



THE  
IRELAND  
FUNDS

50  
1976 2026



**DELIVERING FOR  
IRELAND IN 2025**

# OUR DONORS MADE 2025 THE MOST SUCCESSFUL GRANTMAKING YEAR IN THE HISTORY OF THE IRELAND FUNDS.

THE IRELAND FUNDS WORLDWIDE MADE **1,300+ GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS** TOTALING OVER **\$58.5 MILLION** TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF MORE THAN **380 ORGANIZATIONS**. THANK YOU FOR HELPING US DELIVER:

## SCHOLARSHIPS



## IMPACT



## GRANTS





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## THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE IRELAND FUNDS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

ARTS & CULTURE

PEACE & RECONCILIATION

## DEAR FRIENDS,

As we close out what has been the most successful year of fundraising and grantmaking in our organization's history, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your extraordinary partnership and unwavering commitment to the mission of The Ireland Funds.

As we share this report on 2025 with you, we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2026. The Ireland Funds started with the powerful vision of our founders Dan Rooney and Tony O'Reilly in 1976. That vision was to support peace and prosperity across the island of Ireland and the incredible commitment of you, our donors, continues to fuel that vision 50 years on.

**Your generosity in 2025 has been instrumental in helping us achieve significant impacts for communities across the island of Ireland.** 1,300+ grants for more than 380 organizations is an incredible accomplishment, but the true story lies in the lives changed and the tangible impact of your support that has rippled across every sector we serve.

In this report on the work of The Ireland Funds in 2025 you will see some of that transformative impact through our programs, our scholarships, our partnership with extraordinary grantees across the island of Ireland and our partnership with our generous donors.

As we look toward the coming year, we are energized by the possibilities that lie ahead and honored to continue this journey alongside you. An anniversary is not simply a look back; it is a launchpad. With your continued partnership, we are poised to expand our reach even further, touching more lives and building stronger, more resilient communities. We are deeply grateful to have you as a partner in this vital work as we celebrate fifty years of philanthropy together.

With sincere appreciation and warm regards,



Gene McQuade  
Chair  
The Ireland Funds America



Caitriona Fottrell  
President & CEO  
The Ireland Funds

# HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2025?

THE IRELAND FUNDS

## STRENGTHENED THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

WITH MULTIPLE STREAMS OF SUPPORT



UNDERGRADUATE  
& GRADUATE  
SCHOLARSHIPS



HEART OF THE  
COMMUNITY FUND  
GRANT ROUNDS



DONOR  
ADVISED  
GRANTS



NON-FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT FOR  
GRANTEES

“

The invaluable support of The Ireland Funds has provided vital bereavement support directly to children in their schools, ensuring children receive compassionate support in a safe and familiar environment. This partnership has helped many children, their families and teachers. Together, we are building stronger, compassionate communities.

—*Children's Grief Centre*

”





## HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2025? DONOR ADVISED GIFTS

### TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN: THE OLD LIBRARY

HOME TO IRELAND'S LITERARY TREASURES

**IMPACT:** Grants in 2025 supported Trinity College Dublin's Old Library Redevelopment Programme, helping to preserve one of Ireland's most iconic cultural landmarks and enhance the visitor experience through modern design and immersive exhibitions.

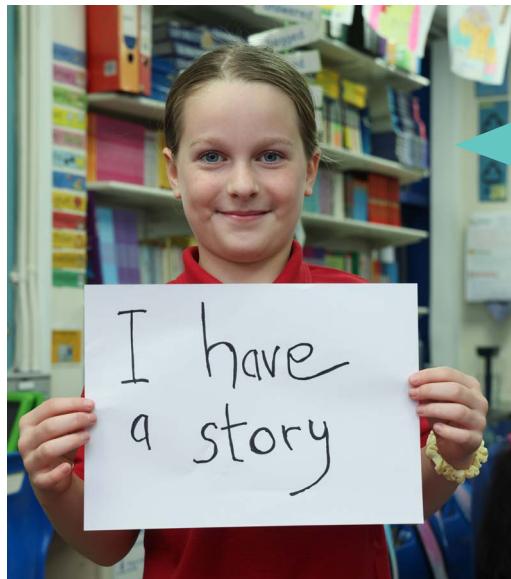


Photo: Ste Murray

### FIGHTING WORDS

GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE THROUGH  
CREATIVE WRITING

**IMPACT:** Grants in 2025 enabled Fighting Words to bring creative writing programs to children and young people across the island of Ireland. These initiatives helped the most marginalized voices grow in confidence, develop vital skills, and share their stories with the world.

### GROW IT YOURSELF

DELIVERING FOOD EDUCATION  
THROUGH SCHOOL GARDENS

**IMPACT:** Grants in 2025 enabled GIY to expand its transformative Grow at School program, bringing hands on food education to thousands of primary school children across Ireland. Through garden-based learning, students learned sustainability and cultivated healthier eating habits.



In 2025, 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 philanthropic 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 of the ways in which The Ireland Funds partnered with donors to make gifts to the causes most important to them.



## ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC

NURTURING EXCEPTIONAL MUSICAL TALENT

**IMPACT:** Grants in 2025 enabled the Royal Irish Academy of Music to invest in emerging talent and provide financial support to students in need. This support is helping RIAM foster artistic excellence, promote accessibility, and shape the future of classical music in Ireland.



## PEACEPLAYERS NORTHERN IRELAND

PROMOTING PEACE AND INCLUSION THROUGH SPORT

**IMPACT:** Through grants in 2025, The Ireland Funds supported PeacePlayers Northern Ireland in its mission to use sport as a powerful tool for connection and inclusion. Over 2,000 children have been empowered to engage in team sports, building friendships and understanding across divided communities.



## BELVEDERE YOUTH CLUB

CREATING A SAFE SPACE IN DUBLIN'S INNER CITY

**IMPACT:** Grants in 2025 ensured that Belvedere Youth Club could empower over 350 young people in Dublin's North East Inner City. Support enabled the club to deliver a wide range of educational, social, and recreational programs—helping young people build confidence, develop skills, and realize their full potential.



## HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2025? HEART OF THE COMMUNITY FUND

Thanks to you, our 2025  
Heart of the Community Fund supported the work of  
**104 organizations**  
across the island of Ireland with  
**\$1.6 million.**

### THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY FUND

strengthened impactful initiatives that engaged people with skill-building, expanded employment opportunities, mental health support, and arts and cultural programming. It also supported work targeting disengaged youth and organizations in rural and hard-to-reach areas.



Clonmore Youth Club



Narrative 4 Ireland



ShoutOut



Shankill Women's Centre



## BELOW IS A SELECTION OF THE ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE HEART OF COMMUNITY FUND IN 2025.

174 Trust	Fighting Words Northern Ireland	PeacePlayers Northern Ireland
A Lust for Life	Finglas Youth Resource Centre	Phoenix Education Centre
Accessible Counselling Tullamore	Fishamble Theatre Company	Portadown Wellness Centre
Active Connections	Focus Ireland	Rural Support
ALONE	Friends of St Mary's Aughnacloy	Sensational Kids
Aoibheann's Pink Tie	Galway Community Circus	Shankill Women's Centre
Arc Cancer Support Centres	H.U.G.G. (Healing Untold Grief Groups)	Shannon's Hopeline
AslAm	Helplink Mental Health	ShoutOut
Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland	Holy Trinity Youth Centre	SistersIN
Baboró International Arts Festival for Children	Inner City Enterprise	Speedpak Group
Ballyfermot Youth Service	Integrated Education Fund	Spraoi agus Spórt Family Centre
Barnardos	Iris House Cork Cancer Support Centre	Streetbeat Youth Project
Belvedere Youth Club	Irish Baroque Orchestra	St. Francis Hospice
Blackmountain Shared Space	Irish Chamber Orchestra	Suicide or Survive
Bounce Back Recycling	Irish Dogs for the Disabled	Tara Centre
CAN (Compass Advocacy Network)	Irish Refugee Council	Teach Na nDaoine Family Resource Centre
Carrickmacross Toy Library	Irish Traditional Music Archive	Teen-Turn
Children in Hospital Ireland	Kids' Own Publishing Partnership	The Ark
Children's Books Ireland	Learning Hub Limerick	The Cavan Centre
Citywise Education	Liquid Therapy	The Crann Centre
Clonmore Youth Club	MACS Northern Ireland	The Down Syndrome Centre
Community Law & Mediation	Making Connections	The Saoirse Foundation (BUMBLEance)
Co-operation Ireland Northern Ireland	Midlands Science	The Shona Project
COPE Galway	Mind Your Mate and Yourself (MYMY)	The Speedwell Trust
Cork International Film Festival	Music Network	The Victoria House Foundation
Corrymeela Community	Narrative 4 Ireland	The Welcome Organisation
Creative Arts and Music	North Down & Ards Women's Aid	Together Academy
Cuimhneamh an Chláir	North West Play Resource Centre	Turning Point Northern Ireland
CyberSafeIreland	The Playhouse	Washington Ireland Program (WIP)
Down Syndrome Centre Cork	Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA)	WOMEN'STEC
Dublin International Film Festival	Oasis House Women's Refuge	YouthAction NI
Dunloy Stronger Together	Offaly Domestic Violence Support Service	



# 350

**MIDLANDS SCIENCE** Support from The Ireland Funds enabled Midlands Science to deliver preschool workshops for 70 teachers and 350 children-laying the foundation for early science engagement by building confidence, capacity, and curiosity in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

**JIGSAW** With support from The Ireland Funds, Jigsaw reached over 7,800 young people across Ireland, ensuring access to mental health support both online and in-person.



# 7,800

**In 2025, support from The Ireland Funds enabled....**



# 5,000

**EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE** Thanks to funding, the Early Learning Initiative expanded its nationwide home visiting programs, benefiting over 5,000 families and improving long-term educational outcomes.

**ALONE**

Funding meant that over 40,000 older people were supported by ALONE leading to improved quality of life, improved housing conditions and less loneliness for older people across Ireland.



# 40,000



## HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2025? NON-FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR GRANTEES



“

The opportunity to attend The Ireland Funds Annual Chicago Dinner Gala and connect with 600 people who care deeply about Ireland was truly wonderful. The event provided a platform to share our work, strengthen donor relationships, and highlight the significant difference Ireland Funds donors make for COPE Galway. **Thank you to The Ireland Funds for opening the door to your donors.** Together, we are making a lasting impact in our community, giving donors a deeper understanding of the needs we address and showing how their generosity directly changes lives.

—Sharon Fitzpatrick, Head of Development, COPE Galway

”

### 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 2025? 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 2025, we continued our expansion into Northern Ireland and reached the milestone of partnering with over 100 schools to provide scholarships.

### 2025 / 2026 ACADEMIC YEAR



#### 456 Students

(20% increase)\*

RECEIVED A NO MIND LEFT BEHIND  
SCHOLARSHIP



#### 103 Schools

(27% increase)\*

IDENTIFIED STUDENTS TO  
RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS



#### 158 New Students

(15% increase)\*

SUPPORTED TO COMMENCE  
THE FIRST YEAR OF  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDY



**€1,668,000**

**& £156,000**

(28% increase)\*

AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS

€9.1M+ & £204,000

AWARDED TO DATE



#### 34 Third-Level Institutions

REPRESENTED ACROSS  
THE ISLAND OF IRELAND  
AND THE UK



#### 298 Continuing Students

(23% increase)\*

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



### 23 Counties Represented

ANTRIM

ARMAGH

CAVAN

CORK

DERRY

DONEGAL

DOWN

DUBLIN

FERMANAGH

GALWAY

KERRY

KILDARE

KILKENNY

LIMERICK

LOUTH

MAYO

MONAGHAN

OFFALY

ROSCOMMON

SLIGO

TIPPERARY

TYRONE

WATERFORD

\* Indicates an increase from 2024



“

This scholarship has had a massive impact on both me and my family. As the first in my family to attend university, it represents more than just financial support—it symbolizes opportunity and progress. It has eased the financial pressure on my family and allowed me to focus on my studies and personal growth without constant worry about costs.

— Lucy, a No Mind Left Behind Scholar  
studying Sociology at Queen's University Belfast

”



## HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2025? 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 scholarships are awarded to students who have an ambition to make a positive impact in their field of study, examine and tackle our great global challenges, and make a significant difference to wider society.

2025 / 2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

**53 New Scholars** and  
**12 Continuing Scholars** from  
from **18 counties** across the island of Ireland  
received scholarships  
totaling over **\$3.3m** to support them in pursuing courses  
across **14 academic disciplines**  
at **34 universities** in the US, Canada, the UK, and Europe.



The George Moore Scholars



“

Without the George Moore Scholarship, it wouldn't have been possible for me to accept my offer of admission at a university that I've dreamed of, and worked towards, for many years. I'm honored that George Moore Scholars and The Ireland Funds have chosen to invest in my potential, and I look forward to paying this incredible opportunity forward.”

– Cara O'Donnell, 2025 George Moore Scholar, Master of Laws at Harvard University



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# PEOPLE ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO



## SAMUEL

### FOODCLOUD

Samuel runs a charity that gets 90% of its food from FoodCloud. It enables him to provide fresh vegetables, fruits and other products to families in his community experiencing food poverty.

**SUPPORT FROM  
THE IRELAND FUNDS  
HAS HELPED FOODCLOUD  
CONNECT SURPLUS FOOD  
WITH HUNDREDS OF  
CHARITIES ACROSS  
IRELAND ENABLING THE  
DISTRIBUTION OF MILLIONS  
OF HEALTHY MEALS.**

[WATCH THE STORY](#)



## LILLIAN

### IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Lillian lives in a challenging area of Limerick. She received her violin from Irish Chamber Orchestra and has now learned the joy of music education at no cost to her family..

**SUPPORT FROM  
THE IRELAND FUNDS  
IS BRINGING THE  
TRANSFORMATIVE  
POWER OF MUSIC TO  
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO  
WOULD NOT OTHERWISE  
HAVE ACCESS TO MUSIC  
EDUCATION.**

[WATCH THE STORY](#)



## AUSTIN

### SANCTUARY RUNNERS

Austin was new to Ireland as an immigrant and knew no one. Sanctuary Runners provided a weekly community-driven space to run, walk, and socialize with his neighbors.

**SUPPORT FROM  
THE IRELAND FUNDS  
HELPED CREATE  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES,  
ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND  
THEIR IRISH NEIGHBORS  
TO MEET AND STRENGTH-  
EN THEIR COMMUNITIES,  
TOGETHER.**

[WATCH THE STORY](#)



“Without The Ireland Funds, we would be unable to provide such a high-quality, effective service for our young people. Support has not only enabled us to meet immediate needs but has also allowed us to build lasting trust and relationships within the community. Your continued support has had a genuine and tangible impact on the lives of some of East Belfast's most vulnerable young people, and we are truly grateful. Thank you for investing in our work and for standing alongside us in creating positive change. — *Phoenix Education Centre, CIC*

”



## ASIAM

Thanks to The Ireland Funds' support, AsIAm was able to facilitate attendance at the Autism Europe International Congress, empowering parents and professionals across Ireland to take part in this landmark event that convened cutting-edge research, insights, and best practices in the field of autism.

— *The Ireland Funds helped AsIAm to strengthen its work in providing trusted resources and guidance for the autism community, while promoting a more inclusive and accepting society across Ireland.*

## WOMEN'STEC

The Ireland Funds' investment has enabled us to strengthen our operational capacity and extend our reach to more women and girls. This support directly contributes to our mission of fostering a more inclusive and equitable society in which women and girls can fulfil their potential and

thrive. — *The Ireland Funds helped WOMEN'STEC strengthen operations and expand access to training, reducing barriers for women and girls entering under-represented industries.*

## SING IRELAND

Support from The Ireland Funds meant that Sing Ireland was able to sustain and expand our impact — empowering people to find their voice, express themselves creatively, and build meaningful connections. A huge thank you to everyone at The Ireland Funds. Together, we are creating a more connected and inclusive Ireland for all. — *The Ireland Funds enabled Sing Ireland to deliver inclusive singing programs for young people with additional needs, providing training and opportunities to connect through music.*

## WOMEN'STEC





HOLY TRINITY YOUTH CENTRE



THE PLAYHOUSE

### THE PLAYHOUSE

“Thank you to The Ireland Funds for your generous support. Your contribution empowers creativity, nurtures talent and sustains our vibrant artistic community in The Playhouse.

— *The Ireland Funds helped The Playhouse create inclusive community projects that amplify underrepresented voices and explore themes of peacebuilding, justice, and diversity.*

### HOLY TRINITY YOUTH CENTRE

The Ireland Funds Heart of the Community Fund provided much-needed support and has personally, socially and educationally improved the lives of the young people we work with as they become active citizens in their communities. We are deeply indebted to The Ireland Funds and its donors for investing in the future of our community. —

*The Ireland Funds helped Holy Trinity Youth Centre to maintain essential services and deliver programs that nurture confidence, leadership, and development among young people in West Belfast.*



“ The Ireland Funds serves as a powerful force for good, strengthening communities and fostering opportunity right across the island of Ireland. Transcending borders and creating connections is the lifeblood of The Ireland Funds. It is hard to overstate the profound impact that The Ireland Funds has had on both sides of the Atlantic.

— **TAOISEACH MICHEÁL MARTIN**

*Addressing the 2025 Washington D.C. National Gala*

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in o f [irelandfunds.org](http://irelandfunds.org)

—  
Progress  
Through  
Philanthropy  
—