shoulders. As a young woman in STEM, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to every person who donates towards this scholarship. It means the world to all of us and all of our families, and we can't thank you enough.

”

— Christina Ward, No Mind Left Behind Scholar from Donegal, studying mathematical science at the University of Galway.





HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE  
ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2024?

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

### GEORGE MOORE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The George Moore Scholars program is an ambitious, all-Ireland scholarship program that offers extraordinary supports to talented students in all academic disciplines who wish to undertake a Master's degree in the US, UK, Europe or Canada. The program helps them to realize their full career potential and make a lasting impact in their chosen field.

2024 / 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

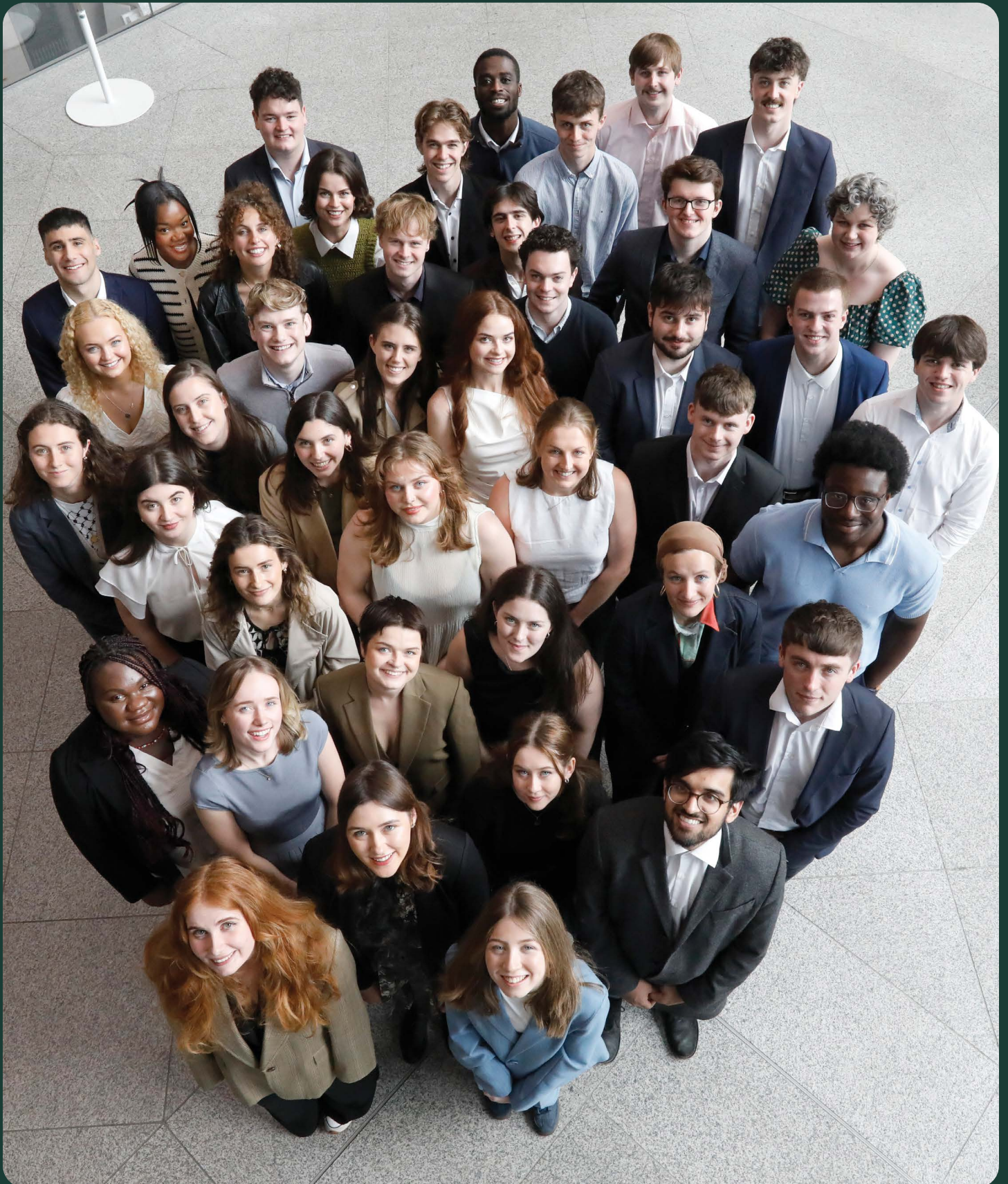


**62 New Scholars** and **12 Continuing Scholars** from **19 counties** across the island of Ireland received scholarships totaling over **\$3.5m** to support them in pursuing courses across **16 academic disciplines** at **33 universities** in the US, Canada, the UK, and Europe.

The Ireland Funds does phenomenal work in supporting students—both undergraduate and postgraduate—in achieving their dreams, unlocking their potential and building their skills to make impactful change in the world.

— Beverly Genockey, George Moore Scholar MPA Urban Innovation & Policy, University College London





The 2024 George Moore Scholars





THE  
IRELAND  
FUNDS

# PEOPLE ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO



## DOGS FOR THE DISABLED

Max's life has been changed by Dogs for the Disabled. They paired him with Nicky, who Max says is a "perfect match" and makes him feel safer. Today, Max is moving faster and stronger than ever before.

**SUPPORT FROM  
THE IRELAND FUNDS  
HAS HELPED PLACE  
HUNDREDS OF  
LIFE-CHANGING  
THERAPY DOGS WITH  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
FAMILIES ACROSS  
IRELAND.**

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



## MERCHANTS QUAY

Kevin became ill, lost his apartment, and his elderly mother passed away. He almost gave up. But he found his way to Merchants Quay and they got Kevin back on his feet with services that reestablished a stable living space.

**SUPPORT FROM  
THE IRELAND FUNDS  
HELPED MERCHANTS QUAY  
PROVIDE HOT MEALS,  
HELPING HANDS, CRISIS  
INTERVENTION, AND  
HEALTH SUPPORTS TO  
THOSE IN NEED.**

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



## CRANN CENTRE

Bram has quadriplegic spastic cerebral palsy and Crann Centre has been a game-changing resource for him. Not only do they support his physical wellbeing, they care for the entire family with their holistic approach to those with neurophysical disabilities and those who care for them.

**SUPPORT FROM  
THE IRELAND FUNDS  
HELPED CRANN CENTRE  
GROW FROM SUPPORTING  
380 FAMILIES IN 2023 TO  
500+ FAMILIES IN 2024.**

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



## WOMEN'STEC

WOMEN'STEC trains women and girls in construction and non-traditional trades. Jeanette found her way to their supportive environment in Belfast and has been empowered with new confidence and new opportunities through their courses.

**SUPPORT FROM  
THE IRELAND FUNDS  
HELPED 700+ WOMEN  
AND GIRLS FROM  
CHALLENGING  
BACKGROUNDS  
LEARN SKILLS THAT  
ENHANCE THEIR LIFE  
OPPORTUNITIES.**

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



“

Thanks to the generous grant from The Ireland Funds and its dedicated donors, we've been able to amplify the voices of our incredible Clare women and weave a powerful tapestry of shared experiences. **YOUR GENEROSITY HAS NOT ONLY PRESERVED THE STORIES OF REMARKABLE WOMEN, BUT ALSO FOSTERED A VIBRANT, CONNECTED COMMUNITY IN CLARE.**”

— Cuimhneamh an Chláir



SCAN FOR  
THE STORIES

Funding from The Ireland Funds meant Cuimhneamh an Chláir was able to create a shareable digital archive of County Clare's oral heritage, preserving the collective wisdom of older generations for the generations to come.



# THANK YOU

## FROM ACROSS THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

### “ POLITICS IN ACTION

Once again the Heart of the Community Fund is helping to support our core costs. This is essential as we continue to grow in reach and impact. In one of the most interesting times for politics in Northern Ireland, Ireland and around the globe, it is wonderful to have The Ireland Funds' support yet again.

— *The Ireland Funds helped Politics in Action deliver civic engagement programs to young people 15-18 to facilitate connections with key decision-makers across the island of Ireland.*

### “ YOUTHACTION NI

The support of The Ireland Funds in 2024 has enabled us to have greater impact by ensuring we can focus our resources on our essential program work with young people while still meeting rising back-office costs and key staff salaries.

— *The Ireland Funds helped YouthAction NI not only meet core costs but also enhanced youth work activity through the continuation of Radio YNP, their youth-led radio and social media station which amplifies the voices of young people.*

### “ DAISYHOUSE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Words alone cannot describe the unfaltering support which The Ireland Funds has delivered to Daisyhouse Housing Association over the last number of years. It is instrumental in changing women's lives forever. — *The Ireland Funds helped Daisyhouse strengthen partnerships to advance their mission of supporting women who are homeless and in recovery from substance misuse.*

### POLITICS IN ACTION







KINAFFE NATIONAL SCHOOL

## KINAFFE NATIONAL SCHOOL



The generous funding provided by The Ireland Funds will be instrumental in creating a supportive and inclusive environment for refugee children at our school. Thank you to The Ireland Funds for its continued trust and investment in our mission. — *Kinaffe National School is a rural school in Mayo with 54 children from 14 countries. Support from The Ireland Funds has helped with trauma alleviation activities to support the arrival of refugee children into the Mayo community. The school was awarded a 2024 Science Blast award and a UNESCO Eco Young Environmentalist Award for their work. Support provided transportation for children to attend these events.*



YOUTHACTION NI



# OUR MODEL

**THE IRELAND FUNDS PARTNERS WITH PHILANTHROPISTS, FOUNDATIONS, AND CORPORATIONS, TO GIVE BACK TO IRELAND IN A MEANINGFUL AND IMPACTFUL WAY.**

## **Vision & Focus**

The Ireland Funds' vision is of peace, equality, and opportunity across the island of Ireland and among Irish communities worldwide. Our focus areas are Arts & Culture, Community Development, Education and Peace & Reconciliation.

## **Expertise**

As one of Ireland's largest grantmakers, our donors have unparalleled access to our:

- Almost 50 years of grantmaking experience
- Expertise in due-diligence, project vetting and impact evaluation
- In-depth local and national knowledge of Ireland's nonprofit sector and our long-standing relationships with the outstanding nonprofit organizations that strive to make Ireland a better place for all its people

## **A No-Cost Philanthropic Partner**

The Ireland Funds works with our donors to identify outstanding organizations worthy of support that are in line with their philanthropic goals and ambitions. Thanks to our operating model, 100% of all donor advised gifts made by our supporters are granted to their chosen charities following Board approval. The Ireland Funds absorbs all costs associated with due diligence, administration, payment, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation to maximize our donors' generosity and ensure that the organizations we support meet the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and governance.

## **National Impact**

In 2024, thanks to the generosity of our donors, The Ireland Funds America made 618 grants to further the work of more than 270 organizations.

## **Come for the Party, Stay for the Mission**

Every year, The Ireland Funds hosts a series of special events recognizing the business, cultural, political, and philanthropic achievements of the Irish diaspora. These gatherings provide a unique forum for supporters to connect with like-minded peers who are not only passionate about Ireland's past, but also invested in its future, while also raising vital funds for our grantmaking and operations.

## THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

# 2024

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023 IN US\$

	2024	2023
<b>Revenue and Support</b>		
Contributions	26,898,065	18,957,056
Fundraising Events, net	5,279,353	7,069,134
Changes in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions: Net Assets Released	474,599	-
Other	180,368	149,261
<b>Total Revenues and Support from Operating Activities</b>	<b>32,832,385</b>	<b>26,175,451</b>
Changes in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions: Contributions & Net Assets Released	(474,599)	-
Investment Income	3,000,076	2,299,358
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>35,357,862</b>	<b>28,474,809</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Grant Awards	26,867,499	19,550,642
Other Program Services	1,588,406	1,971,797
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>28,455,905</b>	<b>21,522,439</b>
Management and General Administrative	1,601,937	1,932,651
Fundraising	1,976,690	2,088,313
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>32,034,532</b>	<b>25,543,403</b>
Change in Net Assets	3,323,330	2,931,406
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	20,979,604	18,048,198
Net Assets at End of Year	24,302,934	20,979,604
% of Contributions Revenue from the largest single contribution received in each year	12%	14%
# of Organizations who received Grants from The Ireland Funds America in each year	272	264
<b>Notes:</b>		
Endowment Balance at End of Year (included within Net Assets at End of Year)	18,663,972	15,871,150

Grant Thornton, LLP, performed the 2013–2024 audits for The American Ireland Fund.  
To review our audited financial statements and IRS Forms 990, please visit [irelandfunds.org](https://irelandfunds.org)



# OUR GRANTMAKING

## THE IRELAND FUNDS MAKES GRANTS IN FOUR WAYS:

### 1 Donor Advised Gifts

The Ireland Funds works closely with our donors to identify and fund organizations in line with our focus areas and their philanthropic interests and goals. We are committed to stewarding our donors' giving, and ensuring their generosity has maximum impact with 100% of all donor advised gifts awarded to a donor's chosen nonprofit following Board approval.

### 2 Annual Grant Rounds

Each year, The Ireland Funds runs grant rounds which provides nonprofits in every county of Ireland with the opportunity to apply for much needed funding.

Grant Rounds typically award €1 million euro annually and are often the starting point of an organization's relationship with The Ireland Funds. Time and time again, we've seen organizations that have received small grants from The Ireland Funds go on to receive additional funding from our donors, as well as other funders.

Critically, the Grant Rounds enable us to nurture organizations with particular promise, identify emerging areas of need and leaders in the sector, and discover new organizations that are doing essential and impactful work. Funding is available under two categories:

#### > Small Grants (Heart of the Community Fund)

The Small Grant Round supports small organizations that are making an impact and positive contribution in their local community. Grants typically range from €5,000 to €25,000.

These grant rounds are made possible by unrestricted gifts, and with proceeds generated from our events.



### 3 Scholarships

Since our founding, increasing access to and excellence in education has been a core tenet of our philanthropy – from early learning intervention initiatives to scholarship programs that ensure our schools and universities reflect every aspect of Irish society, regardless of background.

Our flagship scholarship programs are aimed at breaking down the barriers that Irish students from marginalized communities face in accessing education and helping exceptionally talented students pursue their educational ambitions up to a master's level:

- > **No Mind Left Behind** gives promising young students from areas of social disadvantage a multi-year scholarship to attend third level education.
- > **George Moore Scholars** offers high value funding to academically talented students from all disciplines who wish to undertake a master's degree in the US, the UK, or Canada.

These scholarships are funded by our donors, and in 2024 their generosity enabled The Ireland Funds to award hundreds of scholarships.

### 4 Special Grants & Strategic Initiatives

In certain circumstances, The Ireland Funds will make special grants to support initiatives that are of strategic importance to Ireland or the Irish diaspora.

This includes funding to promote and nurture Irish arts and culture at home and abroad, support for Irish immigration centers that provide a range of social, legal and pastoral services, local grants to communities that have given so much to The Ireland Funds, as well as grants made in times of tragedy or emergency.

These timely, important and on occasion, urgent grants, are made possible by unrestricted gifts, and with proceeds generated from our events.



## Officers

**Eugene M. McQuade**  
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The Ireland Funds America  
New York, New York

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Vice-Chair  
The Ireland Funds America  
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# THANK YOU

“The Ireland Funds has harnessed the great potential of the Irish spirit and has put it to incredible use. I have seen the impact of the projects that you have backed, the difference you have made in countless lives, and in countless communities.”

— **SIMON HARRIS**

*Taoiseach of Ireland addressing  
The Ireland Funds Worldwide Conference  
in June, 2024*



**THE  
IRELAND  
FUNDS**



[irelandfunds.org](http://irelandfunds.org)

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