



THE  
IRELAND  
FUNDS  
AMERICA

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



COPE Galway



Blue Teapot



174 Trust



No Mind Left Behind



Music Generation

## OUR DONORS' GENEROSITY MADE 2021 A YEAR OF GREAT IMPACT

In 2021, The Ireland Funds America made over **544 grants** totaling **\$17.7 million** which supported the work of more than **300** organizations.



Early Learning Initiative



WAVE Trauma Centre



COPE Galway



No Mind Left Behind



Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities



# THANK YOU

In 2021, an incredibly challenging year, our donors' passion for Ireland and commitment to the mission of The Ireland Funds was transformative.

The Ireland Funds continued to support communities across the island of Ireland, North and South. Our Heart of the Community Fund provided critical and timely support to organizations supporting the most vulnerable in society. We worked closely with our donors to ensure their Donor Advised Gifts had the maximum impact across a broad range of priorities. The Ireland Funds continued its investment in providing access to high-quality education through our scholarship programs—No Mind Left Behind and the George Moore Scholars.

As we celebrated our 45th anniversary in 2021, it was clear that the level of commitment and compassion our donors have for the island of Ireland has never wavered. We are honored to be the stewards of that care and investment which improves so many lives and creates so many opportunities for growth.

**We're immensely grateful to you for helping sustain so many organizations throughout the year. Take a look at the headline numbers of 2021 and know that by joining with us, you made this possible.**

KIND REGARDS,



Gene McQuade  
Chair,  
The Ireland Funds America



Caitriona Fottrell  
President & CEO,  
The Ireland Funds

# HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2021?



HEART OF THE  
COMMUNITY &  
RECONNECTION  
GRANT ROUNDS



UNDERGRADUATE  
& GRADUATE  
SCHOLARSHIPS

THE IRELAND FUNDS  
STRENGTHENED THE  
ISLAND OF IRELAND WITH  
MULTIPLE STREAMS  
OF SUPPORT



DONOR  
ADVISED  
GRANTS



FLAGSHIP  
GRANTS



**THANK YOU** to your donors. The support helps ensure we can continue operating the food hub that's currently **helping in excess of 350 families** every week as the crisis continues. Thanks to The Ireland Funds for helping us keep the doors open!

— *Rev. Bill Shaw of the 174 Trust  
Belfast, Northern Ireland*



## HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2021?

### Donor Advised Gifts

#### EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE

The Early Learning Initiative is changing lives through education. A 2021 grant supported its Parent Child+ program, an innovative, home-based literacy and parenting program that strengthens families and prepares children to succeed academically. Families often live in areas that suffer from long-term problems of social deprivation, poverty, poor educational attainment and mass unemployment. Parent Child+ employs specially trained local women as Home Visitors to visit the family twice a week to teach families how to advance children's language, literacy and numeracy skills.

#### IMPACT:

**383 families were supported with 17,337 home visits in 2021. Studies have proven children's language, behavior and cognitive skills have vastly improved.**



#### DAISYHOUSE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Women become homeless for different reasons – domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual violence, addiction, ill health, relationship breakdown, loss of income and others. Daisyhouse breaks the cycle of homelessness to help women achieve independent, safe, sustainable living. The organization is using its 2021 grant for additional counselling and other special supports for clients during COVID-19 as well as the operational costs of running the service including maintenance costs.

#### IMPACT:

**“When I first moved into Daisyhouse I'd been homeless for a few years. It was the first time I had somewhere of my own in a very long time. I also had the support and encouragement from the staff to pursue my passion for acting and writing.”**

*– Elaine Ryan, Former Daisyhouse resident discussing her new career*



In 2021, we worked with our donors to achieve their philanthropic goals with great impact. Our team's deep understanding of needs and how philanthropy can make a difference across Ireland is unique. This expertise enables us to tailor plans with donors, giving them the freedom to focus on their areas of interest.

The following are just a few examples of the ways The Ireland Funds partnered with donors to make gifts to the causes most important to them.

## MAYO | ROSCOMMON HOSPICE FOUNDATION

Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation funds palliative care services to people with life-limiting illnesses and their families in County Mayo and County Roscommon. The Foundation affirms life, respecting the uniqueness of each individual, and enables patients to live out the remainder of their lives in comfort and dignity.

### IMPACT:

2021 gifts supported the capital development of the hospice in Roscommon. The Roscommon Palliative Care Unit officially opened in November 2021. In 2020 during the pandemic, the Foundation cared for 924 patients and carried out 4,474 home visits.



## NATIVE WOODLAND TRUST

The Native Woodland Trust is dedicated to the preservation of Ireland's remaining ancient woodlands. Irish woodlands are under constant threat of development and the Trust counters this to protect rare and irreplaceable ecosystems. The new Trees for Communities initiative provides community groups across Ireland with native Irish trees to establish their own small woodlands or hedgerows.



### IMPACT:

2021 support is enabling 300 community groups to plant 15,000 native trees across the country. This is equivalent to 15 acres of woodlands and over 5km of new biodiverse hedgerows.



## HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2021?

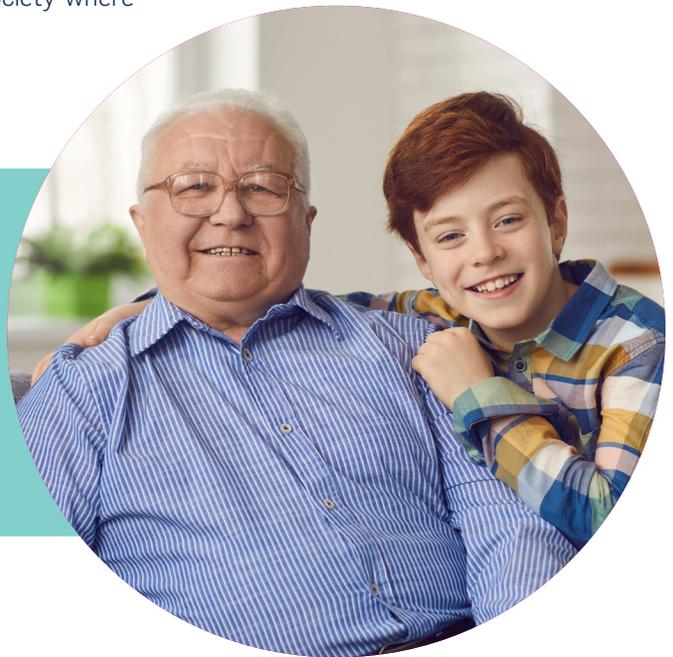
### Donor Advised Gifts

#### ST PATRICK'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

St Patrick's Mental Health Services (SPMHS) is Ireland's largest independent, not-for-profit mental health service provider. Its vision is of a society where everyone is given the opportunity to live mentally healthy lives.

#### IMPACT:

2021 support funded the Ways to Wellbeing project for 279 primary and secondary school students to learn about mental health and wellbeing by engaging with the elderly community. The project fostered local connections and encouraged students to learn from those with many years of life experience.



#### 174 TRUST

Established in 1983, 174 Trust serves Belfast with a shared, safe space where people of all ages and backgrounds can access a range of programs and activities. Since 1983, it has been a key driver in promoting a peaceful, tolerant and inclusive society in Northern Ireland.

#### IMPACT:

Duncairn Gardens is still a volatile interface with Catholic and Protestant families on either side of a divided neighborhood. 174 Trust's new Macrory Centre spans both spaces. 2021 support brought together over 150 children for cross-community activities including a new boxing club. 120+ families were supported with Christmas toy and food drives and the "Building Bridges" partnership was launched.



## ASIAM

AsIAM Is Ireland's National Autism Charity with a team of 23 staff, half of whom are themselves autistic. It is working to create a society in which every autistic person is empowered to reach their own personal potential and fully participate in society.

### IMPACT:

Support in 2021 was allocated to its new Community Support Information Line and over 730 calls have been received since the launch. The Adult Support & Wellbeing Program was developed during the pandemic and almost 600 people have found support through AsIAM groups which are a mix of in-person, online activity, webinars and support events.



## BARNARDOS

Established in 1962, Barnardos is Ireland's leading independent children's charity. Its core work is family support and early years and in 2021, it worked with over 17,000 children and parents throughout Ireland.



### IMPACT:

Three donor advised gifts from The Ireland Funds were invested in Barnardos' core services. Over 200 primary school children attended breakfast and afterschool clubs every day, across three Limerick schools. Interventions, staff support, and peer groups provided support to families in crisis across Ireland.

## THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC

For almost 175 years, the Royal Irish Academy of Music has been Ireland's leading voice in music education and training, nurturing over 1,000,000 musicians in that time.

### IMPACT:

In 2021, a donor advised gift from The Ireland Funds came at a pivotal time in the capital campaign to raise the €26m needed to complete the construction of the new campus building that will have state-of-the-art facilities. The gift enabled the construction of the 300 seat Whyte Recital Hall due to open in Spring 2023.





HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE  
ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2021?

## The Heart of The Community Fund

**IN 2021, WE LAUNCHED THE NEXT CHAPTER  
OF OUR COMMITMENT TO IRELAND:**

THE IRELAND FUNDS HEART OF THE COMMUNITY FUND.



Time and time again, we've seen that local community organizations are at the heart of the response to the crisis, especially in small towns, cities and villages across Ireland. The Ireland Funds Heart of the Community Fund is helping uniquely-placed organizations increase their response and bolster their resilience. Grants are not only assisting with day-to-day operations, they are also helping communities in Ireland to get on their feet again.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY COUNTY:

Key Support for 100 Local Communities

Northern Ireland

35 organizations funded

\$184k

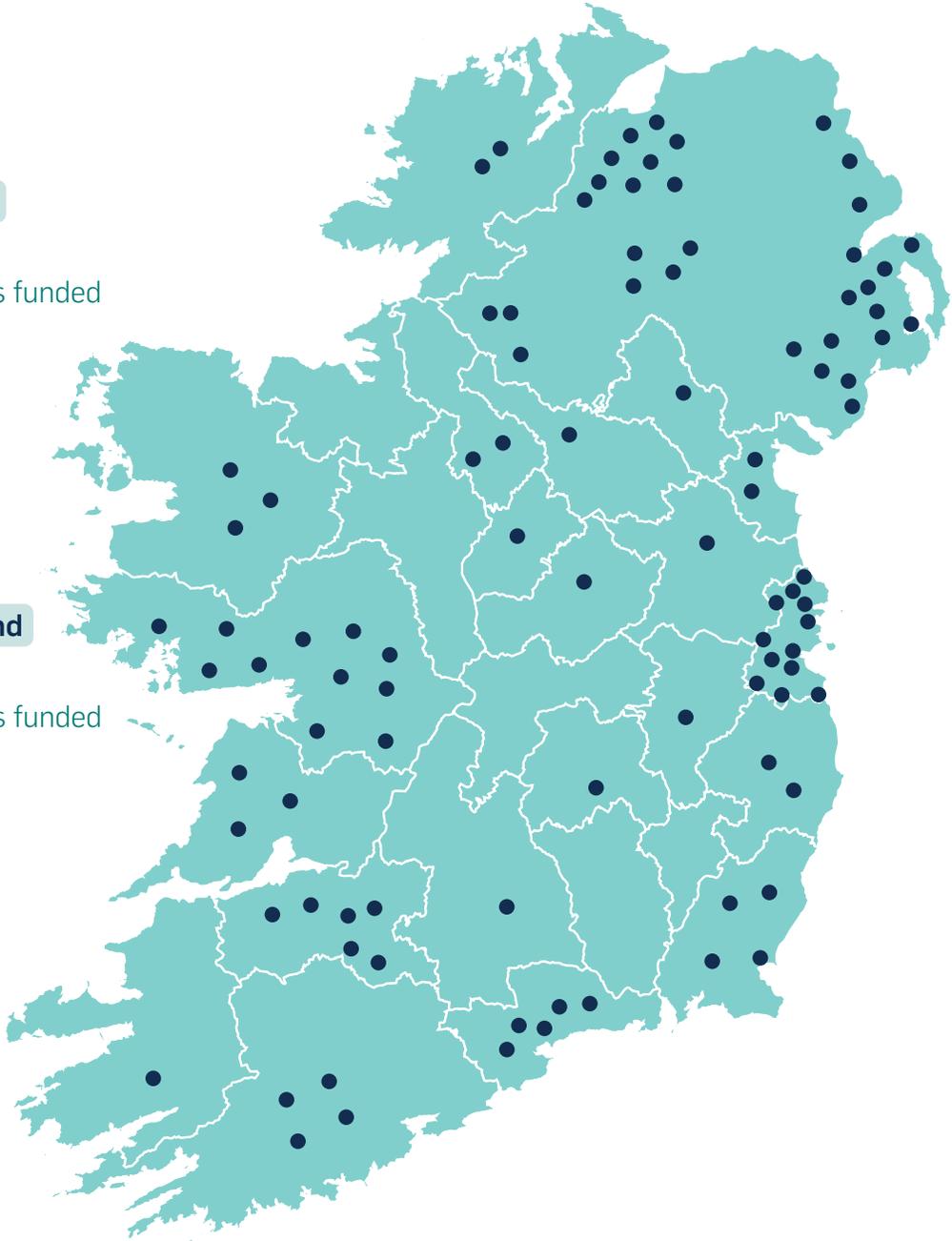
awarded in grants

Republic of Ireland

65 organizations funded

\$301k

awarded in grants





## HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2021?

# The Ireland Funds Reconnection Fund

As we emerge from the worst stages of the pandemic, we are seeing clearly how COVID-19 has disproportionately affected certain groups.

## MENTAL HEALTH

People with mental health issues are disconnected from their support structures.

## YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people have been disconnected from school and cultural activities.

## DISADVANTAGED & MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

Those who were most socially and economically disadvantaged suffer the most.

**The Ireland Funds Reconnection Fund was launched at the end of 2021 and is meeting the urgent needs of organizations serving these vulnerable groups.**



# 22 PROJECTS SHARED OVER \$500,000 IN GRANTS



**The impact of COVID-19 is still being felt today, with these groups struggling to reconnect to their communities and the organizations that were providing support to them before the pandemic. The Ireland Funds is addressing this disconnection to prevent a severe long-term impact on lives across the island of Ireland.**

174 Trust  
50808 Helpline  
Abbey Theatre  
Barnardos  
Blue Teapot  
Community Law and Mediation  
Conway Education Centre  
COPE Galway  
Cork Life Centre  
Craigavon Travellers Support Committee  
Crosscare  
Early Learning Initiative  
Helium Arts  
Irish Refugee Council  
Learning Hub Limerick  
Making Connections  
The Speedwell Trust  
Threshold  
Travellers of North Cork  
Trinity Centre for People with  
Intellectual Disabilities  
University of Atypical  
WAVE Trauma Centre

# THANK YOU

## FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY FUND & THE RECONNECTION FUND

“

Like many community projects, we are struggling to deal with expenses as all our revenue streams have disappeared. Receipt of this grant will now place us in a much stronger position financially and will assist us in maintaining our Community Center to the necessary standards.

—*Meithil Oibre Kilenne*  
(*Heart of the Community Fund*)

”

“

We are extremely grateful to have the support of The Ireland Funds towards our homeless service at The Lighthouse Centre. We have distributed over 100,000 hot take-away meal parcels during COVID to our homeless friends thanks to the generosity of supporters like you!

—*The Lighthouse Centre*  
(*Heart of the Community Fund*)

”



“

What was amazing was that The Ireland Funds contacted us and asked, 'What are you doing and how can we help?' The support that we got from The Ireland Funds has enabled us to offer even more to the families we work with.

— *Barnardos (Reconnection Fund)*

”



“  
If anything, my words are an understatement. The support we have received from The Ireland Funds has been revitalizing. The financial boost is an external validation and affirmation of the work we do.  
—Limerick Learning Hub (Reconnection Fund)  
”



“  
I can't thank The Ireland Funds and its donors enough for helping us to empower our young people by providing a much-needed sporting outlet for our local community.  
—22nd Old Boys & Ladies Football Club (Heart of the Community Fund)  
”

“  
The generous funding provided by The Ireland Funds will enable New Horizon to launch its Forest Experience for children living in Direct Provision. Projects such as this are a lifeline for this isolated, vulnerable and socially excluded group of children who face so many challenges in Ireland.  
— New Horizon (Heart of the Community Fund)  
”



## HOW DID WE DELIVER FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2021?

### Access to Education

NO MIND LEFT BEHIND PROGRAM

No Mind Left Behind is an initiative designed to give promising young people from areas of social disadvantage an opportunity to complete third-level education. An annual scholarship is provided to cover the costs of books, accommodation, and other key expenses. Students come from DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools) schools, a program of the Department of Education and Skills aimed at lessening educational disadvantage in primary and second level education.



**€836,000**

AWARDED BY THE NO MIND LEFT BEHIND PROGRAM



**41** DEIS SCHOOLS  
SELECTED TO RECEIVE  
SUPPORT THROUGH THESE  
SCHOLARSHIPS



**209** STUDENTS  
RECEIVED A NO  
MIND LEFT BEHIND  
SCHOLARSHIP



The George Moore Scholars program is an ambitious all-Ireland scholarship program that offers extraordinary supports to academically talented students who wish to undertake a master's degree in the US, the UK, or Canada to realize their full career potential.



**€1,657,200**

AWARDED BY THE  
GEORGE MOORE SCHOLARS  
PROGRAM



2021 SCHOLARS ARE ENROLLED  
AT **30** UNIVERSITIES



**47** STUDENTS  
RECEIVING A  
SCHOLARSHIP



STUDENTS ARE  
PURSUING COURSES  
ACROSS **29** DIFFERENT  
ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

# OUR GRANTMAKING

## THE IRELAND FUNDS MAKES GRANTS IN FOUR WAYS:

### 1 Donor Advised Gifts

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

### 2 Annual Grant Rounds

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

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

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

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

The Small Grant Round supports small organizations that are making an impact and positive contribution in their local community. Grants typically range from €2,500 to €10,000.

#### > Flagship Grants (Reconnection Fund)

The Flagship Grant Round provides grants for core funding, capacity building or program costs. Grants are for multi-year support and typically range from €50,000 to €100,000 over two years.

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

### 3 Scholarships

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

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

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

These scholarships are funded by our donors, and in 2021 their generosity enabled The Ireland Funds to award 256 scholarships.

### 4 Special Grants & Strategic Initiatives

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

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

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

# OUR MODEL

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

## **Vision & Focus**

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

## **Expertise**

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

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

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

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

## **National Impact**

Through our grantmaking, The Ireland Funds invests in people, communities, and organizations across the island of Ireland, North and South, and in Irish communities throughout the world. In 2021, thanks to the generosity of our donors, The Ireland Funds made 544 grants to further the work of 300+ organizations.

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

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

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES** YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020 IN US\$

	2021	2020
<b>Revenue and Support</b>		
Contributions	18,320,554	15,440,803
Fundraising Events, net *	2,978,005	3,950,468
Changes in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions: Net Assets Released	1,001,778	1,416,877
Other	521	38,349
<b>Total Revenues and Support from Operating Activities</b>	<b>22,300,858</b>	<b>20,846,497</b>
Changes in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions: Contributions & Net Assets Released	(1,001,778)	(1,366,877)
Investment Income	2,280,256	1,700,072
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>23,579,336</b>	<b>21,179,692</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Grant Awards	17,742,439	14,301,830
Other Program Services	1,402,048	1,443,589
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>19,144,487</b>	<b>15,745,419</b>
Management and General Administrative	1,443,126	1,616,704
Fundraising	1,281,332	1,531,039
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>21,868,945</b>	<b>18,893,162</b>
Change in Net Assets	1,710,391	2,286,530
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	19,285,940	16,999,410
Net Assets at End of Year**	20,996,331	19,285,940
% of Contributions Revenue from the largest single contribution received in each year	16%	12%
# of Organizations who received Grants from The Ireland Funds America in each year	304	208
<b>Notes:</b>		
* The impact of COVID 19 led to the cancellation of in person fundraising events in Q2-Q4, 2020		
** Endowment Balance at End of Year (included within Net Assets at End of Year)	17,016,904	14,879,004

Grant Thornton, LLP, performed the 2013 –2021 audits for The American Ireland Fund.

To review our audited financial statements and IRS Forms 990, please visit [irelandfunds.org](http://irelandfunds.org)

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**Thomas F. Meagher, Jr.**  
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Chicago, Illinois

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# 1976—2021

45 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP & PHILANTHROPY

# THANK YOU



I want to pay warm tribute to the extraordinary contribution The Ireland Funds has made over the past 45 years to the beautiful island that I have been lucky enough to be born in.

We all know that change is hard to get, but you have stayed the course and remained dedicated to making a difference. Central to that is mobilizing the resources to support those all across Ireland who are trying to make it a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable place. While much progress has been made, much remains to be done. Your careful work is still very much required.

— **MARY ROBINSON**

*Former President of Ireland*

at The Ireland Funds 45th Anniversary Dinner  
New York City, December 6, 2021



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & CEO

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President & CEO

**Rory MacIntyre**  
Director, Office of  
the President & CEO

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—  
Progress  
Through  
Philanthropy  
—



irelandfunds.org