

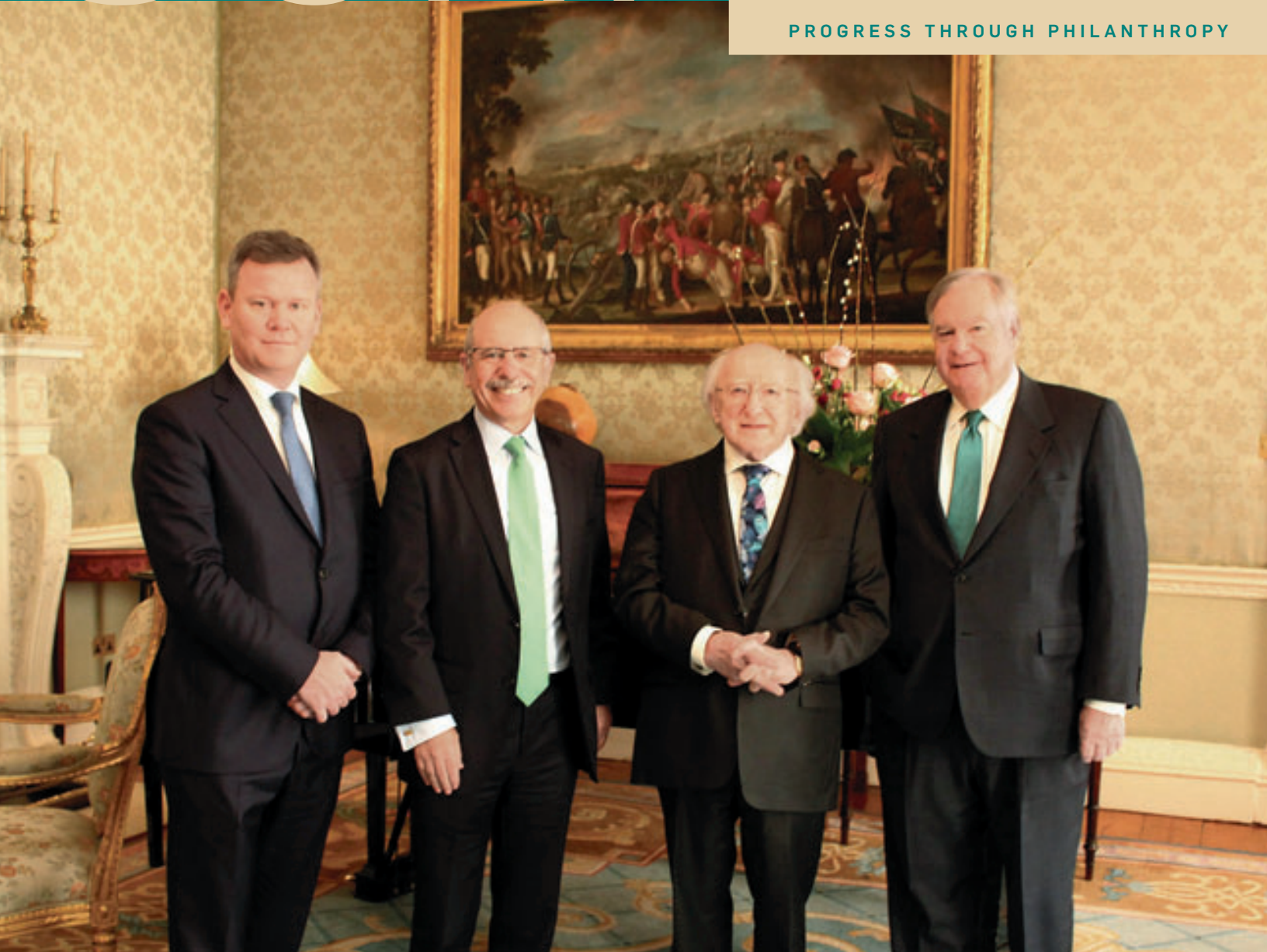


THE IRELAND FUNDS

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

# Connect

PROGRESS THROUGH PHILANTHROPY



**2020** New Leadership for The Ireland Funds America



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a light green knit beanie, a grey turtleneck, and a tan ribbed sweater, is smiling and sitting in a wooden boat on a lake. In the background, a large, multi-story stone castle with crenellated towers sits on a hillside surrounded by lush green trees and a forested mountain range under a clear sky.

Fill your heart with **Ireland** 

**They say you should always  
listen to your heart**

And what better place to do that than the island of Ireland. After all, your heart knows best. It knows when you're lost for words, or just lost in the moment. Your heart is the best compass there is. And it's led you to some magnificent places, where you've been welcomed by new friends, tried sumptuous local cuisine and experienced the ultimate in relaxation. So get out there and fill your heart with the best of Ireland.

**Visit [Ireland.com](https://www.ireland.com)**





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*Read Connect magazine online  
at [www.irelandfunds.org](http://www.irelandfunds.org)*



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# Connect



Dear Friends, Welcome to the latest edition of Connect magazine. This year is off to an exciting start. We, along with our new Vice Chairman Shaun Kelly, recently spent time in Ireland meeting with the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins to discuss the impact of The Ireland Funds and how we can continue to strategically strengthen the island of Ireland. The appreciation that was expressed for what you have helped us achieve so far, only inspires us to do more in the year ahead.

This Spring/Summer issue is all about opportunity. Opportunities provided by Sensational Kids for families and children to receive key therapeutic services. Opportunities provided by the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities for its students to have equal chances for employment. Opportunities offered by Enactus to develop big social entrepreneurship ideas that result in positive societal change. All of these opportunities have a common denominator: they have the support of The Ireland Funds.

That support is made possible by you, our Donors, and for that we are immensely grateful. Your involvement is the engine which drives the stories you will read about here.

Another great headline is the next generation of six projects that will share €500,000 from our most recent Flagship Grant Round. These two-year investments of significant financial support can be game-changing for organizations seeking to bring their programs to the next level of impact. In addition, we are proud to have made an equal investment of €500,000 in our Small Grants Round which will deliver smaller, crucial grants to 90 community organizations. We hear over and over that these are often the seeds needed to nourish work at a grassroots level in communities across Ireland.

The Flagship Grant Round, the Small Grants Round, your Donor-Advised gifts and other supports are what enable us to efficiently invest in the work of non-profit organizations that need it most. We're excited to return with stories and updates on what your investment has accomplished.

We nourish all this together, with you, our Donors. We are committed to being the very best partner and steward of your philanthropic investments for Ireland. Without you, none of this is possible and we thank you for your belief in our work and mission.

Kind regards,

Gene McQuade  
Chairman,  
The Ireland Funds America

David Cronin  
President & CEO,  
The Ireland Funds America



# 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 [www.irelandfunds.org](http://www.irelandfunds.org)*

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

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Progress  
Through  
Philanthropy  
—



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



In early 2020, the new leadership of The Ireland Funds America was welcomed by the President of Ireland in Dublin. The Ireland Funds America President & CEO **David Cronin**, Chairman **Gene McQuade** and Vice Chairman **Shaun Kelly** met with President of Ireland, **Michael D. Higgins** and discussed the role of The Ireland Funds and importance of its past and future contributions to Ireland.

Photo: Hans Zomer

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THE IRELAND FUNDS

# thank you

—  
Progress  
Through  
Philanthropy  
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**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.



“

“The Ireland Funds offered us support in the very early days when we had a promising idea but had not yet demonstrated success. You trusted our mission, believed in our goals and have supported us as we’ve grown to become an award-winning civic initiative in the heart of the Irish capital.... we are officially the number one museum on TripAdvisor—and were recently voted the number 20 museum in Europe.” — TREVOR WHITE, MUSEUM DIRECTOR OF THE LITTLE MUSEUM OF DUBLIN



“There is a crisis of family homelessness in Ireland. Support from The Ireland Funds is helping us to break this tragic cycle by allowing us to develop and deliver educational and therapeutic supports to women and children in our services. We are extremely grateful to The Ireland Funds for their encouragement and assistance.” — ALLISON ALDRED, CEO OF GOOD SHEPHERD CORK

“

“It has been a true privilege to be invited to many Ireland Funds’ events in both Ireland and the United States and to meet so many amazing members of The Ireland Funds’ family. It is truly special knowing that there is a network of people around the world who want to support work such as ours. I want to thank all donors for the work you do and all your support to date. ASIAm could not have the impact we do without the help of The Ireland Funds.” —ADAM HARRIS, FOUNDER AND CEO OF ASIAM



**Below is a sample 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 Gifts that fulfill our donors' extraordinary philanthropic vision.

174 Trust	Cabragh Wetlands Development Trust	Cork Penny Dinners	Friends of the Cancer Centre	Irish Traveller Movement
Abbey School	Cahoots NI	Corrymeela Community	Front Line	Irish Wheelchair Association
Ablevision Ireland	Cáirde Fundraising - Knocktemple N.S.	Crosscare	Fund it (Business to Arts)	Irish Youth Foundation
The Abbey Theatre	Camara Ireland	Cuan Mhuire	Funky Fish Youth Café	iScoil
ACET (AIDS Care Education & Training) Ireland	Camcor Community & Recreation Centre	Cuan Modh Day Centre	Future Voices Ireland	IT Sligo
Adare Recreation & Community Complex	Camp Camilla	Cuisle Cancer Support Centre	Gaelic Players Association	Iveagh Trust
Age Action Ireland	Cancer Fund for Children	CURE	Gaelscoil na gCeithre Máistrí	Jack and Jill Children's Foundation
Age Concern Causeway	Cancer Support Sanctuary LARCC	CyberSmarties	Gaisce - The President's Award	Jesuit Refugee Service Ireland
Age Concern Network	Cappagh Hospital Trust	Cystic Fibrosis Ireland	Galway Autism Partnership	Jewish Home of Ireland
Aisling Irish Community Center	Cara-Friend	Daisyhouse	Galway Community Circus	Jigsaw
Aisling Return to Ireland Project	Care After Prison	Damask Community Outreach	Galway GAA	Kanturk Community Hospital
Alcohol Forum	Carmichael Centre	Dance Ireland	Galway Hospice Foundation	Kenmare Carnegie Arts Centre
Alliance Française Dublin	Carrickfergus YMCA	Dance Research Forum Ireland	Galway Rape Crisis Centre	Kerry GAA Centre of Excellence
ALONE	Castlerea Community Arts Group	Dance Theatre of Ireland	The Gate Theatre	Kerry Hospice Foundation
Alzheimer Society of Ireland	Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York	Darndale Belcamp Village Centre	Genio	Kerry Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre
Amal Women's Association	The Cavan Centre	DCU Ryan Academy	Giving Northern Ireland	Kerry Writers' Museum
American Irish Historical Society	Ceiliúradh	DePaul Ireland	GIY - Grow It Yourself	Killaloe Community Development Co.
An Taisce	ChangeX	Dogs for the Disabled	Glasnevin Cemetery Museum	Kinship Care Northern Ireland
Anam Cara	Charities Institute Ireland	Dogs Trust	Glenstal Abbey	Lady Gregory Autumn Gathering
Angel Eyes NI	Chernobyl Children's Project	Dolmen Clubhouse CLG	The Global Undergraduate Awards	The Lantern Community Project
ARC Healthy Living Centre	Chester Beatty Library	Donegal Clinical Academy Trust	GOAL	Laois Sports Partnership CLG
Archbishop Marsh's Library	Children in Crossfire	Donegal Family Resource Centre	Gonzaga College S.J.	L'Arche Belfast
Ardayne Holycross Boxing Club	Children, Adults, Parents and Autism (CAPAA)	Down Right Brilliant	Good Shepherd Cork	LASALLE College of the Arts
AREMOJA Women's Group Sligo	Children's Grief Centre	Down Syndrome Centre	Grace Park Educate Together N.S.	Lauragh Community Council
The Ark	Children's Law Centre	Down Syndrome Cork	Graffiti Theatre Company	LauraLynn Ireland's Children's Hospice
Arthritis Ireland	Children's Medical Research Foundation	Down Syndrome Ireland	Greater Dublin Independent Living	Learning Hub Limerick
Ashoka	ChildVision	Dr Crokes GAA Club	Grow in Ireland	Leitrim Calling
AsIAM	Cill Rialaig Project	Druid Theatre Company	HADD-ADHD Ireland	Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Athlone Institute of Technology	Cinemagic	Dublin City University	Hawk's Well Theatre	Lewis Glucksman Gallery
Athlone Sub Aqua Club	Citizens of Senior Years (COSY) Club	Dublin Institute of Technology	Helium Arts	Lime Tree Theatre
Atlantic Challenge Ireland	Clara Family and Community Resource Centre	Dublin International Piano Competition	Holy Family Boxing Club	Limerick Autism Group
Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland	Clare GAA	Dublin Jewish Board of Guardians	Holywell Trust	Limerick Institute of Technology
Avoca Community First Responders	Clarecare	Dublin Simon Community	Hope 4 Life NI	Little Castle Playgroup
Baboró International Arts Festival for Children	Cloagherny Church	Dublin Talmud Torah	The Hunt Museum	The Little Museum of Dublin
Backstage Theatre	Clonard Monastery	Dublin/Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team	Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland	Longford GAA
Ballymun Adult Read & Write Scheme	Clonturk Community College	Easi Access Transport	The Icon Walk	Longford Women's Link
Banbridge Amateur Boxing Club	Cloughjordan Circus Club	Eastern Harps GAA Club	Imaginosity, Dublin Children's Museum	Lyric Theatre
Bantry Development and Tourist Association	Cnoc na Gaoithe	Educate Together	In Your Space NI	Mae Murray Foundation
Bantry Hospice Project	Coláiste Chú Chulainn	Elemental Festival Team	Inner City Enterprise	Make-A-Wish Ireland
Bantry Rowing Club	Comhlacht Tithe agus Forbairt an tSuláin Teo	Emerald Isle Immigration Center of New York	Institute of Cultural Studies	Making Connections
Barnardos	Common Ground N.I. C.I.C.	Emerald Warriors RFC	Institute of Technology Tralee	Mallow Day Care Centre
Barretstown	Community Action Network	Empowering People In Care (EPIC)	Integrated Education Fund	Maria Goretti Foundation
Baseball Ireland	Community Centre for Music and the Arts	Enable Ireland	International Charity Bazaar	Marie Curie - Belfast
Bedford Row Family Project	The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	Enactus Ireland	Ireland US Council Foundation	Marie Keating Foundation
Behind the Stable Door	Conamara Environmental Educational and Cultural Centre	Enniscorthy Rugby Club	Ireland's Great Hunger Museum	Marino Institute of Education
BeLonG To	Conradh na Gaeilge	Equine Enrichment CIC	Irish Ancestry Research Centre	Mark Pollock Trust
Belvedere College S.J.	Conary Community First Responders	Extraordinary Bodies - Carlow Arts Festival	Irish Arts Center	Mary Immaculate College
Belvedere Youth Club	Co-operation Ireland	The Festival of Curiosity	Irish Cancer Society	The Mary Robinson Centre
Benefacts	Concern Worldwide	Field Day Collective	Irish Chamber Orchestra	The Mater Foundation
Birdhill N.S.	Connemara Therapeutic Riding	Fighting Words	Irish Children's Museum	Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation
Blackrock Castle Observatory	COPE Galway	Fighting Words Belfast	Irish Community Rapid Response	McAuley Place
The Blue Box Creative Learning Centre	Cork ARC Cancer Support House	First Fortnight	Irish Cultural Centre	Meath GAA
Blackrock College	Cork Counselling Services	Flax Trust	Irish Culture Bay Area	Meath Springboard Family Support Services
Blackrock Hospice	Cork Foundation	Focus Family Resource Centre	Irish Deaf Society	The Mendicity Institution
Blossom Ireland	Cork Youth Centre	Focus Ireland	Irish Film Institute	Meningitis Research Foundation
BlueFire	Development Trust	FoodCloud	Irish Georgian Society	Mental Health Reform
Brain Injury Matters NI	Development Trust	Foróige Donegal	Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind	Merchants Quay Ireland
British-Irish Association	Development Trust	Foróige Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship	Irish Heritage Trust	Mercy Law Resource Centre
Burrenbeo Trust	Development Trust	Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC)	Irish Hospice Foundation	Michael McCarthaigh's Juvenile GAA Club
Business to Arts	Development Trust	Friends of St Luke's	Irish International Immigrant Center	Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership
Butler Gallery	Development Trust		Irish Martial Arts Academy	Midlands Science
	Development Trust		Irish Men's Sheds Association	
	Development Trust		Irish Repertory Theatre	
	Development Trust		Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	



Migraine Association of Ireland  
 Milford Care Centre  
 Miltown Malbay  
 Development Company  
 Mobility Mojo  
 MountEagles Community  
 Association  
 Move4Parkinson's  
 Moy Hill Community Farm  
 MRC Community Arts and  
 Crafts Group  
 MS Ireland  
 The MS Society of Ireland -  
 South East Region  
 Music Generation  
 Mustard Seed Ireland  
 MyMind  
 Na Piobairí Uilleann  
 Narrative 4 Ireland  
 Nasc  
 National College of Ireland -  
 Early Learning Initiative  
 National Gallery of Ireland  
 National Library of Ireland  
 The National Trust  
 National Women's  
 Council of Ireland  
 Native Woodland Trust  
 New York Irish Center  
 Newpin NI  
 Newry City AFC Special  
 Olympic Club  
 The Next Step  
 No Mind Left Behind  
 North Offaly Community  
 Development  
 North West Clare Family  
 Resource Centre  
 Northend United Youth FC  
 Northern Ireland Hospice

Not So Different  
 NUI Galway  
 NUI Maynooth  
 NYU Glucksman Ireland House  
 O'Hanlon Park Boxing Club  
 Omeath District Development  
 Company  
 One in Four  
 Open Door Trust  
 Origin Theatre Company  
 Ossory Youth  
 Our Lady's Boys Youth Club  
 Our Lady's Hospice  
 Our Steps Foundation  
 Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund  
 PeacePlayers International  
 Peter McVerry Trust  
 Philanthropy Ireland  
 Pieta House  
 The Playhouse  
 Poetry Ireland  
 Purple House Cancer Support  
 The Pushkin Trust  
 Queen's University of Belfast  
 Ramelton Town Hall  
 Development Co.  
 Rapid Prompting Method  
 Rathfriland and District  
 Regeneration Co.  
 Rebel Wheelers  
 ReCreate  
 RESPECT  
 Rights Watch UK  
 The Rory McDonagh Trust  
 Roscommon County Board GAA  
 Rosemont Secondary  
 School for Girls  
 Rossinver Community  
 Development Company  
 Rough Magic Theatre Company

Rowing Ireland  
 Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland  
 Royal Irish Academy of Music  
 Rural Area Partnership in Derry  
 SAFE Ireland  
 The Salvation Army Ireland  
 Science Gallery  
 Scoil Chríost Rí  
 Scoil Uí Conrail  
 Self Help Africa  
 Senior Citizen Helpline Company  
 Sensational Kids  
 Shalom Centre for Conflict  
 Reconciliation  
 Shannon Paddlers Club  
 Sharing Point  
 ShoutOut  
 Show Racism the Red Card  
 Siel Bleu Ireland  
 Skibbereen Active & Social Club  
 Smock Alley Theatre  
 The Soar Foundation  
 Social Entrepreneurs Ireland  
 Social Innovation Fund Ireland  
 Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
 Solace House  
 Solas Project  
 Special Olympics Ireland  
 Specialisterne Ireland  
 The Spectrum Centre Trust  
 Speedpak Group  
 Spinal Injuries Ireland  
 Sport Against Racism Ireland  
 Spraoui agus Spórt Family Centre  
 St. Bernadette's Boxing Club  
 St. Brigid's Church Belfast  
 St. Camillus Bethany Bereavement  
 Support Group  
 St. James's Hospital Foundation

St. Jarlath's Court Residents'  
 Association  
 St. Jarlath's Diocesan Trust  
 St. Luke's Home  
 St. Malachy's College  
 St. Mary's College  
 St. Mary's Youth &  
 Community Centre  
 St. Matthew's N.S.  
 St. Munchin's College  
 St. Patrick Visitor Centre  
 St. Patrick's Cathedral - Dublin  
 St. Patrick's Mental Health Service  
 St. Ultan's Childcare project  
 St. Vincent's GAA  
 Strokestown GAA  
 Suas Educational Development  
 Suttonians RFC  
 SWAN Youth service  
 Tallaght University  
 Hospital Foundation  
 Teesside University  
 Temple Street Foundation  
 Third Age Foundation  
 Thomas F. Meagher Foundation  
 Thoor Ballylee Development  
 Three Drives Family  
 Resource Centre  
 Tipperary Rural Travellers Project  
 Together-Razem Centre  
 Transformative College  
 Transition Town Kinsale  
 and Plastic Free Kinsale  
 Trinity Centre for People  
 with Intellectual Disabilities  
 Trinity College Dublin  
 Two Castles Amateur Boxing Club  
 Tyrone GAA  
 UCC Cork Cancer Research Center

UCD Michael Smurfit School  
 of Business  
 Ulster University  
 University College Cork  
 University College Dublin  
 University of Limerick  
 Verbal Arts Centre  
 Via Wings  
 Village Counselling Service  
 Vineyard Compassion  
 Walkinstown Greenhills  
 Resource Centre  
 Washington-Ireland Programme  
 Waterford Healing Arts Trust  
 Waterford Institute of Technology  
 Waterside Women's Centre  
 West Belfast Partnership  
 West Clare Family  
 Resource Centre  
 West Cork Music  
 West Cork Rural Transport  
 West Cork Women Against  
 Violence Project  
 Wexford Festival Opera  
 Wexford GAA  
 Whitegates Community Business  
 Wicklow Hospice Foundation  
 Wicklow Travellers Group  
 Women for Election  
 Women in Business NI  
 Women on Air  
 WOMEN'STEC  
 The XLC Project  
 Yeats Society Sligo  
 Young at Art  
 Young Social Innovators  
 Youth Initiatives  
 Youth Work Ireland - Tipperary



MAKE  
 A GIFT:

**Your gift will help The Ireland Funds invest in the 2020 Grant Rounds  
 to identify and support even more outstanding organizations.**



**WELCOME**

# Gene McQuade

The New Chairman *of*  
The Ireland Funds  
America





On January 1, 2020, Eugene "Gene" McQuade succeeded John Fitzpatrick as Chairman of The Ireland Funds America. Gene has been involved with The Ireland Funds America for over two decades as a Donor, a Board Director, and a member of the Board's Audit and Long-Range Planning Committees.



January 2020, The leadership of The Ireland Funds America meets with the President of Ireland.  
L-R: David Cronin, President & CEO; Shaun Kelly, Vice Chairman; President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins;  
Gene McQuade, Chairman



Gene comes to the position with wide-ranging business experience and perspective. Currently Chairman of XL Group PLC, he formerly occupied the positions of President of Bank of America Corp. President & Chief Operating Officer of FleetBoston Financial Corp. and Vice Chairman & President-US Banking Unit at Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (both are subsidiaries of Bank of America Corp.), President & Chief Operating Officer for Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. He serves on numerous non-profit boards including the Boys and Girls Club of America and Catholic Charities of New York.

“I am delighted to be appointed Chairman of The Ireland Funds America,” says Gene.

“We are immensely grateful to John Fitzpatrick for the leadership he has provided since 2014 and for the growth that has happened under his role as Chairman. This is an amazing organization which makes a profound impact on the lives of people across the island of Ireland. Whether it be through creating jobs or providing access to education, The Ireland Funds America is strengthening the Irish not-for-profit sector. As a donor and

a longtime member of the board, I am excited to be taking the baton from John and working with the board, staff and fellow-donors to do great things for communities across the island of Ireland.”

Gene also expressed excitement at the blend of new and seasoned staff on The Ireland Funds’ team. “I’m seeing some bold and bright ideas which I know are going to invigorate the organization. Yet I also love that we still have an established and dedicated staff who have decades of experience and insights into how to serve Ireland.”

As donors, Gene and his wife Peggy have attended many of the annual June Conferences held by The Ireland Funds. It is there they have had a chance to visit numerous projects the organization supports.

“The most worthwhile and moving part of the conference is to see how our money is being invested. We realize the impacts that we’re making by seeing people who are the beneficiaries of these contributions,” says Gene. “seeing the people who run these organizations tell us about the difference that we’re making in people’s lives, that for me is a gamechanger. It really gives you an energy to say, ‘now I realize why I’m involved here.’”



# Shaun Kelly

The New Vice Chairman of The Ireland Funds America

In addition to Gene McQuade's appointment, The Ireland Funds America has also appointed Shaun Kelly as Vice-Chairman. Shaun is the recently-retired COO of KPMG International and has served on the Board of The Ireland Funds America on the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Audit Committee and the Grants Committee.

A native of Northern Ireland, Shaun has been involved with The Ireland Funds for over a decade. "I'm delighted to now serve as Vice-Chair of The Ireland Funds America. Working with my colleagues on the Board has given me a much deeper understanding and appreciation of the great work of the organization. Spending time with projects throughout the island of Ireland over the years has reinforced the importance of the impact of The Ireland Funds. We are looking forward to working as a team to build on the legacy and to continue this great work in the years ahead."



The Ireland Funds

# FLAGSHIP AWARDEES

## and Small Grants Round 2019

The Ireland Funds is delighted to announce our support of Flagship Grants Investment to these outstanding organizations.

The Ireland Funds Flagship Investments program provides grants for core funding, capacity building or program costs for non-profit organizations working within one of our key program areas of Arts & Culture, Community Development, Education and Peace & Reconciliation. Our aim is to improve the quality and sustainability of existing programs, or to help scale initiatives that are already having an impact. A total of €500,000 will be shared by six outstanding organizations over 2 years.

In addition to the Flagship Awardees, The Ireland Funds also distributed €500,000 to 90 organizations through its Small Grants Round. The Small Grants Round offers awards to small community organizations and for organizations that have not previously been supported by The Ireland Funds. These smaller investments of up to €10,000 support a wide range of not-for-profit and community organizations in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

### FLAGSHIP AWARDS

**€500,000**  
6 organizations  
2 years of investment

+

**€500,000**  
90 organizations  
New Investments

### SMALL GRANTS ROUND





# ASIAM

## Autism Spectrum Information Advice and Meeting Point

AsIAm is an organization working to build an inclusive Ireland for autistic people, creating a society where every autistic person is accepted and valued "as they are." **Support of €100,000 over the coming 2 years will enable AsIAm to improve outcomes for autistic people, and their families, by providing the tools, information and skills required in order to access the community.**

# CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN

Cancer Fund for Children works to provide practical and emotional support to children and young people (age 0-24) diagnosed with cancer and young people who have a parent with cancer, and their families. **The Ireland Funds have awarded Cancer Fund for Children €100,000 over two years to develop the RISE Project, which will improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of 40 young people aged 8-17 years old impacted by cancer.**







## DEPAUL IRELAND

Depaul is a charity working with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, focusing on serving and caring for those with complex needs. **The Flagship Award of €100,000 over 2 years will allow Depaul to support the salary of a Resettlement Officer who will work to empower migrants, upon leaving Direct Provision, to fully exercise their rights and become deeply integrated into their new communities in Ireland.**



## PIETA HOUSE

Pieta House provides free and freely accessible professional counselling to Irish men, women and children struggling with thoughts of suicide or self-harm and those who have lost a loved one to suicide. **The Ireland Funds will be supporting The Resilience Academy, a 6-week evidence-based program targeting 12-13 year old students, delivered in schools with the aim to reduce child suicide/self-harm and increase resilience amongst Irish youth.**





# SUAS EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Suas is one of Ireland's leading children's literacy charities, providing evidence-based reading and maths supports to struggling children whose needs are not being addressed by Ireland's education system. **Support of €80,000 over 2 years will see Suas expand their services to cover the Island of Ireland, delivering their proven literacy mentorship model in disadvantaged communities in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.**





# YOUTHACTION NORTHERN IRELAND

YouthAction NI has a 75-year history of working 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. **The Ireland Funds has awarded €70,000 over the 2 years to fund the 'One Small Step' campaign where YouthAction NI will engage and inspire young people on the margins, ages 14-25, to take actions to create change.**



# How were the 2019 Flagship Awards Selected?



**Grants workshops were delivered in five locations across Ireland** and the grants team were on hand to give advice on eligibility and how to apply.  **333** Letters of Inquiry (an increase of 50 from 2018) were submitted by organizations, each providing a proposal seeking support from The Ireland Funds.  **25** organizations were then invited to submit a full application and site visits to each of the organizations were conducted  **12** organizations were then selected based on the goals of the initiative, potential impact of the proposal, the organization's capacity to deliver, fit for The Ireland Funds, and long-term sustainability of the project  **12** finalists participated in a training workshop and then pitched to two panels of external interviewers.  Following feedback from each panel combined with internal discussion and deliberation in The Ireland Funds, **six organizations were selected as The Ireland Funds Flagship Awardees for 2019.**



MAKE  
A GIFT:

Your gift will help The Ireland Funds invest in the 2020 Grant Rounds to identify and support even more outstanding organizations.



# Blossom Ireland

## Blossom Ireland

Creating New Possibilities for  
Those with Intellectual Disabilities

# For a Life

Blossom Ireland is an award-winning organization that provides skills-based training designed to prepare young people aged 14 to 20 years with an intellectual disability (ID) for life as an adult. It offers a practical education and life skills program – the Personal Empowerment Program (PEP) – which teaches the young people to be as independent as possible in the community, socially, and in the workplace. The program also provides bespoke support, advocacy and information for both the young person and their family during important transition periods in their life.



# Blossom Ireland Like Any Other

*Here, Auveen Bell the co-founder and CEO of Blossom Ireland, shares how The Ireland Funds has invested in its success:*

Blossom Ireland's relationship with The Ireland Funds began back in 2014 when we received our first grant of €3,000. Our program at that time was little more than an idea at the kitchen table.

We had built up no evidence of its impact, we had no proof that it would work but we had the power of our convictions and we believed 100% in what we were aiming to do. The Ireland Funds backed that belief, something no other funder did at the time. In addition to the financial boost it gave us, it also reassured us that our idea had potential. We knew what we were doing was right. We knew it was making a difference. We received two further small grants from The Ireland Funds in 2015 and 2016 of €3,000. In 2017 we were absolutely delighted to be awarded €100,000 for the Flagship Grant.

The financial support along with the endorsement from The Ireland Funds has been instrumental in allowing the expansion and development of the program to-date. The security that came with that Flagship Grant has allowed us to develop a program that is filling an important gap in educational provision for young people in Ireland with intellectual disabilities and one that is having very visible and measurable impact for them.

Thanks to the platform which the Flagship Grant provides, we were also introduced to a private trust who donated €75,000 p.a. from 2018 – 2020. Having two multi-annual grants has enabled us to change how we think and to increase our ambitions for the Personal Empowerment Program.

Our main target over the 2-year period of the Flagship Grant was for 14 participants to have completed the program. We achieved this and more. By 2021 we anticipate that we will have worked with 70 young people and their families along with over 20 employers and community-based organizations. In 2020 we will pilot Blossom PEP in a school. Should this prove to be a success we can then potentially access young people in all schools across Ireland to learn the vital skills to prepare them for adulthood – something schools are very often under-resourced to do. However, in order to achieve this we are seeking a small number of investors who are interested in supporting our work. If you are interested in learning more about our Program, please do not hesitate to contact The Ireland Funds at US 212-689-3100 or Auveen Bell at [auveen@blossomireland.ie](mailto:auveen@blossomireland.ie)

One thing we pride ourselves in is being innovative in everything we do. We don't ever sit back and say, "That's done now." We constantly test. We constantly evaluate. We constantly adapt and change as we see fit. A funder like The Ireland Funds allows you to do that and in fact, encourages it.

**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 ID a chance to live a life like any other.**



**Taking the bus and train without mom and dad. Buying a coffee and snack with friends at the local café. These are steps to confidence and independence that most young people take for granted. But for young people like Howard, these are milestones to be especially proud of.**

“Howard has a global developmental delay, explains his mom, Laura. “As a result, we found it difficult to get Howard into various clubs around the local area because he wasn’t Down syndrome. He wasn’t autistic. Blossom was inclusive and welcomed Howard first into the summer camp program and now into PEP. The program is always pushing and stretching our children and their goals. Howard has evolved every step of the way.”

Howard began the Blossom program when he was nine years old and moved into the PEP program when he was fourteen. Soon he was learning skills and tasks that once seemed daunting. “He [Howard] couldn’t order something in the café when he started with us,” says Imelda Fitzpatrick, Program Director, Blossom Ireland. “I remember him just sitting on his chair watching everyone else go up to order and not move. Now he is the employee of the month and teaching others.”

**Today at age 19, Howard is one of three paid teen mentors with Blossom’s PEP program. Along with Blossom staff he now helps conduct the program but brings a unique perspective having gone through the program himself. “Being a teen mentor is good for me because I help people,” says Howard. “I show them how to take the bus. We have to help and train people. They may be nervous, but they are ready for it!”**



*Howard and his mom, Laura*

*Howard has come through the Blossom Summer Camp and Personal Empowerment Program. He now serves as a peer mentor.*

# Howard

*A Personal Empowerment Program Success Story*



# Thanks

to The Ireland Funds' Flagship Award support of Blossom's Personal Empowerment Program...

80% of parents said their child now seems confident when out in the community



83% of parents said their child is now engaging with peers in a meaningful way



participants have increased their preparation for after-school life skills by

51%



**VIDEO:** Watch how The Ireland Funds has strengthened the work of Blossom Ireland

# NO MIND LEFT BEHIND

NO MIND LEFT BEHIND IS AN INITIATIVE DEVELOPED BY THE IRELAND FUNDS AND LONGTIME IRELAND FUNDS' DONORS JOHN AND PAULINE RYAN TO GIVE PROMISING YOUNG PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE THIRD-LEVEL EDUCATION BY PROVIDING AN ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP TO COVER THE COSTS OF BOOKS, ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER KEY EXPENSES.

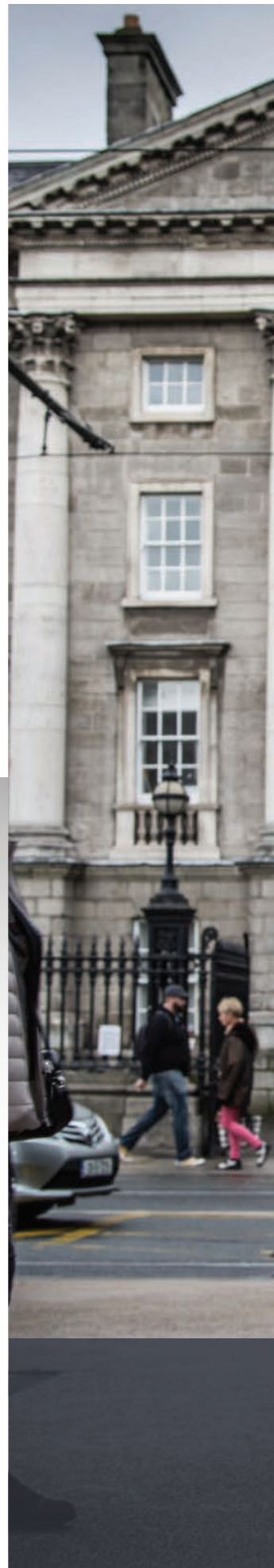
All across the island of Ireland there are promising young people from areas of severe social disadvantage who need an opportunity to enter third-level education.

Although undergraduate tuition fees are covered by the Irish government, the current reality for students is that the additional expenses associated with pursuing third level studies are both extensive and burdensome. These unacknowledged expenses are often the cause for a promising student from a lower socio-economic background to abandon their studies. Once selected for the NMLB scholarship, the progress of the scholars is monitored as they must demonstrate successful progression through each year of their course.

**The Ireland Funds is proud that over 110 scholarships, to the value of €1,680,000, have been funded to date by our donors giving young people a chance to build strong foundations for their futures.**

**The No Mind Left Behind Program provides €3,000-€4,000 per academic year to ensure a student's full potential is met.**

**In 2019-2020, The Ireland Funds has 97 No Mind Left Behind Scholars in 23 colleges and universities across the island of Ireland.**







Photos: Aengus McMahon

# ADAM

FROM DONEGAL  
STUDYING BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES  
AT TRINITY COLLEGE

## “I COME FROM A FAMILY OF 5 KIDS.

We live in a small town called Buncrana in County Donegal. I'm currently studying biological and biomedical sciences here in Trinity. Hopefully after that I'd love to specialize in genetics and ideally go into research. I first heard about the No Mind Left Behind scholarship through my secondary school. In Buncrana there's just not a lot of job opportunities for people my age, because it's such a small town.

I applied and a couple weeks later my principal called me. I was over the moon. My parents couldn't believe it. I was thinking I was going to have to take out a student loan, I had already made an application and everything.

Coming from a family with five kids, my parents will eventually have to put four others through university. It's a weight off their shoulders and it has meant I can immerse myself fully in the college experience. It also means I can afford everything from books to a lab coat and occasionally go home and see my family.

I've heard from a lot of my fellow students that they find it extremely hard to balance studies with work, particularly in our course as it's very information-heavy. In that way the scholarship has benefited me as I'm able to focus solely on my studies without having to work long hours at night.”

“I'M JUST SO GRATEFUL THAT SOMEONE OUT THERE WAS WILLING TO DONATE TO GIVE ME A BETTER COLLEGE EXPERIENCE. IT'S A REALLY HEARTWARMING THING TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE WOULD DO THAT.”





“YOU DON’T THINK THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE THAT GENEROUS IN LIFE, BUT HERE IS SOMEONE GIVING FOR ME TO HAVE A BETTER EDUCATION. IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY. SO SOMEDAY, I JUST WANT TO GIVE IN RETURN. IT IS A FLOW.”





# WURAOOLA

FROM DROGHEDA  
STUDYING HEALTH SCIENCES AT  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

## “I WAS BORN IN NIGERIA

and came to Ireland when I was three years old when my family was seeking asylum. My family lives just outside Drogheda. In secondary school I got good grades, was involved with sports and I just loved school! At the end of my time there, my principal contacted me and said, 'I was talking with your teachers and they tell me you are a great student. There is a scholarship for you...' I hadn't been working hard thinking it would result in that. The fact that my work had been noticed was so meaningful. I had always hoped to continue my studies but the logistics and cost of everything from accommodation to costs was overwhelming. I hadn't wanted to stress my family out with it.

When I told my mom about the scholarship, she cried. She knew how hard I'd been working. She knew how late I would stay up to finish just one more chapter. There is no way my parents would have been able to pay for my accommodation and expenses for college. The No Mind Left Behind scholarship allows me to focus on my academics rather than having to work during the weekends.

One day I was just thinking about this scholarship, 'Imagine. Someone I don't know is actually giving their money for people like me to study.'"

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ENABLE A DESERVING IRISH STUDENT TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION?

*Donors can select the city, county, secondary school or university in Ireland or Northern Ireland to which they would like the scholarship to be awarded. It is an opportunity for donors to not only invest in a deserving student, but to honor their area of ancestry.*


**For more information contact Ciara McConnell  
in The Ireland Funds Dublin office at:  
[cmccConnell@irelandfunds.org](mailto:cmccConnell@irelandfunds.org)**



# SENSATIONAL KIDS







**SENSATIONAL KIDS BENEFITS THE 1 IN 4 CHILDREN IN IRELAND WHO HAVE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, SUCH AS AUTISM, DOWN SYNDROME, DYSLEXIA AND DYS-PRAXIA. BY PROVIDING A RANGE OF CLINICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES WITH A HIGHLY-SKILLED CLINICAL TEAM, IT BENEFITS CHILDREN OF ALL AGES AND ALL ABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.**

**THE ORGANIZATION WAS FOUNDED BY KAREN LEIGH,**

a mother who found she needed services for her son, Connor. Karen also found that they were on a government waiting list that was years-long for those services and therapies Connor needed immediately to help him get ahead. Private therapies were available but costly and out of reach to most families.

Some people might feel stuck, but Karen decided to set up Sensational Kids in 2007 to fill a need for families like hers. Today, Sensational Kids is providing occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, play therapy and educational psychological assessments to thousands of children.

"Currently there are 45,000 children in Ireland on waiting lists for therapy services," says Karen. "Families are often looking at waiting lists of three years and more. We know that early intervention is crucial for children with additional needs. That's where Sensational Kids comes in. It bridges the gap between public and expensive private therapy services, and we ensure it is accessible for children who otherwise might not receive any therapies at all."

Sensational Kids is now providing once-unattainable services to families who previously had very little hope or chances for their children. "Our services are affordable thanks to our donors," says Karen. "Our ethos is that no child is ever turned away."



Photo: Aengus McMahon

## SUPPORT FROM THE IRELAND FUNDS

HAS ENSURED THAT CHILDREN IN NEED THROUGHOUT IRELAND HAVE ACCESS TO VITAL SUPPORTS WHEN AND WHERE THEY NEED THEM.

- ♥ Thanks to The Ireland Funds 2018 Flagship Award of €80,000 over two years, over 500 additional children a year have received services. Adding to an existing facility in Kildare, Sensational Kids tripled its number of facilities operated and opened additional child development centers in Cork and Mayo.
- ♥ Since its founding, Sensational Kids has now changed the lives of over 6,000 children, saving their families over €1.5 million in therapy fees.

**"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 28,500 children over the next ten years, delivering 154,000 therapy interventions, saving their families €6.5 million in therapy fees."** – Karen Leigh, Founder of Sensational Kids.



# WHAT IS POSSIBLE

## WITH MORE FUNDING?

- ♥ Sensational Kids recently started hippotherapy, an occupational therapy using horses. It is seeking donors to help fund the costs of hiring the area and horses (current cost is €300 per week) to work with children.
- ♥ Sensational Kids has been awarded the Social Innovation Fund Growth Fund. For every euro/dollar raised up to €510,000, they will get 100% matched funding from the Irish Government, which would help increase their social impact and financial sustainability. It is currently seeking funding to make this possible.
- ♥ Continued investment in a new Kildare flagship HQ facility is a large-scale legacy project which gives a social impact investor the opportunity to do something meaningful and tangible.
- ♥ Additional funding for phase two of the Mayo facility development in order to meet the great demand for services in that area.

To learn more about how you can support these extraordinary investment opportunities, contact The Ireland Funds.



**"Both our daughters are on the spectrum and are now receiving speech and occupational therapy. These services have changed their lives and the life of our family. There is no way this would have been accessible without the work of Sensational Kids."** — Austin, father of twins Alicia and Shauna (age 7)

# SHAUNA







Photo: Aengus McMahon



## *Jamie's Story with Sensational Kids*

**We first came as Jamie was having horrible thoughts and wanted to hurt himself, pulling terrible tantrums, and as an eight-year-old, they were very hard to handle.**

When I rang Sensational Kids to explain my case I was at my last wits. We were in for our first visit the next week and since then he has been going from strength to strength, from a child that wouldn't go into school, hated everyone around him and himself. Jamie has been doing play therapy with Yvonne. He loves it and can't wait to come in.

He loves working in the playroom because he can run, jump, be as rough as he likes to be and not get hurt. Jamie has since been diagnosed with dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and sensory processing disorder. Since this and before, things have gotten much better as Yvonne has showed Jamie tricks he can even use during the day to ground himself and stop his anxiety. He now goes into school with no problem, knows his own body when he is starting to get angry, how to relax himself, and not have an outburst (this is a really good thing not even just for Jamie but for the whole family) Simple things like we couldn't bring him to a shop without an outburst and now we can, which means so much to us. As Jamie gets older these are life skills that he needs to know.

Basically, I could not thank Yvonne and Sensational Kids enough, because we were at our wits end with Jamie and hoping he would not hurt himself. All them thoughts are now gone, and we can relax a little."

### **WE HAVE OUR BOY BACK.**

✔ *Jamie's Mum*

# **WE HAVE OUR BOY BACK.**



VIDEO:

**Watch how The Ireland Funds has strengthened the work of Sensational Kids**





# THE **ABBAY** THEATRE **5X5**

JACINTA DIXON FROM THE IRISH  
WORKING DEMENTIA GROUP ON  
STAGE AT THE ABBAY THEATRE





Photo: Aengus McMahon

# NEW VOICES, NEW STORIES

## **THE ABBEY THEATRE IS IRELAND'S NATIONAL THEATRE.**

FOUNDED IN 1904 BY W.B. YEATS AND LADY GREGORY, IT HAS SERVED AS A HALLOWED STAGE FOR RENOWNED ACTORS, WRITERS AND DIRECTORS PRODUCING CULTURAL TREASURES AND THEATRICAL WORKS. BUT WITH A PEDIGREED HISTORY CAN COME THE PERCEPTION THAT THEATER IS EXCLUSIVE, ONE-DIMENSIONAL, AND ONLY FOR A CERTAIN AUDIENCE. **THE ABBEY THEATRE'S 5X5 INITIATIVE IS AIMING TO CHANGE ALL THAT.**

# “NOTHING ABOUT US...WITHOUT US.”

“We came up with the 5x5 concept in the summer of 2017,” says Jen Coppinger, Head of Producing at the Abbey Theatre. “We put the call out to the community that year with the questions:

**‘DO YOU FEEL UNDER-REPRESENTED?’**

**DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?’**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO DEVELOP THAT STORY IN FIVE DAYS?’**

We’re not asking people to put on a full play, though some have. What we are asking is are there stories that haven’t had an opportunity to be told before? How can we help change that?” The groups chosen are incredibly diverse and deliberately so. From those experiencing dementia to teenagers who are refugees to children on the autism spectrum, individuals from marginalized or rarely-heard-from communities are finding the Abbey Theatre is a new outlet for creative storytelling.



**The Irish Dementia Working Group**

**THE IRELAND FUNDS FLAGSHIP AWARD HAS ENABLED THE ABBAY THEATRE 5X5 TO OFFER EACH YEAR:**

⇒ **5** **DIFFERENT ARTIST GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES**

⇒ **5** **DAYS’ WORTH OF SPACE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

⇒ **€5,000** **TO DEVELOP A THEATER PIECE**



## Run of the Mill Theatre



# CHANGING HEARTS, CHANGING MINDS

"All too often we go and see shows about cultures that feel marginalized and locked out of the mainstream," says Graham McLaren, Co-Director of the Abbey Theatre. "But it's written by someone and performed by people who are certainly not locked out. There is a really simple mantra that I've encouraged the team to think about, which is, 'nothing about us...without us.' So, if we're going to do a show about Alzheimer's or a show about the Travelling community, or a project about mental disabilities, then let's include the people — let's put their voice there.

You must be open, and open to peoples' experiences and their truths. And even if that's uncomfortable and even if it's directly oppositional to you and everything that you hold dear. It changes hearts. It changes minds. And that changes communities...and that changes the world," says Graham. "That's why we do it. It's irrelevant how many see these 5x5's. There are some which will grow and come into big, mainstage shows. There's one right now which I think has the potential to become a phenomenon and will change thousands of minds. But if we only change one or two minds, then it's still completely worthwhile."



## SoloSIRENs

**WITH A FLAGSHIP AWARD FROM THE IRELAND FUNDS OF €70,000 OVER TWO YEARS, TEN GROUPS FROM 2019 THROUGH 2020 WILL RECEIVE SUPPORT TO TELL THEIR STORIES FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE NATIONAL STAGE OF IRELAND.**

A SAFE PLACE

Jacinta Dixon has lived in Dublin all her life and attended many performances at the Abbey Theatre over the years. Jacinta was diagnosed with Alzheimer's after working in the disability sector for 15 years. Today, she is an active member of the Irish Dementia Working Group, one of those selected to participate in the 5x5 initiative in 2019.

"In Ireland, dementia has been something that was kind of pushed to the side," says Jacinta. "It was a stigma and was considered something wrong in the family. People with dementia were told to sit down and have a cup of tea and be quiet, more or less...but there's only so much tea."

Coming to the Abbey Theatre, Jacinta was hardly sitting in the corner having tea. She and other members began to work. "The first day of walking into the Abbey, just the feeling of walking onto the stage, it was a great

experience. The Theatre team was interested in our production of things. Because of that, it didn't feel like an exercise."

During the development week, theatre company Bow Productions worked with members of the Irish Dementia Working Group to explore issues of dementia and Alzheimer's which resulted in a piece representing the voice of those living with the conditions.

"There was camaraderie and a safe place for what we were doing," explains Jacinta. "Knowing that nothing was going to go out of the room was important. It was truly a safe space. But for me, this theatre is also an almost-holy place. It is personal. Even talking about it now, I feel goosebumps that I was there."



Jacinta



# 2019 5x5 PARTICIPANTS

## THE IRISH DEMENTIA WORKING GROUP

A group supporting and advocating for people living with dementia. Group members are early in their dementia and campaign for a human rights-based approach to the condition to make life better for the 55,000 people living with dementia in Ireland.

## TAILTIU THEATRE COMMUNITY

A group helping participants to find creative ways to explore their identities including working with people living in Direct Provision Centres (locations across Ireland where asylum-seekers and refugees live while their cases are reviewed).

## SOLOSIRENS

A group of women living in Tallaght, one of the largest suburbs in Dublin with a diverse migrant population and vibrant cultural life. They come together as a women's collective to share and present stories that are rarely told.

## LISTEN UP!

A group working with children on the autistic spectrum. During their development week, the team collaborated with a group of children on the autistic spectrum to create an interactive multi-sensory musical performance piece.

## RUN OF THE MILL THEATRE

A community-based theatre collective supporting people with intellectual disabilities. During their development week, they devised, created and developed Making a Mark with the support of a team of creative designers culminating in a rehearsed reading of the piece. Making a Mark went on to premiere at the 2019 Dublin Fringe Festival.

## WHAT'S NEXT IN 2020?

Five new groups will be participating in 2020. The communities represented include working class Irish women from Dublin City Centre, LGBT+ Irish speakers, blind and visually impaired people, those living in Direct Provision, and a men's shed based in Co. Louth. This strong group of participants for the second cycle of the project looks set to build upon the already strong results of 2019.



VIDEO: [Watch each of the 2019 5x5 participant groups share their experience.](#)

# ENACTUS

**“WE ARE AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF CHANGE-MAKERS. WE ARE STUDENTS, BUSINESS LEADERS AND OTHERS, ALL MAKING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE WORLD.”**

—Ravi Gollapalli, Enactus student at University College Dublin



**TACKLING THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY,  
CREATING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW.**



**“MANAGEMENT IS MAKING SURE THINGS ARE DONE RIGHT.  
LEADERSHIP IS MAKING SURE THE RIGHT THINGS ARE DONE.”**

– Peter Drucker, management educator and author



Enactus is an innovative program for university and college students interested in addressing social problems through social entrepreneurship solutions.

**With support from The Ireland Funds, Enactus is enabling Ireland's future leaders to explore new ideas with an eye to social change. Or as Enactus says “CREATING A HEAD FOR BUSINESS AND A HEART FOR THE WORLD.”**

The program ensures that students involved don't just come up with great ideas but are equipped with the skills to execute them. Enactus programs run throughout the year across campuses offering training, mentorship, competition and networking. The organization offers third-level students in 10 Irish colleges and universities a chance to truly flex their entrepreneurial muscles, but for social good.

“Enactus has two very clear objectives: student leadership and social change,” says Fiona O’Byrne, Enactus Ireland Country Manager. “The range of experience, and skills, and training all comes together to empower the students to be future leaders with a social conscience. That then complements the social change students bring about through their projects.”

### **NO FEAR OF FAILURE**

Each year culminates with a national competition where ideas are presented, and a national winner is chosen. Teams present months of work in a 12-minute pitch to peers as well as business and community leaders who can offer advice and often mentoring. From there, the winners go on to the Enactus World Cup with teams from 36 countries.

Issues ranging from mental health to food poverty to deforestation have been addressed with innovative approaches.

Not all ideas are viable. “You need lots of ideas to generate workable ideas.” Says Fiona. “At Enactus ‘encouraging ideation’ is a cornerstone of the program and getting

students to develop ideas. Not all of them will come to fruition. Not all of them will be implemented. Yet failure is a part of entrepreneurship: trying things, seeing what works and what doesn't. That is a natural part of business and entrepreneurship, and we've been very encouraging of that.”

### **REAL LIFE = REAL SOLUTIONS**

However, some Enactus initiatives in Ireland have gone on to become full-fledged companies. FoodCloud, a project supported by The Ireland Funds, began as an Enactus project in Ireland and today is a social enterprise that connects businesses with surplus food to charities in their local communities that need it via a software platform. It has helped to ensure the equivalent of 65 million meals have gone to people and not to waste with an estimated value of €81.8 million.



Enactus members Scott Byrne, Charlie Quirke, Daire Hennessy and Erin Kehoe pictured with Enactus Board Director and The Ireland Funds America Vice Chairman Shaun Kelly along with other Enactus students at the 2019 Enactus World Cup in San José, CA.

## SUPPORT FROM THE IRELAND FUNDS HAS:



helped create **26** sustainable social entrepreneur projects tackling issues from homelessness to social integration



directly empowered and impacted the lives of **1,289** people across Ireland through Enactus projects



supported the Irish delegation to attend the World Cup in Silicon Valley, CA. The team placed in the **TOP 12** in the world



***“WE ARE DOING REAL-LIFE THINGS THAT ARE ACTUALLY HAVING AN IMPACT, IT HAS MADE ME MORE REFLECTIVE ABOUT MY PLACE IN SOCIETY AND ABOUT WHAT CAREER PATH I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE. I’LL BE USING THE SKILLS THAT I’VE LEARNED THROUGH ENACTUS FROM HERE ON***

***OUT.”*** — Andrea Whelton, Enactus student at University College Dublin



# ENACTUS PROJECTS FULFILL 3 CRITERIA



1. Each project generates its own revenue to ensure financial stability and the ability to plan, grow and scale
2. Each of the projects' beneficiaries are empowered to change their own lives in a positive manner
3. Each project aims to improve the environment and negate the negative impact the project will create

## ENACTUS PROJECT

### GREENBREW

— as told by Enactus student Andrea Whelton

"Grain waste is a massive product output of the brewing industry and in Ireland, we make loads of beer, which means we have loads of grain waste. In Ireland, there are 760,000 tons of this stuff produced every year and it all gets either thrown out or used for animal feed. We asked, 'can we do anything with this?'

We then identified a problem with Direct Provision, which is the Irish governmental policy that provides for asylum seekers in Ireland. People living in Direct Provision are often isolated in centers with limited access to ingredients and cooking facilities. So, we developed vegan and refined sugar-free recipes using the grain waste and held workshops with people in Direct Provision to teach them how to produce baked goods. We provided health and safety food training, so they had all the resources and skills they needed. They were able to bring healthy products home for their families, and additional product was then sold at a profit to put back into the program. It was about six months from idea stage to actual implementation."

*GreenBrew is now upcycling a once wasted by-product into highly nutritional baked goods sold across Dublin. The products are vegan and high in protein. The GreenBrew project won the People's Choice Award at the 2019 Enactus World Cup in San José, CA.*



Photo: Aengus McMahon



# The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition

## UPDATES FROM OUR ALUMNI

THE IRELAND FUNDS RUNS AN ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION. BY ENGAGING WITH THIRD-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS AND FOCUSING ON EARLY-STAGE ENTREPRENEURS, THE COMPETITION PROMOTES THE SKILLS NEEDED TO DEVELOP INDUSTRIES, ATTRACT INVESTORS AND, ULTIMATELY, CREATE JOBS.

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





# Where Are They Now?



## KIDS SPEECH LAB 2018 WINNER

*“As first-time entrepreneurs, participating in the Business Plan Competition gave us the tools to critically analyse our business plan and gave us the confidence to fully commit to the business.”*

Kids Speech Labs is the first digital health platform for children’s speech and language development. They are using speech recognition and artificial intelligence (AI) to develop objective bench-marking and intervention applications for children’s speech skills, enabling parents and clinicians to identify speech and language delays as early as possible. Their goal is to be the first stop for all stakeholders as a child begins to communicate, to ensure that no child misses out on the interventions they need to develop communication skills that are so critical for future development.

Since winning **The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition**, Kids Speech Labs has secured private funding as well as the highly competitive H2020 SME instrument phase 2 grant. These allowed the team to develop a prototype application which has generated one of the largest datasets of children’s speech for a clinical application. They are more than half way through raising a seed investment from private investors and Enterprise Ireland, and plan to kick-off development of their first product in Q1 of 2020.

## SAFECILITY

### 2018 THIRD RUNNER-UP

*“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. Since 2018, our customer base has grown, turnover in 2019 is 10 times 2018, we have developed patentable technology and are leading the way in automated, smart building safety testing and compliance globally. The Business Plan Competition was the best start for our company and has helped us to stay focused on what customers want.”*



Safecility helps to build safer communities through technology. Their sensors and automated emergency lighting system allows for wireless testing of key life safety equipment in buildings, savings thousands of man hours per year. This helps landlords to automate legally required safety testing, ensuring required fire-safety and life-safety testing is carried out. The software manages compliance for estates at scale helping their customers deliver safer homes

Since coming third in the 2018 Business Plan Competition, Safecility has grown to a team of 6 based in Dublin and has clients in Ireland and the United Kingdom. The company has secured innovation funding from the EU H2020 programme and the European Space Agency. Current customers include Limerick City and County Council and Vivid Homes—a UK Housing Authority. In 2020 Safecility plans to expand into the UAE and Singapore.



## JUMPAGRADE

### 2018 FINALIST

*“The Business Plan Competition helped connect jumpAgrade with a host of philanthropic funders which will play a significant role in meeting the social focus of our organization”*

JumpAgrade is an online service that helps second-level students build their confidence and prepare for exams. Now in business for its third academic year, jumpAgrade has revolutionized private tutor services making them available to students from the comfort of their own home. It takes the hassle out of tutoring, allowing students to work at their own pace online with support from top level private tutors.

JumpAgrade was founded on the mission to make personalized feedback accessible to all students, regardless of ability, location or background. They work with organisations, local companies and university access programs to help make sure students from disadvantaged backgrounds can access support through the tutors that work with them. In a twelve-week jumpAgrade program working with a group of students from eight different DEIS schools in North Dublin, there was an average grade increase of 11.5%, with 85% of those students reporting an increase in confidence in their chosen subject.

Since participating in The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition, jumpAgrade was a finalist in the Google Adopt A Start-up Programme and was chosen as winners of the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Award. JumpAgrade is quickly becoming the most recognized provider of private tuition to second-level students across Ireland and has plans to scale to international markets.



## MACHINE EYE

### 2018 INNOVATION AWARD WINNER

*“The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition acted as a springboard for Machine Eye, moving forward with greater energy and enthusiasm, and a knowledge that what we were doing was working. It also provided great connections, some of whom have opened massive doors for us.”*

Machine Eye is an innovative safety device for use on tractors, plant, and heavy machinery. It provides protection against accidents involving machinery for operators, bystanders and everybody on the farm. Machine Eye views the future and when an accident is imminent it automatically takes control, pre-emptively isolating or halting the machine to remove risk protecting operators, families and livelihoods.

Since winning the Business Plan Competition Innovation Award, Machine Eye has won both the Investor Pitch and the Health and Safety Award at the 2018 National Ploughing Championships, one of the highest platforms in the agricultural industry. The company now has full-time employees and is developing at a great pace. It has also led to great personal success for founder Brendan Digney who won Union of Students Ireland Student Entrepreneur of the Year and Queen's University Belfast Student Entrepreneur of the Year. He was also an Institute of Directors Student Director of the Year UK finalist.



## SEAMLESSCARE

### 2019 THIRD RUNNERS-UP

*“There were clear steps that helped us to focus on what is most important for our project, from defining the problem we are addressing to effective customer discovery, every session was relevant and useful.”*

The seamlessCARE platform supports the continuity of care for anyone in a hospital, nursing home or other care setting through a video-based care planning system that enables carers to take photographs, record videos and make notes to communicate the needs and preferences of each individual. It also offers a range of innovative features that maximize support for people with intellectual disability, complex needs and degenerative conditions. SeamlessCARE data analytics provides insights into patterns of care and a unique tool translates a set of sounds made by non-verbal people so that every care provider can understand a range of their vocalizations.

seamlessCARE recently received a prestigious Commercialisation Fund award from Enterprise Ireland. They are about to begin 18-months of research and development that will culminate in the launch of seamlessCARE's pioneering care planning platform. With potential partners already lining up from seven countries, seamlessCARE is well placed to improve the lives of care recipients, health care professionals and family carers all over the world.

## #IrelandFundsBPC

The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition 2020 will take place in Dublin on June 23, 2020



# The Power of Work





A photograph of three graduates in black gowns and blue stoles celebrating. One man in the background has his mouth wide open and his right arm raised. Two other graduates, a man and a woman, are in the foreground, both smiling and holding their diplomas. The diplomas are white with a blue crest and text. The background is a stone building with a large column.

With a Flagship Grant from The Ireland Funds,  
**THE TRINITY CENTRE FOR PEOPLE WITH  
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES** is ensuring that  
its graduates have meaningful employment  
opportunities.

## THE GREAT SCIENTIST JONAS SALK ONCE SAID, "THE REWARD FOR WORK WELL DONE IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO MORE."

At the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities (TCPID) people with intellectual disabilities are participating in a higher education program designed to enhance their capacity to fully participate in society as independent adults.

Thanks to a Flagship Award from The Ireland Funds, the program has been able to expand and success stories are emerging as graduates move into the work world and experience the power and pride of employment.

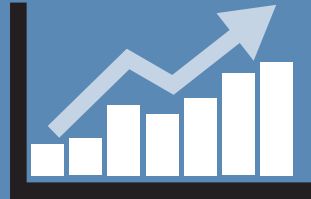
The program goes far beyond simply offering life skills and orientation to the college experience. A high academic standard of learning is offered and key skills which prepare graduates for various employment environments are developed. The course is accredited and as a result, for the first time ever, graduates from the program receive a Level 5 qualification which equips them to move on to further education and/or employment.





THE IRELAND FUNDS FLAGSHIP AWARD OF €80,000 ENABLED TCPID TO:

Support a business internship program for **12 graduates**



Create guidelines on business internship programs to inform and support



Increase the number of business partnerships from **18 to 30**



Develop a Graduate Internship Program extending on the **two-year** certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice in Trinity College Dublin. The program now includes a third year of employment internship experiences.



PARTNERS PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH TCPID INCLUDE:

Abbott Ireland  
A & L Goodbody  
An Post  
Arthur Cox  
Avolon  
Bank of Ireland  
Carne Group

Chartered Accountants Ireland  
Cpl Resources  
CRH  
Dynamic  
EY  
FBD Insurance

Fidelity Investments  
GECAS  
Icon  
Intel  
IrishJobs.ie  
Janssen Sciences Ireland  
Key Capital

KPMG  
The National Treasury Management Agency  
Novartis  
Mason Hayes & Curran

McCann FitzGerald  
Ornua  
PayPal  
Permanent TSB  
SMBC Aviation Capital  
Smurfit Kappa  
UDG Healthcare

## In January of 2019, Niamh, Marian and Mark were among the first-ever graduates of the TCPID Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice

### Niamh Biddulph

**"I like to challenge myself.** I like the chance to learn new skills. It's amazing that over just a couple years the course made me feel more positive about myself. I know I have the potential to do something."

- *Student placement & internship with Bank of Ireland*
- *Graduate internship with A&L Goodbody*
- *Graduate internship with An Post*



### Marian O'Rourke

**"I'm from Co. Wicklow.** I work at Cpl in the finance area of their Shared Services with Excel Reports, Data Review and Payroll. It has changed my life."

- *Student placement with Bank of Ireland*
- *Graduate internship with the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) and Cpl Resources*
- *Permanent contract with Cpl Resources*

### Mark Hogan

**"Since I was a kid, it was my dream.** I'd love to work in an office. I'm happy to be here in EY."

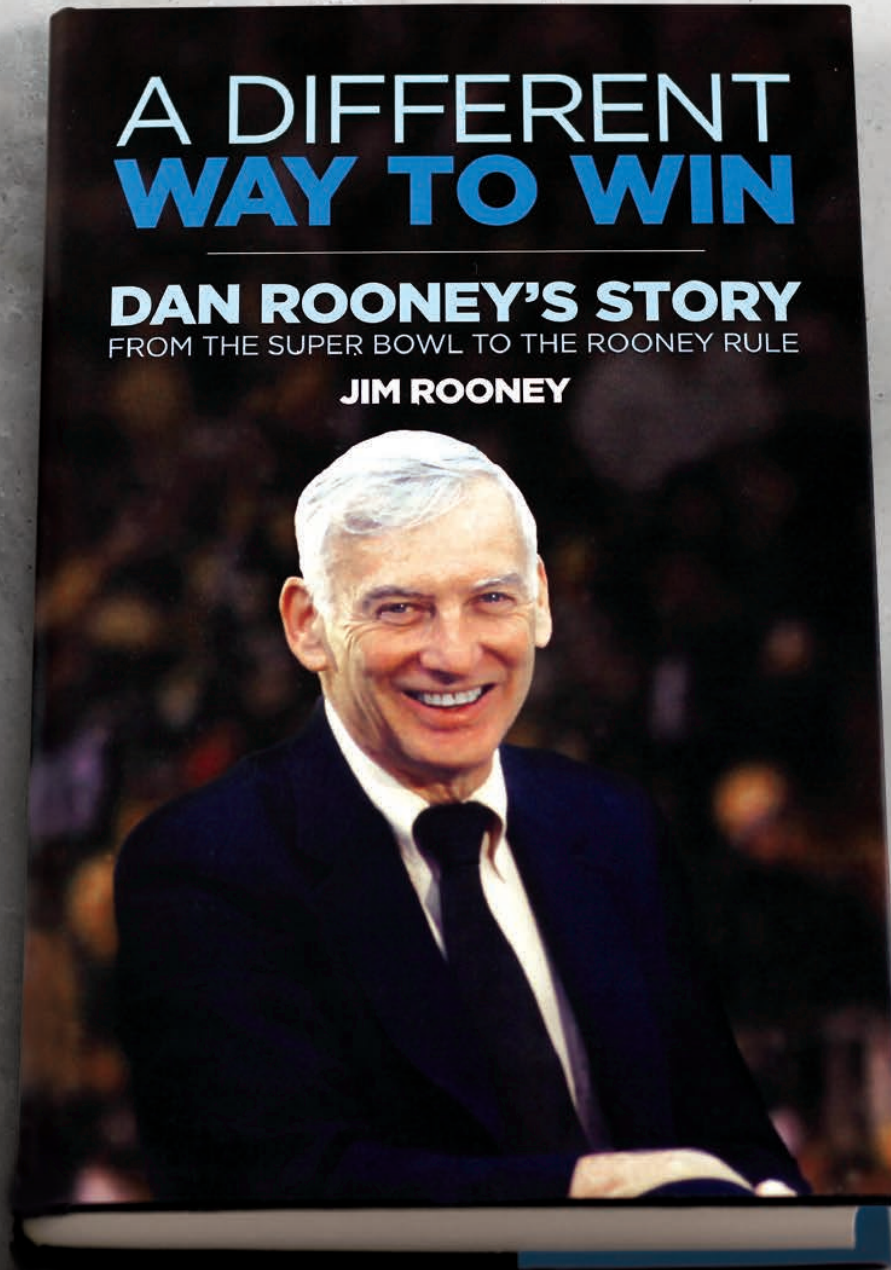
- *Student placement and graduate internship with EY*
- *Permanent contract with EY*



VIDEO: [Watch video of Mark's experience at EY as a graduate of TCPID](#)



THE IRELAND FUNDS FOUNDER | U.S. AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND



Dan Rooney's success is attributed to his unique approach focusing on rigor, respect and long-term relationships. Get inspired through this new collection of leadership stories, as told by his son.

**Named to President Obama's 2019 List of Favorite Books**

available at  
**amazon**

**AN AMAZON BESTSELLER**  
Published through Kindle Direct Publishing.



# The Ireland Funds **GOLF**

## New Jersey Annual Golf Classic

**HONOREE: BRENDAN P. FARRELL, JR., MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
ENTERPRISE ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT, BROADRIDGE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, INC.**

The Ireland Funds hosted its 17th annual New Jersey Golf Classic at **Bayonne Golf Club**. After a great brunch, The Ireland Funds America Vice President of Development, **Kyle Clifford** welcomed the guests and sent the golfers out on to the challenging links. After a long day on the links, guests gathered for cocktails on the terrace, followed by dinner and an awards ceremony. Kyle Clifford, opened the formal dinner program, thanked the committee, co-chairs and sponsors and welcomed President and CEO of The Ireland Funds America, **David Cronin**. David thanked those in attendance for their support and warm welcome and introduced the Honoree, **Brendan P. Farrell, Jr.**, Managing Director, **Enterprise Account Management, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.** Brendan spoke warmly about the work that The Ireland Funds does for Irish causes around the world. After the awards ceremony, **Pat Tully** conducted a spirited live auction including a trip to the All-Ireland Hurling Final in Dublin and Legends Golf Package, NY Giants VIP Game Day Experience, and a Golfers Dream Premier Golf Courses Package. Special thanks to the following sponsors: Presenting Sponsors which included Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. and Brendan P. Farrell, Jr., as well as our Hole Sponsors which included **Charles Regan, Delta,** and **Bob McCann**.



Kyle Clifford, Brendan P. Farrell Jr., Bob McCann, David Cronin



The 2019 Committee: Kyle Clifford, Patrick Murphy, Eddie Dowling, Brendan P. Farrell Jr., Martin Kehoe, Michael Higgins, Anthony Callaghan, David Cronin, Pat Tully, Angus Miller



Brendan P. Jarrell Jr. with family and guests



## Philadelphia Golf Classic

October, 2019

The Philadelphia Chapter hosted the 18th Annual Philadelphia Golf Classic at **Llanerch Country Club**. After guests enjoyed breakfast and a morning on the driving range, they were welcomed by Vice President of Development **Kyle Clifford** who thanked all supporters of the event and the golfers went out for a challenging day on the course. Later that evening, Kyle began the program by thanking the sponsors **Duane Morris LLP, WSFS Bank, Shelbourne Healthcare, Teleflex, 1847 Financial, The Sean Rooney and John Rooney Family, The Hallinan Family** and **The Michael & Jeannie O'Neill Family**. Kyle introduced the honoree, the Chairman and CEO of Duane Morris LLP, **Matthew A. Taylor**. Matt shared with the group the importance and value of his Irish heritage to his success. He was delighted to accept the award on behalf of his family. Matt went on to recognize the Committee and all their work to make it a successful evening. The 2019 Philadelphia Golf Committee included **Chris Carroll, Jason Early, Michael Gallagher, Francis McCartan, Michael Nolan, James Quinlan, Sean Rooney, Fran Van Kirk, and Patrick Ward**.



Kyle Clifford, Matthew Taylor



Ron Petersen, Bob Bruno, Mike Gallagher, Tom Toscani



Rogan Dwyer, Andrew Fabian, Brian Rooney, Gary Ueltzen



# WELCOME

## Conall McGonagle

joined The Ireland Funds in October 2019, as the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer of The Ireland Funds America.

**Born in Galway,** he studied Business with French at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He has a Master of Accounting Degree from the Smurfit Business School. For the past 10 years he has worked for KBC Bank in New York, in various roles such as Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operations Officer, Chief Risk Officer and Chief Audit Executive. Conall is the President of ACAUS, (the Association of Chartered Accountants in the USA), and he is the CFO of the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade. He enjoys running the New York Marathon for Fred's Team.

On his appointment, Conall said, ***"I am very excited by the mission, the history and the future of The Ireland Funds and the deeply committed and generous donor community. I am looking forward to working with the team and meeting with everyone involved with The Ireland Funds."***



# THANK YOU

We wish our Midwest Director, **Roseann LeFevour**, the very best in her next chapter. Roseann's dedication to our mission, her grace under pressure, and her love of Chicago will be missed dearly.

**THANK YOU** for your extraordinary teamwork and all you have given to The Ireland Funds, Roseann!





# Women in Leadership Luncheon

HONOREE: MARY RICKS, PRESIDENT OF KENNEDY WILSON

December, 2019 **Mary Ricks**, President of Kennedy Wilson, was the Honorary Speaker at the Women in Leadership Luncheon at the **Four Seasons Hotel. Kennedy Wilson** Chairman & CEO, **Bill McMorrow** expressed appreciation for Mary’s key role in the company’s success, particularly in Ireland. Honorary Luncheon Chairs **Erin Doyle Ebeling**, **Sarah Friar**, **Janet Reilly**, and **EJ Tracy** were joined by 400 guests. Consul General **Robert O’Driscoll** attended with Ireland Funds America Board Director **Bart Murphy** and VP of The Ireland Funds **Caitriona Fottrell**, joined by longtime supporters **Eileen Moore**, **Maureen Sullivan**, **Marie Woods** and **Orla MacLean**. **Marjorie Muldowney**, Ireland Funds VP, spoke of the women leading a myriad of non-profit programs in Ireland and the important role many Irish women played in passing down the traditions of their ancestry. **Mary Ricks** announced a new Women’s Initiative at Kennedy Wilson that aims to recruit and retain more women, highlighting sports as a catalyst for developing team-building skills, drive & resilience. She spoke of the exquisite restoration work Kennedy Wilson has undertaken at the **Shelbourne Hotel**, one of its most iconic properties. Mary spoke with **Janet Reilly**

about her career and was presented with a limited edition collection of “**Seamus Heaney’s Poems and a Memoir**”, signed by **Seamus Heaney & Thomas Flanagan**. Special guests included teams from **Arthur Cox**, **Davy Group**, **Deloitte**, **Eastdil Secured & Steve Silk**, **First Republic Bank**, **Pacific Western Bank**, and **William Fry**. Also attending were guests from **Bank of America**, **DLA Piper**, **Nextdoor**, and **Linesight**. Generous support came from **Colin Ryan**, **Tony Minella & Eldridge**, **John Paul Construction**, **Resmark Companies**, **Sisk Group**, and **Waterman Moylan**. Other top supporters included **Kathleen Ryan**, **Nextdoor**, **Plant Construction**, **Michael Roberts Construction**, **Cain International**, **Crestbridge**, **FPI Management**, **KSN**, **Lafferty**, **Henry J. Lyons**, **O’Mahony Pike**, **UCSF** and **Wells Fargo**.

- 1 Bill McMorrow, Mary Ricks, Marjorie Muldowney
  - 2 Mary Ricks
  - 3 Bill McMorrow
  - 4 Alan McGlinchey, Anne-Marie Farrell, Aoife Ryan, Consul General Robert O’Driscoll, Suzanne Rice, Helen Hartnett, Steve Cooke
  - 5 Marjorie Muldowney
  - 6 Consul General Robert O’Driscoll, Bart Murphy
  - 7 Janet Reilly
  - 8 Kennedy Wilson guests with Bill McMorrow, Emily Wilson
  - 9 First Republic Bank guests
  - 10 Kristin Friese Gannon with Eastdil Secured guests
  - 11 Kristin Friese Gannon with Eastdil Secured guests
  - 12 Maureen Tabari & guests
  - 13 Ciara Anderson & guests
  - 14 Clint Reilly, Bill McMorrow
  - 15 Orla MacLean & guests
- Photos: Elaine Lee*



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## Boston Irish Night on Cape Cod

July, 2019 The Ireland Funds held its tenth annual Irish Night on Cape Cod at the **Ocean Edge Resort and Golf Club** in Brewster, MA. The Ireland Funds National Board Director and longtime supporter **Joe Corcoran** and his family once again hosted 130 supporters on the beautiful **Ocean Terrace** at their resort. The Ocean Edge Resort’s panoramic views of Cape Cod Bay provided the perfect setting. On behalf of Joe Corcoran and family, his daughter **Suzanne Corcoran** extended a warm welcome and spoke of the long friendship the Corcoran family has shared with The Ireland Funds’ family. The Ireland Funds New England Director and Vice President of Development **Steve Greeley** thanked everyone and highlighted several vital Irish non-profit projects recently supported. Congressman **Richard Neal**, Chair of the **U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee**, spoke of his support of the work of The Ireland Funds, and updated guests on recent developments across the island of Ireland, commenting on Brexit and its potential effect on the progress made in Northern

Ireland. Event Chairs **Tom & Gina Flannery**, **Kevin & Rita Gill**, and **Ed & Jenn Murphy** once again delivered a successful night. Committee Members included: **Jack & Trish Brennan**, **Kip & Peggy Condon**, **Joe Corcoran**, **John & Kathy Drew**, **Ryan & Maura Fitzpatrick**, **Jay & Linda Hooley**, **John & Tracee Hynes**, **Jim & Mary Judge**, **Paul Kingston**, **Andrew & Amanda Maher**, **John & Carla Morey**, **Tom & Shelly O’Neill**, **Scott & Nancy Powers**, and **Paul & Mary Beth Sandman**.

- 1 2019 Irish Night on Cape Cod Committee: Tom & Shelly O’Neill, Steve Greeley, Ed & Jen Murphy, Paul Kingston, Rita Gill, Gina Flannery, Joe Corcoran, Jack & Trish Brennan, Paul & Mary Beth Sandman, Maura & Ryan Fitzpatrick, Linda & Jay Hooley
- 2 Jen & Ed Murphy
- 3 John Drew, Jr. and Guests
- 4 Jack Brennan, Cong. Richard Neal, Maura Fitzpatrick, Tom Samoluk, Ryan Fitzpatrick
- 5 Steve Greeley, Suzanne Corcoran

*Photos: Jim Goodnough*



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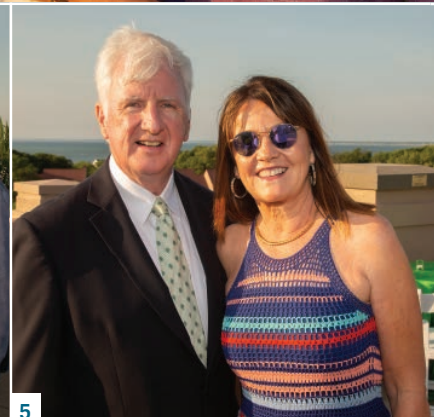
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# Nantucket Celebration

## HONOREE: MAUREEN ORTH OF VANITY FAIR

July, 2019 160 supporters of The Ireland Funds gathered at the Nantucket home of **Anne Finucane** and **Mike Barnicle** for The Ireland Funds 30th annual Nantucket Celebration. The evening was blessed by beautiful summer weather as guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and Nantucket's iconic "Spanky's" raw bar. The Ireland Funds' New England Director and Vice President of Development **Steve Greeley** extended a warm Irish welcome to the crowd, thanking event Chairmen **George Albrecht, Bob & Paula Butler**, and **Bob & Laura Reynolds** and their Committee for their continued support. The Ireland Funds America Board Director and host **Anne Finucane** introduced close friend and honoree **Maureen Orth, Vanity Fair** feature correspondent and philanthropist. Maureen shared an entertaining recollection of her connections to Ireland and praised The Ireland Funds for its impact in Ireland, stressing the need for

its continued support during these critical Brexit times. President and CEO of The Ireland Funds America **David Cronin** outlined The Ireland Funds' mission and its various forms of grant-making, highlighting the recent launch of a \$1 million grant round. Irish Ambassador to the United States **Dan Mulhall** praised the night's hosts and Committee and acknowledged the importance of the close relationship of the United States and Ireland.

- 1 Ed O'Sullivan, Kathy O'Sullivan, Betsy McKiernan, Steve Greeley, Bill McKiernan
- 2 Laura Reynolds, Anne Finucane, Leslie King Grenier
- 3 Maureen Orth, Mike Barnicle, Luke Russert
- 4 Jack Manning, Bob Reynolds, Kevin Callahan
- 5 Bill Scannell, Steve Greeley

Photos: Cary Tozer



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## 38th Annual Boston Gala

**CHAIRMAN: EDMUND F. MURPHY III OF EMPOWER RETIREMENT AND GREAT-WEST LIFE & ANNUITY**

**HONOREE: ADAM HARRIS OF ASIAM**

**November, 2019** Over 800 guests gathered for The Ireland Funds 38th Annual Boston Gala at the **Westin Boston Waterfront**. \$1.9 million was raised to support non-profit organizations across the island of Ireland and around the world. The Annual Boston Gala is one of the largest of The Ireland Funds' 150+ international events. The 2019 Boston Gala was chaired by **Edmund F. Murphy III**, President & CEO of **Empower Retirement and Great-West Life & Annuity**. The Gala honored **Adam Harris**, Founder and CEO of **AsIAM**. Today, AsIAM is a leading resource for the autism community in Ireland. **Steve Greeley**, Vice President of Development and New England Director of The Ireland Funds America welcomed donors and guests and thanked them for their tremendous support of The Ireland Funds' mission. He then introduced **Monsignor Liam Bergin**, a theology professor at Boston College, who gave the invocation. Gala Chairman **Ed Murphy** recognized the Boston Gala Committee members and tied his parents' generation's reputation for "giving back" to the genuine philanthropy evidenced by the Gala. **John**

**Fitzpatrick**, Chairman of The Ireland Funds America, thanked the Chairman and the Committee and spoke of his involvement with The Ireland Funds as it has guided his personal philanthropy. **David Cronin**, President and CEO of The Ireland Funds America, outlined the mission of The Ireland Funds as a backdrop to his introduction of the night's honoree, Adam Harris. Honoree Adam Harris, spoke of his childhood experience growing up with autism, which encouraged him to found AsIAM to help the autism community in Ireland. He thanked The Ireland Funds for its support and described the impact The Ireland Funds' flagship grant will have for his organization. He earned a warm and sustained standing ovation from the audience, which was well-deserved. **Anna McCusker**, accompanied by musical director **Richard Travers**, sang her rendition of "The Fields of Athenry", Ed Murphy's favorite Irish song, and was rewarded with the second standing ovation of the evening.











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- 1 Miceal Chamberlain, Bob Reynolds, Chairman Ed Murphy, Dennis Burns, Steve Greeley
- 2 Back row: Msgr. Liam Bergin, Ed Murphy, Adam Harris, John Fitzpatrick, David Cronin, Miceal Chamberlain, Shelby Chamberlain, Front row: Mark Brennock, Laoise Moore, Renate Cronin, Jan Greeley, Jennifer Murphy
- 3 Back row: Chuck Clough, Gloria Clough, Courtney Kelly, Liz MacAulay, Bob MacAulay Front row: Rob Meredith, Amy Koch Flynn, Steve Flynn, Dennis Burns, John Kelly
- 4 Adam Harris
- 5 David Cronin, Adam Harris, Ed Murphy, Steve Greeley
- 6 Ed Murphy
- 7 Steve Greeley, Heather & Jim Murren
- 8 Patrick McQuade, Peggy & Gene McQuade
- 9 Back row: Theresa Burns, Madison Caro-Leverich, Laura Reynolds, Jeff Gould, Bob Reynolds Front Row: Robert Burns, Mark McKenna, Wendi McKenna, Andra Bolotin, Steve Bolotin
- 10 Ed & Jennifer Murphy
- 11 Dennis Burns, Jeff Gould, Mike Mullaney
- 12 Lucy Walker, George Walker, Roger Crandall, Cliff Noreen, Ellen Noreen, Kiki Walker
- 13 Back row: Colin Egan, Mari Corcoran, Claire Fullam, Richard Fullam, Dennis Early Front row: Linda Corcoran, Mike Corcoran, Joseph E. Corcoran, Tricia Chapple, Suzanne Early
- 14 Back row: Andy Arnott, KC Arnott, Barbara Goose, Jon Goose, Jim Boyle Front row: Dotty Boyle, Megan Greeley, Alex Bradford, Tom Samoluk

Photos: Maura Wayman





## Boston Fall Social

**October, 2019** Over 100 Boston Young Leaders gathered at the **Bostonia Public House** to celebrate the arrival of the fall season, catch up with old friends, and meet many new enthusiastic supporters of The Ireland Funds. **Steve Greeley**, The Ireland Funds' New England Director and VP of Development thanked the Young Leaders for their substantial support this year and announced the upcoming Christmas Social, which is always a celebrated event. He then outlined the impact The Ireland Funds is having on critical non-profits

- 1 Jimmy Geraghty, Sean McCain
- 2 Matt Gaughan, Charlie Rice, Ed Daley, Clancy Galgay
- 3 Kidder Spillane, Christine Gill, Delaney Carroll

*Photos: Samantha Ralphs*

both across the island of Ireland and here in the Greater Boston area. Thank you to the Fall Social Committee: **Paul Archibald, Patrick & Taylor Burek, Mike Cobb, Tim Cobb, Michael & Allison Collins, Marty & Lauren Connors, Jennifer Corcoran, Shane Early, John Flaherty, Holly Foster, Matt Gaughan, Jimmy Geraghty, Christine Gill, Tom Greeley, Mike Griffin, Sean Hannigan, Maddy Keeshan, Shannon & Aengus McAllister, Rowan McFeely, Patrick McQuade, Michael Muldowney, Michael Prendergast, and Kevin Schaeffer.**



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## Boston Christmas Social

**December, 2019** Over 100 Boston Young Leaders gathered at the **Bostonia Public House** to celebrate the holidays and toast the many successes of 2019. The festive venue made for a terrific opportunity to thank all those who helped to make 2019 another memorable year for The Ireland Funds. **Steve Greeley**, The Ireland Funds' New England Director and VP of Development thanked all those gathered for their continued support of The Ireland Funds and positive involvement throughout the year. He recognized the 2019 St. Patrick's

Celebration Co-Chairs **Jennifer Corcoran, Clancy Galgay, Shannon McAllister, and Rowan McFeely** and made note of a successful Boston Gala held in November, 2019. Steve concluded in expressing the impact Ireland Funds' Young Leaders are having on many charities in Ireland.

- 1 Casey Guidicelli, Sean Judge, Megan Greeley, Maddy Keeshan
- 2 Kidder Spillane, Christine Gill, Mike Greeley, Stephanie Steele, Chris Steele
- 3 Allison Collins, Michael Collins and guests



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## Denver Dinner

**September, 2019** The Denver Dinner was the first Colorado-based event held by The Ireland Funds in more than 14 years. The evening began with guests mingling with many meeting for the first time. **Darina Padian**, Texas and Colorado Director, welcomed the group. A few lines from Irish songs and poetry were shared by the group along with jokes and many laughs. During the dinner, Darina spoke about the history of The Ireland Funds, its mission, and highlighted some of the many projects supported by its generous donors. With close to 17% of the Colorado population claiming Irish ancestry, there is a natural connection already in place between Ireland and Colorado. The group shared ideas and suggestions about fundraising efforts and future event themes that could be

successful moving forward in growing the presence of The Ireland Funds in the Denver area and re-launching the Colorado Chapter. Those attending included **Bill Cassidy, Lucy Cassidy, Dennis Gallagher, Alan Groarke, Noel Hickey, Greg Kaczmarczyk, Rhona Kaczmarczyk, Anne McCarthy, Susan Morrice, Heather Nagle, Sean Nagle, Gabrielle Stewart, Bill Sullivan, Nancy Sullivan, Lisa Switzer, Edward Timmins.**

- 1 Anne McCarthy, Susan Morrice, Gabrielle Stewart
- 2 Ed Timmins, Darina Padian, Rhona Kaczmarczyk, Greg Kaczmarczyk
- 3 Lucy Cassidy, Alan Groarke, Dennis Gallagher, Noel Hickey



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## Denver Advisory Committee Meeting

**December, 2019** The Ireland Funds Denver chapter held its first Denver Advisory Committee Meeting with a working lunch at **Denver Country Club** hosted by club member **Edward Timmins**, President of **Timmins LLC**. **Darina Padian**, Texas and Colorado Director began the luncheon by welcoming the committee and sharing updates from The Ireland Funds America and the committee continued with discussions on the development of The Ireland Funds Denver chapter and potential events to consider for Denver in 2020 to raise

awareness in Denver of our mission to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland, and Irish-related causes around the world.

- 1 Bill Sullivan, Lisa Switzer, Alan Groarke, Noel Hickey
- 2 Rhona Kaczmarczyk, Kevin Homes, Edward Timmins, Lucy Cassidy
- 3 Rhona Kaczmarczyk, Sean Nagle, Dennis Gallagher, Lucy Cassidy



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

THE 22ND IRISH AMERICAN CUP CHALLENGE – MAY 11, 2020

TEXAS LADIES LEADERSHIP LUNCHON – DECEMBER 2, 2020

## Texas Halfway to St. Patrick’s Day Celebration

**September, 2019** Forty guests gathered at **The Playwright Pub** to celebrate the halfway point to St. Patrick’s Day. More importantly, they came together to learn about The Ireland Funds Young Leaders Society and the benefits of its membership. The evening was hosted by **Heather Blond, Valerie McDonough,** and **Michael Fitzpatrick** and underwritten by **Kevin Curley of Curley Financial Group, LLC,** a long-time supporter and National Board Director of The Ireland Funds America. Michael gave a personal testimony about his experience attend-

ing The Ireland Funds Global Young Leaders Summit and encouraged the group to register for the upcoming 2020 Summit. The evening was topped off with The Ireland Funds’ friend and supporter, **Kieran Quinn** entertaining the crowd with his acoustic guitar.

- 1 Katie Truesdale, Karen Gaffney, Roisin Finan
- 2 Arthur Brown, Heather Blond, Michael Fitzpatrick, Darina Padian
- 3 Valerie McDonough, Michael Fitzpatrick



## Texas Welcome Breakfast for Claire McCarthy Consul General of Ireland

**December, 2019** The Ireland Funds hosted a breakfast to introduce the new **Consul General of Ireland, Claire McCarthy.** Consul General McCarthy was appointed to Texas and the southwest United States in August 2019. She represents the Irish Government in Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Claire discussed many topics relating to her role as Consul General which included plans for 2020, the current status of Brexit

and how it affects Ireland and Northern Ireland, the many services provided by the Consulate, and how much she appreciates the work of The Ireland Funds across the isle of Ireland and around the world.

- 1 Claire McCarthy, Ciara Dilley, Karen Spain, Maureen Cooper
- 2 Valerie McDonough, Roisin Finan, Dearbhla O’Neill
- 3 Cliff & Barbara Miercort, Kathryn Cassidy







## 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.

*Save-the-Date*

## THE WINEGEESE VISIT TO THE LOIRE VALLEY JUNE 18-23, 2020



Join The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society on its 2020 visit to the Loire Valley. Poised on the crucial frontier between northern and southern France, just a short trip from Paris, the Loire Valley is known as the Garden of France. Famous for its magnificent chateaux, rich history and some of the most delicious, delectable and enjoyable French wines. The area is France's most diverse wine region, producing exemplary wines in every style.

*To reserve a place or for more information contact:*  
*Kevin Curley, Chairman, The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society*  
*at [winegeese@irelandfunds.org](mailto:winegeese@irelandfunds.org) / 212-689-3100*







## Chicago Dinner

**CHAIRMAN: MICHAEL O'HALLERAN, SENIOR ADVISOR, RYAN SPECIALTY GROUP**

**CO-CHAIRS: DEVON BRUCE, PARTNER, POWER ROGERS & SMITH; PATRICK CANNING, MANAGING PARTNER, KPMG**

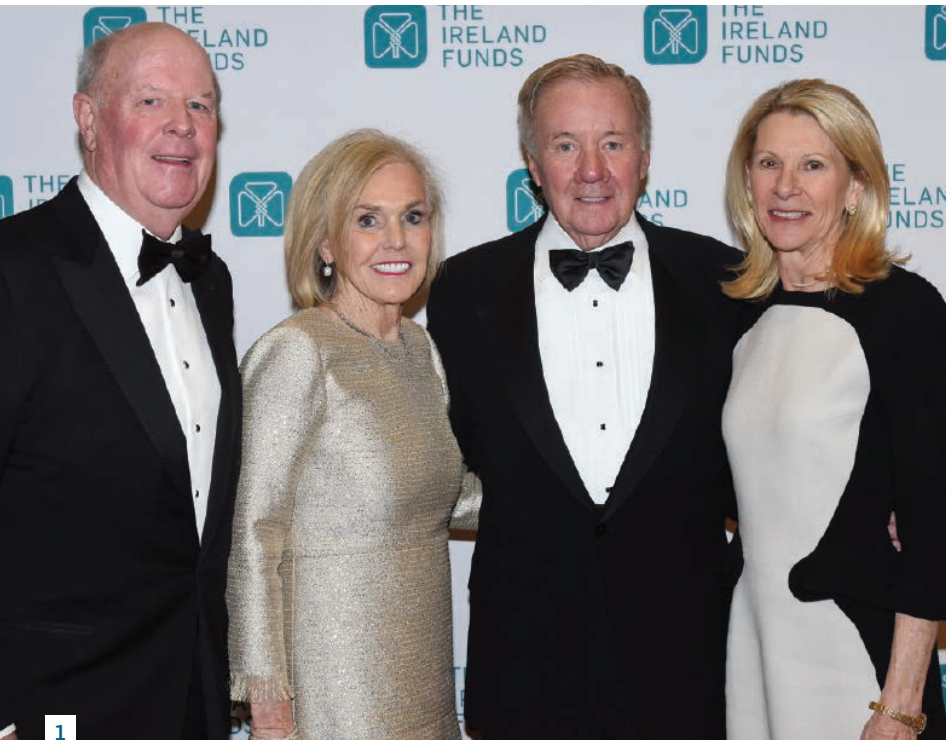
**HONOREES: ELLEN & TOM TULLY AND HORIZON THERAPEUTICS PLC.**

**November, 2019** Over 500 friends of Ireland gathered to celebrate The Ireland Funds 35th Annual Chicago Dinner Gala and to honor **Ellen & Tom Tully** and **Horizon Therapeutics Plc.** at the **Four Seasons Chicago**. Dinner Chairman **Michael O'Halleran**, Co-Chairs **Devon Bruce** and **Patrick Canning** and the Dinner Committee members ensured that not only was it a fun evening but one of the most successful Chicago dinners to-date. Guests were led into the ballroom by the **Shannon Rovers Pipe Band**. **Paddy Homan** sang the Irish and US National anthems. **John Fitzpatrick**, Chairman of The Ireland Funds America, welcomed guests, thanked the Dinner Committee, introduced national board member, **Angela Moore** and **Caitriona Fottrell**, Vice President and Director Ireland of The Ireland Funds. Caitriona spoke passionately about the impact Chicago's support for the past 35 years has had on

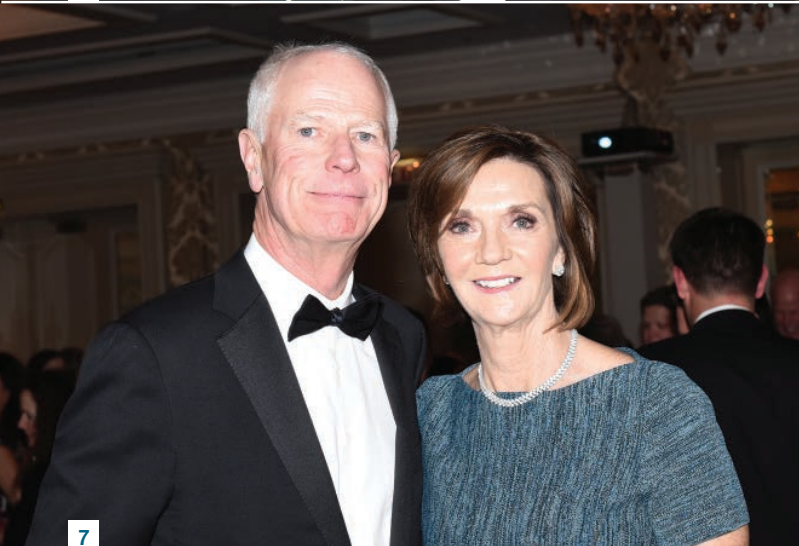
innumerable charitable causes across Ireland. President and CEO of The Ireland Funds America, **David Cronin**, presented **The Ireland Funds 2019 Corporate Social Responsibility Award** to **Horizon Therapeutics, Plc.** Chairman, President and CEO, **Timothy Walbert** accepted the award and spoke about Horizon's corporate responsibility impact. Next, **Michael O'Halleran**, Chairman of The Ireland Funds Regional Advisory Committee, presented **The Ireland Funds 2019 Leadership Award** to Chicago philanthropists **Tom & Ellen Tully**. After dinner, emcee **Pat Tully** introduced the entertainment-singer **Billy Dwyer** and the **Sheila Tully Academy of Dance**. Pat then auctioned off a trip to Ireland. Special thanks go to **United Airlines**, **Blue Book Accommodations**, **Sheen Falls Lodge**, **Ashford Castle**, the **Merrion Hotel** and **Ireland Chauffer Travel**.

- 1 Michael O'Halleran, Ellen & Tom Tully, Kay O'Halleran
- 2 Tim Walbert, David Cronin
- 3 Tom O'Neill, Julie O'Neill, Ann David
- 4 Mark Jennings, Therese Ready, Dani Ready, John Ready, Lou Ori, Beth Amado, Bridget Reidy, Meghan Ori, Emery Boehm, Mary Ludford, Bill Ludford, Catherine McKendry, Julie Reidy, Brian Reidy
- 5 Jane & Sherman Reynolds
- 6 Laura Finnegan, Peter & Mary McDonnell
- 7 Bob & Loretta Cooney
- 8 Gavin & Caroline Tierney

*Photos: Dean Battaglia*











## Chicago Fall Social

**October, 2019** Over 40 Chicago Young Leaders gathered at **Bar Cargo** for the 2019 Chicago Fall Social. It was a chance to catch up with old friends and to encourage new friends to become supporters of The Ireland Funds. **Abbey Canning**, Chair of the Chicago Young Leaders, and **James Keeley**, Co-Chair of the Chicago Young Leaders, invited the group to the 35th Annual Chicago Dinner Gala and the Global Young Leaders Summit.

- 1 Ted Gilbane, Brook Sinclair, Corey Fitzgerald
- 2 Dan O'Keefe, James O'Gorman, Quinn McCarthy, Kenzie O'Neill, Tom O'Neill, Kevin O'Brien
- 3 Abbey Canning, Corey Fitzgerald

*Photos: Abbey Canning*



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## Washington DC Summer Social

**July, 2019** The Summer Social, held at **Gaslight Tavern**, was a wonderful summer evening as the Washington DC Young Leaders gathered to hear updates on the work of The Ireland Funds. Special thanks to Chair of the DC Young Leaders, **John McCarthy** and the host committee: **Eileen Blessinger, Fritz Brogan, Colleen Carlos, Megan Cloherty, Mary Kate Cunningham, Suzanne Donnelly, Mark Duffy, Trevor Falk, Roddy Flynn, Conor Gallagher, Cavan**

**Jones, Brendan Martin, Elizabeth Murray, Reilly O'Connor, Jack O'Meara, Heather O'Shea, Kaitlin Schiele, Fiona Tomlin, Eric Silva and Ryan Williams.**

- 1 Kaitlin Schiele, Madison Glueckert, Fiona Tomlin
- 2 Allen Gannett, Liz Murray
- 3 Eileen Blessinger, Sarah Mulcahy, John McCarthy, Jack O'Meara, Cliona Doyle, Suzanne Donnelly



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## Washington DC Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

**September, 2019** The Washington, DC Young Leaders gathered for their annual Halfway to St. Patrick's Celebration kindly hosted by **Entertainment Software Association of ESA**. The theme of the event was a salute to journalism and honorees on the evening were, **Margaret Brennan** of **CBS News**, **Paul Kane** of **The Washington Post** and **Kaitlan Collins** of **CNN**. Also in attendance were **Congressman Brendan Boyle** and **Congressman Brett Guthrie**. **Kevin O'Hanlon** of ESA welcomed guests. **Cliona Doyle**, Director of the Young Leaders, thanked guests for their support and introduced **Norman Houston** of the

- 1 2019 DC Young Leaders Halfway to St Patrick's Day Committee
- 2 Declan Kelly
- 3 John McCarthy, Cliona Doyle, Paul Kane, Kaitlan Collins
- 4 Megan Cloherty and friends

Photos: Erika Layne

**Northern Ireland Bureau** who was followed by **Declan Kelly** of the **Embassy of Ireland**. Chair of the DC Young Leaders, **John McCarthy** then introduced the evening's honorees who all spoke warmly of their connection to Ireland. Special thanks to the event committee, Chair of the DC Young Leaders, **John McCarthy** and sponsors: the **Northern Ireland Bureau**, the **Dupont Circle Hotel**, **Signal Group**, **Blessinger Legal**, **Lynch Pinnacle**, **Toyota Alexandria**, **MWW PR** and **Pernod Ricard** and our hosts, Entertainment Software Association.



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## Washington DC Irish Halloween at the Irish Embassy

**October, 2019** The Ireland Funds Washington, DC Young Leaders held their annual "Samhain" Irish Halloween. The evening was hosted by the **Embassy of Ireland** and the **Northern Ireland Bureau**. **Ambassador Dan Mulhall** officially welcomed the Young Leaders to the Embassy and explained the Irish origins of Halloween. **Richard Cushnie** of the Northern Ireland Bureau then spoke of the importance of The Ireland Funds' work in Northern Ireland. DC Steering Committee Chair, **John McCarthy**, thanked the Young Leaders for their

recent support of the Washington DC Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Celebration which was one of their most successful events to date. Guests were entertained throughout the evening with music from the **Bog Band**.

- 1 Amb. Dan Mulhall
- 2 John McCarthy, Amb. Dan Mulhall, Richard Cushnie, Cliona Doyle
- 3 Emer Roche, Eileen Blessinger, Elaine Doody, Conrad Daly

Photos: Marty Katz



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## New York Summer in the City

**July, 2019** The New York Young Leaders gathered for their annual Summer in the City celebration at **Castell Rooftop Lounge**. The event was attended by many long-term supporters of The Ireland Funds as well as some new faces. The Ireland Funds' **David Cronin** President & CEO of The Ireland Funds America spoke of his plans for the future and the importance of the Young Leaders for the future success of The Ireland Funds. **Pat Tully** then conducted a live auction which included an ownership experience at **Westpoint Thoroughbreds** kindly donated by **Ryan Finley**.

- 1 Conor McCoy, Allison Kehoe, Patrick Murphy
- 2 Ryan Finley, Dan Flynn, Tom Pierce
- 3 Louise Flanagan, Dave Delahunt, Alison McDonagh, Melissa Glynn



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## New York Celtic Christmas Celebration

**HONOREE: PATRICK MURPHY, YOUNG LEADER OF THE YEAR**

**December, 2019** The Ireland Funds New York Young Leaders gathered for their annual Celtic Christmas tradition in the loft at **Route 66 Smokehouse** to celebrate a great year and recognize our Young Leader of the Year, **Patrick Murphy**. As guests arrived, they enjoyed some great Irish music by **the Basket House Band**. Later in the evening, **David Cronin**, President & CEO of The Ireland Funds America welcomed guests. **Sinead Faughnan**, 2018 Young Leader of the Year, introduced the 2019 New York Young Leader of the Year,

**Patrick Murphy**. Sinead spoke of Patrick's proud roots in Co. Cork and his commitment to The Ireland Funds, making him a truly deserving honoree. Patrick accepted the award and encouraged those gathered to increase their involvement with The Ireland Funds and the Young Leaders. Special thanks to the evening's sponsors: **Paul Stanton** and **Darby Construction Services**, **Dan Conley** and **Northern Litho** and **Patrick Murphy** and **Trident Construction**.

- 1 David Cronin, Sinead Faughnan, Patrick Murphy
- 2 Paul Stanton and Guests
- 3 Whitney & Tom Kennedy, Tara McCabe, Mike Kelly



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## Reception of Thanks for John Fitzpatrick

**January, 2020** A special Board evening was hosted in **The Lotos Club** in New York in mid-January by The Ireland Funds Chairman **Gene McQuade** to celebrate **John Fitzpatrick's** 6 years as Chairman of The Ireland Funds America. John was presented with a beautifully-bound book of photographs covering many of the highlights of his term as Chairman. Those present included Board members and guests from New York, Chicago, Florida, Boston and San Francisco. John was thanked by President & CEO, **David Cronin**; Chairman **Gene McQuade** and Vice-Chairman **Shaun Kelly** and responded with humor and appreciation to all present. The evening closed with a 'Limerick' read out on behalf of Board member **Dolores McCall** who was not able to attend but expressed her appreciation through verse!

- 1 Gene McQuade, John Fitzpatrick , David Cronin
- 2 John Fitzpatrick, Loretta Brennan Glucksman
- 3 Renate Cronin, Sheila O'Malley, Mike Gallagher, Anne McNally
- 4 Shaun Kelly, Bart Murphy, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Bill Murphy, Tom Meagher
- 5 David Cronin, Gene McQuade
- 6 Board Directors and Staff
- 7 David Cronin, Mike Gallagher, Kevin Curley
- 8 John Fitzpatrick, Shaun Kelly
- 9 John Fitzpatrick
- 10 Gene McQuade , John Fitzpatrick and his book
- 11 Bill McNally, Jane McCarter O'Dowd
- 12 Michael Higgins, John Fitzpatrick, Bill Murphy
- 13 Anne & Bill McNally, David & Renate Cronin
- 14 Tom Codd, Gene McQuade, John Fitzpatrick
- 15 Gene McQuade, Sheila O'Malley, Kevin Curley
- 16 John Fitzpatrick, Sheila O'Malley

Photos: Jim Higgins



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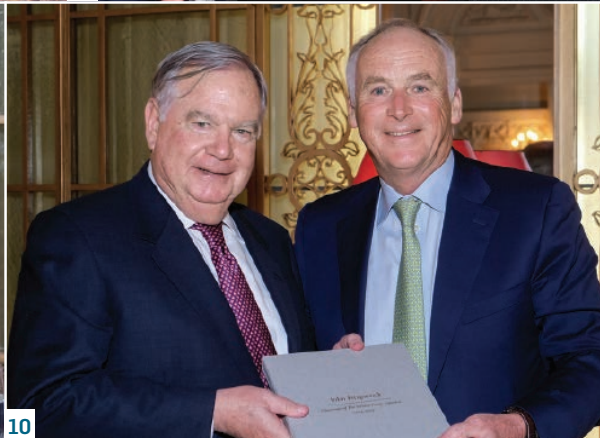


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## Philadelphia Summer Social

**July, 2019** The Philadelphia Young Leaders gathered to network and learn more about the ongoing work of The Ireland Funds. The event was held at **Evil Genius Beer Company** and was a great way to build on the success and growth the Philadelphia Young Leaders had in 2019.

- 1 Patrick Griffin, Jeremy Turk, Emer Cullinane, Julia Nolan, Dan McKiernan
- 2 Erin Brookes, Kelly Conway, Lindsey Cordes
- 3 Aaron Steffey, Julia Nolan, Cliona Doyle, Siobhan McGreal, Erin Brookes



## Philadelphia Global Leadership Series

**SPEAKER: JOHN CUMMINS, CEO OF CAL OPEX**

**November, 2019** The Philadelphia Young Leaders gathered at the Union League to hear from **John Cummins**, CEO of **Cal OpEx**. Originally from Dublin, John spoke about his path to date emphasizing the importance of hard work, building successful teams and the importance of the Irish American community. Many thanks to John for taking the time to speak to the group and to **Aaron Steffey** for hosting the group at the **Union League**.

- 1 Aaron Steffey, John Cummins, Julia Nolan
- 2 John Cummins with the Young Leaders







# The Ireland Funds Young Leaders Society

The Ireland Funds Young Leaders Society attracts professionals interested in learning more about philanthropy.

Visit: [www.irelandfunds.org/young-leaders](http://www.irelandfunds.org/young-leaders)

To learn more about The Young Leaders Society in the US contact:

**Conall McGonagle**, [cmcgonagle@irelandfunds.org](mailto:cmcgonagle@irelandfunds.org)

And to learn more about the international chapters contact:

**Siobhán Gallagher**, [sgallagher@irelandfunds.org](mailto:sgallagher@irelandfunds.org)



- Exclusive networking opportunities with global leaders in the fields of finance, government, the arts and technology, as part of the Global Leadership Series
- Invitations, and for preferred levels — the opportunity to attend The Ireland Funds Annual Donor Retreat in Ireland and the Global Summit in New York in January
- Access to exclusive Irish cultural and philanthropic events throughout the year







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# #YLS9

On 23-25 January 2020, The Ireland Funds Young Leaders from Sydney to San Francisco gathered for the ninth annual Global Summit #YLS9 in New York City. They came together to renew and strengthen their ties to The Ireland Funds and to one another. Over the course of three days, they heard from our pillars of philanthropy: Gene McQuade, Chairman of The Ireland Funds America and Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Chairman Emeritus of The Ireland Funds America. Pillars of diplomacy: Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason and Consul General Ciarán Madden also spoke along with pillars of entrepreneurship: Jim Clerkin, Margaret Molloy and Oisín Hanrahan. They also heard from pillar of art: Colin Davidson and pillars of media: Donie O'Sullivan and Malachy Browne. Many Young Leaders were moved as they heard from The Ireland Funds grantee The Playhouse Derry-Londonderry, and their phenomenal and emotional group, Theatre of Witness. We salute and thanks all those who came, saw, and conquered NYC for #YLS9 and look forward to upcoming Young Leader events around the globe this year. We ask only that they go home reenergized to support the mission of The Ireland Funds for 2020. A special word of thanks to Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel, Fordham University and the Irish Arts Center for hosting the group and extending their immense Irish hospitality to one and all.

- 1 Consul General Ciarán Madden, Siobhán Gallagher, David Cronin
- 2 Margaret Molloy, Donna Campbell
- 3 Young Leaders at Current
- 4 Norman Heuston, Jim Clerkin
- 5 Gene McQuade
- 6 Marcus Walsh, Fergus Hurley, Max Doyle, Fiona Cameron, Fiona Conway, Anne Murtagh, Lisa Kearns, Gerard Ryan, Kevin Murphy, Rory Cameron, Siobhán Gallagher, Simoné Cameron

- 7 Donie O'Sullivan, Pádraig O'Connor
- 8 Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Ciarán Madden
- 9 Colin Davidson
- 10 Oisín Hanrahan, Barry Field
- 11 Amb. Geraldine Byrne Nason
- 12 Ricki Marrano, Barry Ó Séanáin, Marcus Walsh

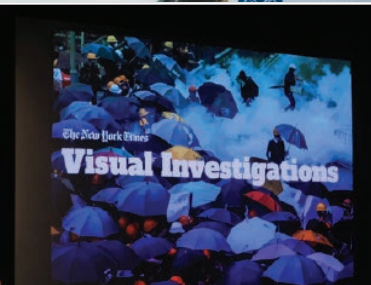
- 13 Malachy Browne
- 14 Donna Campbell, Dan Gibbons
- 15 Young Leaders at the Irish Arts Centre
- 16 Gráinne Hawkes, Emer Tiernan, Dermot Skinnader, Aoife McGrath, Pádraig O'Connor, Laura Kennedy, Jack Cantillon

- 17 The Playhouse Derry-Londonderry, 'Theatre of Witness': Pauline Ross, Therese McCann, Anne Walker
- 18 Lauren Foley, Sean Anderson, Julia Nolan

*Photos: Jim Higgins*











**THE  
IRELAND  
FUNDS**



**THE IRISH RUN THE WORLD**

**The Ireland Funds held its 6th annual Global 5K in 7 cities around the world**

The race began in Australia with Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne who then passed the virtual baton to Singapore, London and Toronto. Olympic Medalist and board member of The Ireland Funds Australia, Sonia O'Sullivan, once again joined the team in Melbourne along with her daughter Sophie. A typhoon forced Tokyo to postpone its run to October 27 but over 70 runners came out for their re-scheduled run. Overall, hundreds of Young Leaders and friends raises support for worthy Irish charities across the island of Ireland and in Irish communities around the world.

**SEPTEMBER  
7 & 8, 2019**

# GLOBAL 5K



**BRISBANE**



**SYDNEY**



**MELBOURNE**



**TOKYO**



**LONDON**



**TORONTO**



**SINGAPORE**

Tokyo Photo: Dermot Killoran (Calderwood Images) and Paddy O'Connor  
Sydney Photo: Kristy McVay Photography  
London Photo: Noel Mullen





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UPCOMING EVENTS:

IRELAND WOMEN'S LUNCH — APRIL 29, 2020

IRELAND SPRING GALA — MAY 15, 2020



THE IRELAND FUNDS

DUBLIN

## Global Leadership Series with Gary McGann

September, 2019 **Gary McGann**, board member of The Ireland Funds, past CEO of **Aer Lingus**, **Smurfit Kappa Group plc**, and current chairman of **Aryzta AG** and **Flutter Entertainment Plc**, spoke to the Dublin Young Leaders as part of the Global Leadership Series. Gary shared insights into effective corporate leadership, business turnaround, and the importance of philanthropy. Sincere thanks to our sponsor and host **Duff & Phelps Ireland**.

- 1 Niall Cribben, Gary McGann, Siobhán Gallagher, Caitriona Fottrell
- 2 Gary McGann
- 3 Lisa Kearns, Marcus Walsh, Caoimhe Connolly



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## Young Leaders Tour of the Abbey Theatre

October, 2019 **The Abbey Theatre** threw open its stage doors to the Dublin Young Leaders for a fascinating tour exploring the past, present and future of Irish theater. While there, they also learned about the impact of the **5x5 Programme** aimed at inclusive theatre which is proudly supported by a Flagship Award from The Ireland Funds.

- 1 Young Leaders with The Ireland Funds' plaque at the Abbey Theatre
- 2 The Ireland Funds Young Leaders at the Abbey Theatre



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## The Ireland Funds Flagship Awards Dinner

**December, 2019** The Ireland Funds second annual Flagship Awards Dinner took place in **The Little Museum of Dublin, St Stephen's Green**. The event marked the announcement of Flagship funding totaling €500,000 over two years for six outstanding organizations: **AsIAm, Cancer Fund for Children, Depaul Ireland, Pieta House, Suas Educational Development, and Youth Action Northern Ireland**. The Ireland Funds Flagship Awards will be used to build capacity, improve the quality and sustainability of existing programs, and scale initiatives already demonstrating impact on the island of Ireland. **Caitriona Fottrell**, Director Ireland of The Ireland Funds, welcomed and thanked guests for their continued support before describing the wonderful work undertaken by each organization during the competi-

tive selection process, where over 300 applications were whittled down to six Flagship Awardees. Throughout the course of the evening, each organization was introduced by a key Ireland Funds supporter and a representative was invited to speak about the importance and impact of their work. Guests included The Ireland Funds' Board Directors: **Jim Barry, Colin Hunt, Tommy Gallagher, Caroline Kennedy, Emer Gilvarry, Gary McGann, Trevor Ringland, and Peter Rooney**, The Ireland Funds America Board Directors: **Tom Meagher and Shaun Kelly**; Former Chair of The Ireland Funds, **Hugo MacNeill**, and **Paul Carroll** of **Cpl**. Also in attendance were **David Cronin**, President and CEO, The Ireland Funds America, and members of the Young Leaders Dublin and Belfast steering committees.

- 1 Representatives from The Ireland Funds Flagship Awardees 2019; AsIAm, Cancer Fund for Children, DePaul Ireland, Pieta House, Suas Educational Development and Youth Action NI
- 2 Anne McTaggart, Tom Meagher
- 3 Mary, Lauren and Shaun Kelly
- 4 Adam Harris, Fiona Ferris, Lisa Kearns
- 5 Colin Hunt, Jim Barry, Emer Gilvarry
- 6 Peter Rooney, Caroline Kennedy
- 7 Catherine Hughes, Katie Juhas
- 8 Peter Hurley, Paul McClatchie, Gary McGann
- 9 Caitriona Fottrell

Photos: Mark Stedman







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# The Ireland Funds Annual Rugby Lunch

## HONOREE: PAUL O'CONNELL, IRISH RUGBY HERO

**January, 2020** Over 350 guests attended The Ireland Funds annual Rugby Lunch in Dublin's **Shelbourne Hotel** on January 31 honoring Irish Rugby hero, **Paul O'Connell**. The Ireland Funds Chairman, **Alan Foy**, opened proceedings by welcoming guests and highlighting the great impact of The Ireland Funds and thanked the corporate supporters in the room for their support of the work of The Ireland Funds in Ireland. VP & Director Ireland, **Caitriona Fottrell**, spoke about the work of The Ireland Funds and how the support of donors enables the annual Grant Rounds to invest in programs across the island of Ireland. She then introduced a short video that highlighted the impact of seven Flagship Awardees. The Ireland Funds America President & CEO, **David Cronin**, presented Paul O'Connell with his award which he received for his outstanding contribution to Ireland as a sportsman on the pitch and through his philanthropic activities off the pitch. Sports Broadcaster **Evanne Ní Chuilinn**, conducted a lively Q&A with the honoree.

In attendance were Chairman and Vice Chair of The Ireland Funds America, **Gene McQuade** and **Shaun Kelly**; Chairman of The Ireland Funds Canada, **Oliver Murray**; President of The Ireland Funds Singapore, **Colin MacDonald**; and The Ireland Funds America Board Director, **John Fitzpatrick**. The Ireland Funds Board of Directors was represented by **Alan Foy, Jim Barry, Tommy Gallagher, Emer Gilvarry, Colin Hunt, Caroline Kennedy, Brendan McDonagh, Angela Moore, and Gerard Ryan**.

- 1 Alan Foy, Evanne Ní Chuilinn, Caitriona Fottrell, Paul O'Connell
- 2 Caroline Kennedy, Jim Barry, Alan Foy, Brendan McDonagh, Shaun Kelly, Tommy Gallagher, Emer Gilvarry, David Cronin, Gene McQuade, Caitriona Fottrell, Angela Moore, Gerard Ryan, Oliver Murray, John Fitzpatrick
- 3 Paul O'Connell, David Cronin
- 4 Caitriona Fottrell
- 5 Mick McCarthy, John Fitzpatrick, Paul O'Connell
- 6 H.E. Richard Andrews, Rachel Hussey
- 7 Colleen & Oliver Murray with Guests
- 8 Catherine Burke-Kennedy, Gerardine Connolly, Barbara Dawson
- 9 John Fitzpatrick, Mick McCarthy

Photos: Mark Stedman and Sean Curtis







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# Global Leadership Series with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar

August, 2019 **An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar** spoke at The Ireland Funds Global Leadership Series in Belfast. The event was hosted by **Rev. Bill Shaw**, CEO of the **174 Trust** and **The Duncairn**, a grantee of The Ireland Funds. **An Taoiseach** arrived in a storm of weather and media, but was offered a warm welcome by Rev. Bill Shaw and board members of The Ireland Funds, **Caroline Kennedy**, **David McRedmond**, and **Shaun Murphy**. An Taoiseach then made his way to the converted church theater where a crowd of over 150 awaited. The Taoiseach shared with the audience his lessons on leadership and discussed the challenges that lay ahead for Northern Ireland. He then took part in a candid and open Q&A with **Ryan Feeney**, Head of Communications for the **PSNI** and Belfast Young Leaders' Committee member. It was an honor to host and hear from An Taoiseach in such a magnificent venue which has received support from The Ireland Funds.

- 1 Bill Shaw, Siobhán Gallagher, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, David McRedmond, Shaun Murphy, Caroline Kennedy
- 2 Ryan Feeney, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar
- 3 An Taoiseach
- 4 An Taoiseach, Bill Shaw
- 5 Ryan Feeney, An Taoiseach
- 6 Conor Houston, Emma Hunt, Caroline Feeney, Siobhán Gallagher, An Taoiseach, Bill Shaw, Ryan Feeney

Photos: Richard Trainor



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## Belfast Global Leadership Series with Mark Dowds and Johnny Petrie

**October, 2019** The Belfast Young Leaders were treated to an interesting panel discussion with **Mark Dowds**, Co-founder of **Trov**, (now Managing Director at **Anthemis Group**) and **Jonny Petrie**, CEO **Ulster Rugby**, moderated by **Andrew Trimble**, a Belfast Young Leader. Both shared pragmatic and entrepreneurial advice, mixed with fascinating and funny insights from their careers. Many thanks to our hosts at **Ormeau Baths** for a wonderful morning in their energetic shared work spaces.

- 1 Andrew Trimble, Jonny Petrie, Mark Dowds
- 2 Jonny Petrie and Mark Dowds in conversation with Andrew Trimble at Ormeau Baths
- 3 Jonny Petrie, Mark Dowds, Andrew Trimble



## Belfast Young Leaders Jingle Mingle

**December, 2019** The Belfast Young Leaders, and their great friends, including **Rev. Bill Shaw** from **The Duncairn**, came together to celebrate Christmas and mark the end of a very successful year. Amid the Christmas cheer, plans were laid for the coming year, and new decade, to continue to grow and nurture young philanthropists in Belfast.

- 1 Andrew Trimble, Conor Houston
- 2 Fiona Lowe, Rev. Bill Shaw, Gareth Quinn
- 3 Fergal McFerran, Richard Willis, Siobhán Gallagher

*Photos: Conor Houston*





## London Global Leadership Series

**SPEAKER: RORY GODSON, CHAIR OF THE IRELAND FUNDS GREAT BRITAIN, FOUNDER OF POWERSCOURT**

**September, 2019** As part of the Global Leadership Series, Young Leaders gathered at the offices of **Powerscourt** in London to attend a leadership session with **Rory Godson**, Chair of The Ireland Funds Great Britain (IFGB) and founder of Powerscourt. Rory provided a fascinating outline of his career to date, including his time with **Goldman Sachs International** and **The Sunday Times** through to setting out on his own to found Powerscourt in 2004 which has since established itself as one of the leading firms in the field of strategic communications.

- 1 Catherina Casey, Ryan Dempster
- 2 Rory Godson discussing his lessons in leadership
- 3 James Gallagher, Gráinne Hawkes, Victoria Wallace

*Photos: Noel Mullen*



## London Global Leadership Series

**SPEAKER: CAROLINE MCATEER, FOUNDER & CEO OF THE SPORTS PR COMPANY**

**November, 2019** The London Global Leadership series featured **Caroline McAteer**, founder and CEO of **The Sports PR Company**. She is a PR mastermind having worked, initially, in the music industry representing the **Spice Girls** before moving into the world of sports PR. Today, her company's client base glitters with some of football's biggest names including **David Beckham**, **Didier Drogba**, **Frank Lampard**, **Dele Alli** and **Cristiano Ronaldo**. Caroline shared some of her experiences and her journey in lead-

ership during the course of the session held at **Darby's London**. The Q&A was wide-ranging covering topics such as her passion for giving back, the importance of authenticity on social media, the generational gap between the 'young' (digital) and 'old' (print) media, the changing nature of public perception and the role of law in protecting sports figures.

- 1 Catherina Casey, Caroline McAteer
- 2 Jack Cantillon

*Photos: Noel Mullen*







## Young Leaders Summer Social

- 1 Padraig O'Connor, Conall Noonan
- 2 Gráinne Hawkes, Laura Kennedy
- 3 Homeboy Bar

Photos: Noel Mullen

**August, 2019** The London Young Leaders and guests gathered on a mild August evening to catch-up and introduce friends to the IFGB. Young Leader Co-Chair **Victoria Wallace** opened the event by providing an overview of the ongoing work of The Ireland Funds and the role of the Young Leaders within it. This was followed by a video presentation that provided an insight into the organizations supported by the IFGB Annual Grant Round. The evening was kindly hosted by **Homeboy Bar** and made the perfect setting for the Young Leaders and friends to enjoy a great evening.



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## Young Leaders Winter Social

**November, 2019** Young Leaders and friends gathered on a wintery November evening to catch-up and introduce friends to the IFGB following an inspirational session with **Caroline McAteer**, founder and CEO of **The Sports PR Company**, as part of our Global Leadership Series. Newly-appointed Chair of the London Young Leaders Steering Committee, **Padraig O'Connor**, opened the event by welcoming all and providing an overview of the ongoing work and progress to date of the IFGB and the role of the Young Leaders within the organization. The Winter Social was held at the recently opened **Darby's**, a NYC-inspired oyster bar, large open grill and bakery from the Irish duo **Robin and Sarah Gill** located beside the US Embassy's new premises in **Vauxhall, London**.

- 1 Dermot Skinnader, Sinéad Whelan, Séimí Campbell
- 2 Caroline McAteer speaks with Dermot Skinnader
- 3 Padraig O'Connor welcomes everyone to the Winter Social

Photos: Noel Mullen



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## Great Britain Gala Dinner

**HONOREES: AUTHOR EDNA O'BRIEN; SIR JOHN PARKER, CHAIRMAN OF LAING O'ROURKE; RUGBY LEGEND RORY BEST**

November, 2019 **Edna O'Brien**, Ireland's most celebrated living writer, was among those honored when The Ireland Funds Great Britain (IFGB) held its annual Gala Dinner in the **Plasterers' Hall** in London on 6 November 2019. Over 240 business leaders and others from the Irish community gathered to support the work of the IFGB. **Jarlath Regan**, presenter of hit podcast **An Irishman Abroad**, hosted the event. The evening opened with the **London Irish Centre** being presented with the **Annual Community Award** which is presented each year in recognition of the recipient organization's exceptional work and the impact it achieves within the community. IFGB honored three exceptional Irish people who have excelled in their fields at the Gala Dinner:

- **Edna O'Brien**, DBE – *Lifetime Achievement Award – Culture*
- **Sir John Parker**, GBE FREng – *Lifetime Achievement Award – Business*
- **Rory Best**, OBE – *Lifetime Achievement Award – Sport*

Edna O'Brien's speech had guests enthralled and she concluded with a reading from the **Playboy of the Western World** which was followed by rapturous applause. **Sir John Parker**, who has had an illustrious career in business and is the current Chairman of **Laing O'Rourke**, shared some of his insights into business, leadership and life. The evening was rounded off with a 'fireside chat' between **Jarlath** and rugby legend, **Rory Best**, as they discussed the empathy of the Irish rugby fans and Rory's adjustment to post-rugby life. **Emily Bohill**, Trustee of the IFGB, launched **The IFGB '100 Club'** dedicated to raising funds specifically for the organization's Annual Grant Round which supports not-for-profit organizations operating within the Irish community in Great Britain and across the island of Ireland.

- 1 Edna O'Brien, Rory Godson
- 2 Sir John Parker, Emily Bohill
- 3 Ross Frenett, Victoria Wallace
- 4 Jarlath Regan, Rory Best
- 5 David Cronin, Rory Best
- 6 Gareth Carragher, Luke Powell, Jack O'Meara, David Collins, Michael Hussey, Cathal Hurley
- 7 Jarlath Regan welcoming guests
- 8 Barry Devereux, Garrett Hayes, Hugo MacNeill
- 9 Rory Godson, Rory Best, Brian & Sue Dickie, Pierce Dargan

Photos: Noel Mullen



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# The Ireland Funds Great Britain News

## The Ireland Funds Great Britain Grant Workshops

In September 2019, The IFGB supported non-profit organizations by delivering Grants Workshops in London and also in Chester, which is located in the northwest of England. Catherina Casey, Interim Director of the IFGB, outlined the grant-making process, its program areas and funding priorities for attendees. In addition, there were discussions about the challenges facing not-profit entities that serve the Irish community and how the Annual Grant Round can be maximized to enable organizations to continue to deliver crucial services within the community across Great Britain and Ireland. Both workshops were kindly hosted by Bank of America Merrill Lynch, with special thanks to Anthony Harte.



Chester



London





82,000 visitors to the Centre

# SPOTLIGHT ON:

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD 2019 RECIPIENT, THE LONDON IRISH CENTRE

The Ireland Funds Great Britain is delighted to announce that The London Irish Centre (LIC) – the Irish Heart of London since 1954, was announced as the 2019 recipient of the at IFGB's Gala Dinner. The iconic and much-loved Centre delivers a diverse mix of Irish community and cultural services to empower and enrich the lives of those it welcomes. From advice services to art exhibitions, case work to concerts, the LIC's work is impact-focused, creative and responsive to changing needs. The Centre was built for a different time and a different set of needs and the team at LIC is now embarking on an ambitious journey to raise funds to redevelop its premises to ensure that the Centre can progress into the future and remain the heartbeat of Irish London; continuing to offer the warmest Irish welcome, deliver excellent, sustainable services, and celebrate the story and contribution of the Irish in the great city of London.



5,434 nutritious meals served to clients

### 2019 Impact Numbers of The London Irish Centre

- 4,098** client advice sessions
- 1,972** people in crisis helped
- 312** outreach visits to the most isolated
- 5,434** nutritious meals served to clients
- £24,188** of crisis grants given out
- £1.81m** of entitlements recovered for clients
- 19,803** attendees at Irish cultural events
- 348** Irish community and cultural events hosted
- 7,100** Irish books in the O'Donovan Irish Library



348 Irish community and cultural events hosted



# The Ireland Funds Great Britain News

## The Ireland Funds Great Britain Annual Grant Round

The Ireland Funds Great Britain (IFGB) awarded 37 deserving not-for-profit organizations working with and for the Irish community in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland through its 2018/19 Annual Grant Round. The objective of the Grant Round is to contribute much needed funds to organizations across Great Britain and the island of Ireland with projects supporting community development, culture, peace and reconciliation and education. The number of applications for funding from The Ireland Funds Great Britain doubled from the previous year in the 2018/19 Grant Round. **We are pleased to feature here four charities who were awarded funding through the 2018/19 Annual Grant Round and whose projects showcase the quality and scope of work being carried out across the Irish community in Great Britain.**

**Irish Film London** Now in its 10th year, Irish Film London (IFL) continues to champion Irish Film and Animation across the UK. IFL hosts the largest international Irish Film Festival in the world over five days each year, which brings the full scope of Irish screen talent to London, with numerous UK premieres for Irish films, panel discussions and live director and cast Q&As. Led by Kelly O'Connor, IFL also runs a year-round program of screenings, industry and community workshops, the annual Irish Film London Awards, the St. Brigid's Day Film Festival each February and the St. Patrick's Film Festival each March.



**Void Gallery** Void Gallery is a contemporary art space located in Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Void has created an international reputation for its wide-ranging and challenging exhibition program, with a key element to the gallery being the Engage program, which places participation, engagement and learning at the heart of Void. Void received international attention in December 2019 when one of their pieces won the prestigious Turner Prize. Artist Helen Cammock jointly won this year's Turner Prize for *The Long Note* (2018), a film that examined the overlooked role of women in the civil rights movement in Derry. Mary Cremin, Director of Void Gallery, commissioned the piece. This was a historic win as the four artists nominated urged the judges not to choose a single winner and instead make a "collective statement" at a time when there was "already so much that divides and isolates people and communities."

**Leeds Irish Health and Homes** Based in Yorkshire in the North of England, Leeds Irish Health & Homes has been at the forefront of providing services to meet the current and developing needs of its community since 1996. It has supported thousands of people in their community over the years to help them regain and retain their independence and dignity. 2019 was an exciting year for Leeds Irish Health and Homes: it launched a Monday Fun Group, a social group for over 50s, it registered as an online center offering IT support to service users for computers and iPads, partnered with Life Story Network on 'My Home Matters' project, helping carers understand the importance of home and the impact of transitions in memory loss or dementia and held numerous events and workshops for the local community.



**Birmingham Irish Association** Birmingham Irish Association is the English Midlands' leading charity providing welfare and cultural services to the Irish community. The charity launched a new Irish Dementia Centre in January 2020 which will be the first of its kind in Birmingham specifically for the Irish community. This free of charge service will also provide transport and lunch for those attending. This vital service will provide an opportunity for the community (Irish people make up the oldest ethnic minority in England and Wales) and for the carers to have some much-needed respite.





# The Emerald Ball

**November, 2019** Over 300 guests, friends and supporters of The Ireland Funds Singapore gathered at **The St. Regis Singapore** for the 11th Annual Emerald Ball and a fun-filled evening of cabaret and fundraising. We were delighted to have European Commissioner **Phil Hogan** as an honored guest as well as **HE Patrick Bourne**, Irish Ambassador to Singapore with his wife **Sonali**, and the newly appointed British High Commissioner **HE Kara Owen** and husband **William Tierney**. **Dr. Stanley Quek**, Chairman who gave a warm welcome to all including guests of honor and representatives of our benefitting charities covering the four pillars of community, education, arts & culture and sport. A highlight of the evening was a fabulous guest appearance by our Board member, **Mrs. Noor Quek**. Ambassador Bourne gave a warm thanks to The Ireland Funds for being a champion of shared Irish values including generosity,

creativity, fairness and tolerance and Commissioner Phil Hogan expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome to Singapore and the great work of The Ireland Funds. **Jai Kishen**, a youth worker with **Boys Town** gave moving insight to their work with disadvantaged youth and thanked The Ireland Funds Singapore for its support. The evening raised over \$500,000 through table sales, donations, and live and silent auctions with many thanks to our kind sponsors, donors and supporters. Dr. Quek, Ambassador Bourne and Commissioner Hogan presented cheques to the **Singapore Institute of Technology, Boys Town, LASALLE, Filos Community Services**, and the **Singapore Irish Rugby Club**. Thanks to **Dr. Lee Min Sze** and her Ball Committee for all their hard work putting together a successful fundraiser and fantastic cabaret.



- 1 Amb. Patrick Bourne, European Commissioner Phil Hogan, Dr. Stanley Quek
- 2 European Commissioner Phil Hogan, Dr. Stanley Quek, British High Commissioner Kara Owen
- 3 Aislynn Dwyer, David Ungerer
- 4 Mrs. Noor Quek
- 5 Carmel Tan, Rhonda Howarth-Kuo, Noreen & Chris Snell
- 6 Dr. Colum Nolan and Guests
- 7 Dr Ong Hean Yee, Dr Lee Sze Min (standing) and Guests
- 8 Cheque presentation to the Singapore Institute of Technology, Boys Town, LASALLE, Filos Community Services, and the Singapore Irish Rugby Club

Photos: Stellar Events





## Sydney Young Leaders Annual Corporate Breakfast

**August, 2019** An inspiring morning brought three worlds together when the Sydney Young Leaders hosted a corporate breakfast on the topic of 'Finding Opportunities in a Changing World' hosted by **Facebook**. The panel included **Paul McCrory** of Facebook; **Yvonne Le Bas** of **Westpac** and from Dublin via video link **Tony Griffin**, Co-Founder & former CEO of **Soar**, a youth foundation working to uncover the greatness in all young people in Ireland. Discussion was had around bringing business, government and the not-for-profit sectors together for the best results. Those gathered agreed that people want purpose

and to do things that matter. The need for brands and companies to join in the work toward a zero-friction future where we can donate, work and live in an easier, better world, was also discussed. Tony said it best, 'We are here to change the world.' A huge thank you to sponsor **Clyde & Co.**

- 1 Seán Bryceland, Tony Griffin, Paul McCrory, Yvonne Le Bas
- 2 Teresa Keating, Geraldine Murphy, Caitriona Comerford, Niamh Fitzpatrick
- 3 Sydney Young Leader Committee with our panel

Photos: Kristy McVay Photography



## Young Leaders Sydney Soirée

**November, 2019** The **Young Leaders** celebrated a successful year at the iconic **Opera Bar** with the Sydney Soirée, a complimentary event to thank members and friends for their support in 2019. Friends of The Ireland Funds Australia, both old and new, basked in the sunshine and stunning views of the harbour. Young Leader, **Orla Hennessy** thanked the crowd for their support and generosity in 2019; by attending events and helping the Young Leaders in Australia to make grants to our nominated charities including **Men's Sheds**,

**Jigsaw** and **CaraCare**. The event was proudly sponsored by **Lifestyle Solutions** and raffle prizes were generously donated by **Meanwhile Salon**, **Linda Kelly Illustrations**, **Hello Drinks**, **Headoffice Hair Specialist**, **Bondi Lash & Beauty Clinic** and **Taste Ireland**.

- 1 The Sydney Young Leaders Committee
- 2 JP Tucker, Kady O'Connell, Jacqui Duncan
- 3 Scott Ungaro, Andrew Hyland, Brent Pitts, John O'Grady

Photos: Celio Agostino







## Sydney Supporters Lunch

- 1 David Kelly, Yvonne Le Bas
- 2 Angela & Patrick Gallagher
- 3 Consul General Owen Feeney, Patrick Tuttle

Photos: Kristy McVay Photography

**July, 2019** It was wonderful to see so many friends at The Ireland Funds Australia's annual Supporters Lunch, kindly hosted by **David Kelly** and **PwC**, at their stunning **Barangaroo** offices. Chairman **Yvonne Le Bas** was delighted to acknowledge the many supporters, thanked them for all their generosity and provided an update on our work including the recent grant round of over \$400,000 to projects in Ireland and Australia. Consul General **Owen Feeney** thanked supporters on behalf of the people and Government of Ireland, not only for their financial support but their friendship, kindness, care and interest.



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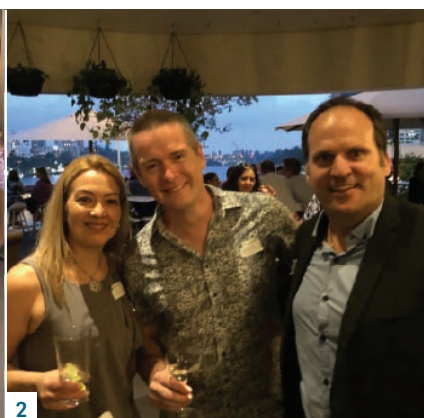
## Brisbane Christmas Networking Drinks

- 1 Guests at the 2019 Brisbane Christmas Drinks
- 2 Caroline Saunders, Stephen Hart, Martin Dunn
- 3 Angela Sheehy and guests

**December, 2019** The Ireland Funds Australia hosted the annual Brisbane Christmas Drinks with stunning views along the **Brisbane River**; where friends and supporters gathered to reflect on a successful 2019 and raise awareness of The Ireland Funds and the worthy projects we support. Young Leader **Jude Bolger** was happy to share with guests some highlights from a successful year including a grant round of over \$400,000 to support 18 projects in Ireland and in Australia, a proud achievement and one that was only possible through the ongoing generosity of our supporters. Christmas hospitality and a festive spirit was provided by **Blackbird Bar**. Raffle prizes were generously sponsored by **NuvHo** and **World Sherpas**.



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# Brisbane Luncheon

**August, 2019** The warm Queensland winter brought out the best of the beautiful **Hillstone St Lucia** as friends and supporters, old and new, gathered for the annual Ireland Funds Australia Brisbane Luncheon. **Marist College Ashgrove** graduate **Jerome Pang** started off proceedings with an Acknowledgement of Country and spoke about the impact receiving an **Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF)** scholarship had on his educational trajectory and recognized the longstanding partnership between The Ireland Funds Australia and the AIEF. Chairman **Yvonne Le Bas** welcomed the opportunity to thank guests for their continued support of The Ireland Funds Australia, including major sponsors **Australian Radio Network, Charles Curran AC** and **Star**

**Entertainment Group**, Board Members, Governors, Associates, Benefactors and Young Leaders. **ABC Sports** reporter and Australian Young Leader **Catherine Murphy** kept the day on track as MC, and did a wonderful job getting insights from **John O'Neill AO**, Chairman of the Star Entertainment Group and former Chairman of **Rugby Australia** and The Ireland Funds Australia. The event had a distinctive Irish flavour, with the **Barleyshakes** playing traditional tunes and **Walker School of Irish Dance** who invited guests to the dance floor to learn some steps of Irish dancing themselves. Huge thank you also to auctioneer **Chris McKearney** of **EBM Insurance** and **Risk Cover** for travelling interstate for the day.



1 Catherine Murphy, John O'Neill AO, Yvonne Le Bas  
 2 Anthony Travers, Ben Lubach  
 3 Drs. Frank & Ailbhe Cunningham  
 4 Jude Bolger  
 5 David Woodward, Lanta Woodward and guests  
 6 Julie O'Neill, Teresa Keating  
 7 Eamonn Robinson, Jeremy Clinton, Katie Cummins  
 8 Michael O'Brien

*Photos: About Time Co.*





# Sydney Garden Party

**October, 2019** The Ireland Funds Australia returned to **Fairwater** on a stunning Sunday where the new owners **Mike and Annie Cannon-Brookes** welcomed guests to their home, recognizing the long connection between The Ireland Funds and Fairwater, guests replied with a rousing round of “for they are jolly good fellows.” Chairman **Yvonne Le Bas** thanked everyone gathered including Board Members, past Chairman **John O’Neill AO**, Ambassador **Breandán Ó Caollaí** and **Carmel Callan**, Consul General **Owen Feeney**, **The Lansdowne Club**; major sponsors **Etihad**; **Diageo**, **David Smith**; **Australian Radio Network** and **HT&E**, **Ciaran Davis**; **Frank Curran**, **Ryan’s Hotels**, **The Star** and **Coolmore**. Yvonne was thrilled to provide an update to guests including the 2019 grant round supporting projects such as **Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF)**, helping **SOAR** to reach 62,000 teenagers by 2020, **Men’s Sheds** in Ireland and **Community Action Network** supporting disadvan-

taged communities in Dublin. Yvonne also proudly told guests of our journey to become carbon neutral; we planted a tree for every guest, in Australia through **Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund** and in Ireland we are helping to reforest an area in Co. Clare with non-invasive Native Irish trees. H.E. **Breandán Ó Caollaí** the Irish Ambassador to Australia thanked guests for their generous support of the work of the Fund and the people of Ireland. The Ambassador reiterated given the uncertain times we live in the work of the Fund is just as important now as ever. The live auction was conducted by **Chris McKearney** of **EBM** and included **Etihad** Business Class tickets to Ireland thanks to Etihad, fabulous packages from **Coolmore Australia** thanks to **Tom & Sophie Magnier**, and a wonderful Radio Advertising Package thanks to Australian Radio Network and **Ciaran Davis**. Thank you to all guests for coming for the party and staying for the mission!



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- 1 Mike & Annie Cannon-Brookes
- 2 Guests at the Sydney Garden Party
- 3 David O’Leary, Scott Ungaro, Ashani Samuel-Thambiah, Damian Ennis
- 4 Yvonne Le Bas, Philip O’Sullivan, Carmel Callan & HE Ambassador Breandán Ó Caollaí
- 5 Yvonne Le Bas and Guests
- 6 Toni & Peter Ryan
- 7 The Ireland Funds Australia Young Leaders
- 8 George Hughes

Photos: Matt Teague



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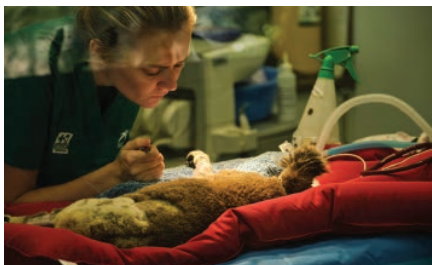


# AUSTRALIA NEEDS YOUR HELP



**1.25**  
BILLION+  
ANIMALS  
LOST

## International Environmental Catastrophe\*



**10**  
MILLION  
HECTARES  
LOST

\*Statistics as of 5 February, 2020 - fires are still raging.



# Australian Bushfire Relief

## A Global Irish Response

Since September 2019 the Australian bushfires have raged, creating an unprecedented catastrophe, with long-term devastation to Australia's biodiversity and environment.

Australia has provided a warm welcome to so many Irish people, hosting many of us for the almost obligatory gap year, opening her doors to us in times of recession and providing opportunities to others to make Australia home.



## Now Australia Needs Our Help

Having suffered the severest bushfires ever seen, 10 million hectares burnt, close to 1.5 times the size of Ireland, inflicting loss of life, homes and more than 1.25 billion animals. Koalas are nearing the endangered list and in NSW alone almost 30% of the koala population and habitat has been destroyed. These are unprecedented circumstances. An "international environmental catastrophe" in the words of Sir David Attenborough.

As a consequence we urge the Irish around the world to provide global assistance to a country that has given us so much.

Please help us to show our collective gratitude, directing our efforts to **regreen Australia and rescue and regenerate the wildlife population** now and into the future.

- Donations being distributed via the Australian Ireland Foundation Public Ancillary Fund to approved DGR1 registered charities in Australia.
- 100% of the funds raised will be passed on.
- Donations over AUD\$2 are tax-deductible in Australia.
- Please check your local chapter for local taxation conditions.
- A report of funds raised will be published at the end of March 2020.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### DONATE NOW

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

Any support you can provide will be much appreciated

For further information please

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# The Ireland Funds Monaco Residential Bursaries

Awarded biannually, The Ireland Funds Monaco Residential Bursaries were established to enable writers born or living in Ireland to pursue a current project during a one-month residency at the Princess Grace Irish Library in Monaco. We are pleased to present these personal reflections written by authors Dr. Tony McCarthy and Professor Thomas Bartlett on their experiences in Monaco.



## Dr. Tony McCarthy

Dr. Tony McCarthy was Writer in Residence at the Princess Grace Irish Library in March of 2019. An accountant by profession, Tony has spent most of his working life working in the investment business. He holds an MBA from University College Dublin, and a MA in history from Maynooth University. In 2017 he received his PhD from Maynooth University for his thesis 'From landlord to rentier: The Wyndham land Act 1903 and its economic consequences for Irish landlords 1903-1933'. His publications include *The Shaws of Terenure, A 19th century Dublin merchant family*, and *The Irish Land Act 1923 in A Formative Decade, Ireland in the 1920s*. He is currently working on a book on George Wyndham's time in Ireland and is co-editing a book on British and Irish Land Reform.

**March of 2019** will live long in my memory as being a time of great fulfilment, adventure and personal exploration. Immersing myself in the magnificent literary delights of the Princess Grace Irish Library (PGIL) and the many wonders of Monaco gave rise in me of a sense of privilege and excitement for which I shall be eternally grateful to The Ireland Funds for providing me with the opportunity by awarding me the Writer in Residence bursary.

Arriving every morning to the PGIL was to me like entering Disney's Magic Kingdom before any tourists arrived, the picture postcard streets, the utter cleanliness of the Rocher could not but raise one's spirits.

For someone who has spent most of his life engaged in the cut and thrust of business the opportunity to immerse oneself in full time writing in such a beautiful and inspiring place can only be viewed as, a not to be squandered once in a lifetime opportunity. Whether it was this sense, the ambience of the PGIL whereby one is surrounded by so many great literary treasures or the realisation that you are following in such illustrious footsteps make it difficult not to be focussed on the job in hand. In my case, I completed an essay entitled 'A Sporting Politician: George Wyndham (1863-1913)' which has now been published by Four Courts Press as part of the *Sport and Leisure in the Irish and British Country House* collection. I also wrote an essay 'From Landlord to Rentier: The Wealth Management Practices of Irish Landlords 1903-1933' which will be included in forthcoming publication by Edinburgh University Press relating to British and Irish Land Reform.

Unlike many of my predecessors, my wife Anita accompanied me for the entire month in Monaco. I found this hugely beneficial in that it enabled me to settle-in very quickly and allowed me to share the wonderful experiences presented. It also meant that we were better able to integrate into the local environment through attendance at concerts in the Grimaldi Forum, in the Opéra de Monte-Carlo and travelling to various locations along the Côte d'Azur and the Italian Riviera at weekends.

In terms of highlights of my time in the Principality, the St Patrick's Day concert in the Library and the introduction to HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco was of great note. A private out of hours visit to the Casino in preparation for my talk to the Friends of the Library was also a highlight as indeed was the talk itself. In a month full of highlights, it is hard to be overly selective in terms of standout moments or events.

What does stand out however was the kindness shown by so many people associated with both the Library and The Irelands Funds in particular, Sile Jackson and the late Francis O'Hara who went out of their way to make me feel part of the community. It would however be singularly remiss of me not to thank the two rocks upon which the PGIL exists namely Judith Gantley and Géraldine Lance. From the moment I was awarded the bursary to the day I returned home, both Judith and Géraldine took enormous care of me thus ensuring that March 2019 and Monaco will forever live in my memory as 'a moment of forever.'





# Professor Thomas Bartlett

Professor Thomas Bartlett MRIA was Writer in Residence at the Princess Grace Irish Library in October, 2019. He is the author of *Ireland: a history* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) and most recently general editor of the four-volume *Cambridge History of Ireland* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

**A month in Monaco** at the renowned Princess Grace Irish Library! What could be more exciting! The library holds extensive collections of modern Irish literature and history, with many being first editions, some from the late Princess Grace's own collection, and all freely accessible to the reader or researcher. There are also some manuscript collections – I was particularly interested in the McCarthy papers – and, of course, there is a huge repository of items relating to Princess Grace (née Kelly) – photographs, newspapers, magazines, and film. It struck me that Princess Grace's visit to Ireland in the early 1960s (fully documented here) is worth a study in its own right: she received a rapturous reception there and her visit (a 'Homecoming') preceded the much better known one by President John F. Kennedy.

My work in the library focussed primarily on the Irish military in France in the eighteenth century, known colloquially as the 'Wild Geese', or in French 'Les Oies Sauvages'. To that end I was facilitated in putting together a synthesis of recent work on these soldiers (origins, numbers, motivations, experiences in war and in peace, and reception by their French hosts). I was able to incorporate recent work by the young French historian Pierre Louis Coudray into the resulting talk which I delivered to the Friends of the Princess Grace Library (25 October 2019). As well, I was able to make use of the McCarthy family papers which trace the history of an Irish officer in French service in the 1780s and which shed light on his family's later peregrinations – his son was an accomplished cartographer in Algeria in the nineteenth century and other members of the family fetched up in Venezuela and New York. Fascinating stuff! In between researching Irish soldiers abroad, I was able to renew acquaintances with various authors that for various reasons I had neglected over the past decades. Louis MacNeice's poetry was something of a (renewed) revelation to me, as were the prose works of C. Day Lewis, both of which were conveniently housed at eye-level from my desk, and hence a welcome and easy distraction from my historical researches. And of course, the library is housed just yards from the royal palace with breath-taking views over Monaco, and with any number of cafes and restaurants in close proximity.

In addition to my lecture to the 'Friends', I was also privileged to speak with a class from Lycée Albert I (local High School) who were studying English: this was rewarding (and not a little nerve-wrecking – one question was: why is the prefix 'O' really only found in surnames in Ireland but not in Scotland?)

A final stand-out occasion for me was a champagne reception, accompanied by a television documentary featuring Princess Grace, not seen since the 1960s, and now screened to mark the ninetieth anniversary of her birth.

If I conclude by saying that Judith (administrator) and Géraldine (administrative assistant) at the Princess Grace Irish Library did everything in their power to make my stay at the library both productive and rewarding, it will be evident that I will retain a great affection for the 'icy blonde' as Alfred Hitchcock dubbed Grace Kelly, and for the library that bears her name.



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