



THE IRISH AMERICAN  
PARTNERSHIP  
Annual Fund 2017-2018



*Honoring your past, building Ireland's future*

# Spotlight on Science

## MICHELLE MAHER

KILKENNY SMALL SCHOOLS PROGRAM COORDINATOR



### HOW DOES THE KILKENNY SMALL SCHOOLS SCIENCE PROJECT WORK?

The Small Schools Science project is based in Kilkeny Education Centre and provides support and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to small rural Irish schools. It is a fantastic opportunity for teachers and schools involved to be given access to fresh, innovative teaching ideas.

### WHAT DOES YOUR JOB AS FACILITATOR ENTAIL?

This role involves developing and coordinating Continuing Professional Development STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) courses for primary school teachers in small rural Irish schools in order to enhance and promote STEM education from an early age. We bring teachers together in Kilkeny Education Centre and provide training in all areas of STEM education. The course provides a unique opportunity for schools to cluster together, share lesson plans, ideas, and teaching methodologies.

### WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF A LESSON YOU GIVE TO TEACHERS?

It is essential that science teaching is hands on inquiry based learning. **Teachers really do struggle to source and purchase science resources and materials in Ireland.** Therefore, wherever possible, we provide materials needed for lessons in science kit form. The schools leave with materials, knowledge and lesson – it's all ready to go. We have made balloon powered cars, homopolar motors, Drawbot robots, light up Christmas cards, and lighthouses (linked to lighthouses in the children's local environment).



### HOW MANY SCHOOLS DO YOU SERVE? WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?

The project supports 20 small rural schools in the Kilkeny area. The schools involved are very small indeed, with 2-3 teachers per school.

### WHAT DIFFERENCE DO YOU SEE IN TEACHERS BEFORE AND AFTER THEY RECEIVE THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) IN SCIENCE?

The CPD sessions provide teachers with detailed knowledge and understanding of the core scientific concepts across the curriculum. Subject content knowledge is often cited as a real obstacle to overcome in order to effectively teach primary science and other STEM subjects. By tackling this area, teachers have developed a real passion and enthusiasm for science education.

“*The support and funding The Irish American Partnership provides to small rural Irish schools is invaluable.*”

### WHAT IMPACT DOES THE SMALL SCHOOLS SCIENCE PROGRAM HAVE ON STUDENTS?

The project is not only amazing assistance to teachers but the direct impact is seen with the children. They have been given access to engage in science through innovative, hands-on, inquiry-based learning. Really the essence of science at primary level is wonder, observation and curiosity coupled with experimentation to satisfy that curiosity. Not only has the project directly impacted the teachers and children, but also the local community.

### ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK OUR DONORS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

The support and funding The Irish American Partnership provides to small rural Irish schools is invaluable. Without the involvement of the Partnership, this project simply would not be possible.

Note: Responses have been edited for brevity and clarity

## “Educating the Heart” Compassion Training in Derry & Beyond



Thanks to the support of the Partnership’s generous Northern Ireland appeal donors, teachers at nine schools in Derry, Antrim, and Donegal will receive compassion training through the “Educating the Heart” Program. This training will allow them to bring lessons in compassion back to their combined **2,128 students**, making a transformative impact on tense communities.

The “Educating the Heart” Program aims to provide teachers with the skills and confidence to instill emotional awareness, critical thinking, and reduced bias, thus enhancing the overall capacity of students to develop as compassionate citizens and change-makers. All content connects directly to the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland’s formal education curricula.

These students have grown up in the aftermath of the Good Friday Agreement, their lives vastly different than those of their parents and grandparents. It is up to them to preserve the peace in the decades ahead, and to react to Brexit changes with compassion rather than malice. **The Partnership and Children in Crossfire are committed to giving young people the tools they need to address conflicts without violence, allowing them to build a peaceful and prosperous Northern Ireland for the future.**

**2,128** students receiving compassion training

**10,491** students, teachers, and visitors engaged in the 2017 RDS Primary Science Fairs

## Partnership & RDS Expands Primary Science Fairs to Belfast

This year, the Partnership supported the expansion of the RDS Primary Science Fair program to Belfast, accommodating an additional 40 schools from the North and the South.

While primary science fairs are common in the United States, they have only been recently introduced in Ireland. Thus, the RDS Primary Science Fairs are often the first and only opportunity for students to participate in an event of this kind, making an impact at a formative age.

The RDS Primary Science Fairs aim to develop students’ scientific skills and curiosity. They are a venue for students to develop numeracy and literacy skills, exchange ideas, and for teachers to gain a professional network of contacts to share best practices. Students are encouraged to design a project, investigate a question, and analyze their results. Independent evaluation has shown that 97% of participants reported that their science skills improved, and 80% noted an improvement in their math skills.



# 2016 Revenue Report

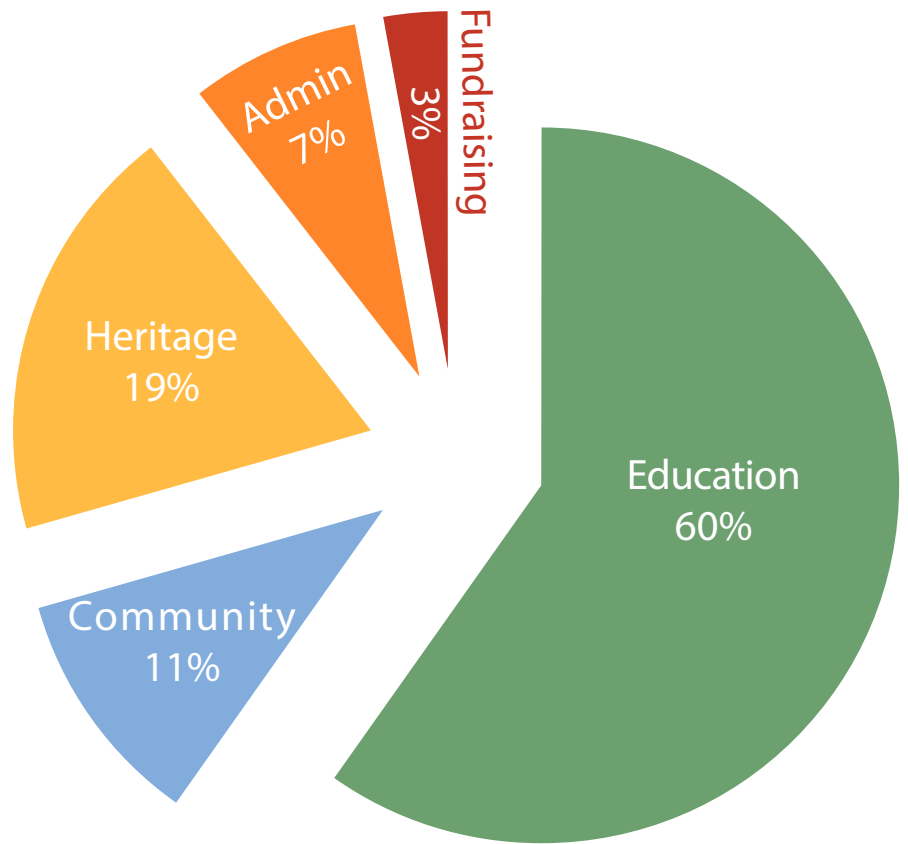
Thanks to your generous support, we sent over

**1 MILLION DOLLARS** to Ireland last year

**90% OF REVENUE SPENT ON PROGRAMS**

## 2016 GRANTS

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Education | \$690,675 |
| Community | \$124,563 |
| Heritage  | \$218,228 |



## DESSIE FARRELL JOINS THE PARTNERSHIP'S BOARD

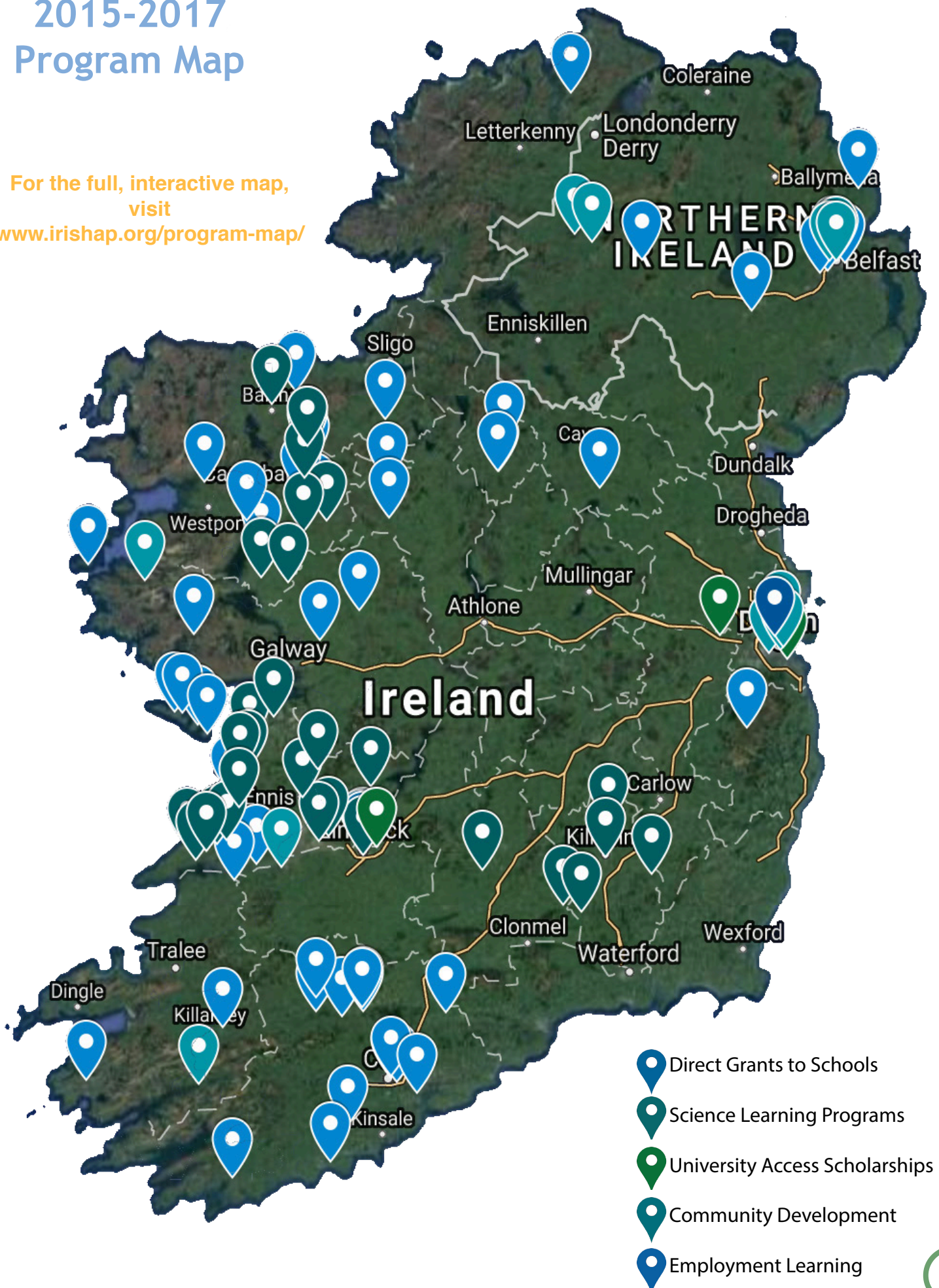
Dessie Farrell, the founder and former CEO of the Gaelic Players Association (GPA), has joined The Irish American Partnership's Board of Directors. After an esteemed Gaelic Football career, Mr. Farrell turned his attention to player welfare, development, and education. He co-founded the GPA in 1999 and quickly developed it into Ireland's preeminent player advocacy organization. After serving as CEO from 2000-2016, he stepped down to allow the next generation of leadership to emerge.

Mr. Farrell is very passionate about promoting the Irish-American relationship. He is excited to bring a new perspective to the Board of Directors.

I am honored and privileged to join the Board of The Irish American Partnership. I am eager to build upon the Partnership's success in engaging the Irish diaspora in America to support education and communities back in Ireland.

# 2015-2017 Program Map

For the full, interactive map,  
visit  
[www.irishap.org/program-map/](http://www.irishap.org/program-map/)





## Looking for a program to support?

Visit the Partnership's website at [www.irishap.org](http://www.irishap.org) to view existing program and funding requests from educators across Ireland.

## Family Fun at the Munster Maths & Science Fair

In 2017, the Partnership made a \$5,000 grant in support of the Munster Maths & Science Fair, a one day fair showcasing local students' work in STEM. The Fair brings together primary and secondary schools and community members from the Mallow, Buttevant and Doneraile area for an interactive math and science exhibition.

**The Partnership is passionate about making high quality STEM education available to all primary students across Ireland.** The Munster Maths & Science Fair furthers this objective by delivering a fun, interactive platform for rural students, teachers, and their families to explore science and math together. The Fair uniquely emphasizes parent involvement in an effort to break down parental insecurities about math and science, ensuring that the lessons learned at the Fair can be built upon at home. Over 4,000 students, teachers and community members attended the 2016 Fair, and organizers expect even higher turnout for 2017.

## Oileán Program Brings Poetry to Rural Schools

For Irish students today, diaspora is not just a theoretical concept, but a reality. Nearly all of them know a sibling, cousin, aunt, uncle, friend, or neighbor that lives abroad, and many will go on to live away from Ireland themselves for a time. This unique arrangement, coupled with the Irish government's "Creative Ireland" initiative, led the Partnership to launch *Oileán*, a primary school poetry program focusing on the diaspora.

Launched at the Partnership's 2016 Nollaig na mBan event in honor of Ambassador Anne Anderson, **Oileán (Island) provides an artistic outlet for students to explore their emotions about the diaspora and come to a deeper understanding of its unique impact on their island nation.** The program is administered by the esteemed Poetry Ireland.

So far, Poetry Ireland has sent poets to Royal School in Co. Cavan, Coláiste na Toirbhrite in Bandon, Co. Cork, and Scartleigh National School in Co. Cork, and Taobhóige National School in Co. Donegal. This fall, poets will visit Coláiste na Eachraidh, Athenry, Co Galway and Santa Maria College, Louisburgh, Co Mayo.



I gave [the students] these cutouts and asked them to think about someone they knew who is away... as I started to read out the litany of names it became quite touching. Fathers, god-parents, aunts, uncles, brothers .... Azerbaijan, Canada, Australia, Austria, USA, Dublin. Some will be back soon, Christmas, never and some they hope will be back. Interestingly when they were writing about their place they all said it was a place they would always live.

**-Dessie Blake**  
**Poet at Taobhóige National School**



## THE FRIENDS OF THE PARTNERSHIP MONTHLY GIVING CIRCLE

*Make a transformative impact on education in Ireland, North and South*

**\$15**  
/ month

Will send a class of students to a science fair in Limerick, Dublin, or Belfast

**\$25**  
/ month

Outfits a school with new library books

**\$50**  
/ month

Brings an established poet to a rural school to conduct a series of poetry workshops

**\$100**  
/ month

Provides a rural school with iPads to teach computer literacy, coding, literacy, and numeracy

**\$300**  
/ month

Allows a disadvantaged student to attend university

## THE IRISH LEGACY SOCIETY

*Honor your heritage by investing in Ireland's future*

A peaceful, well educated society will allow Ireland to prosper for generations to come. **The Irish Legacy Society** allows Partnership members to make long-term, meaningful investments in Ireland's future through planned gifts. Gifts can be made in a variety of forms, allowing members to fulfill existing financial commitments while also taking advantage of valuable tax incentives.

Named endowments are also available for those interested in supporting a specific cluster of schools, village, town, or community program.

This group of dedicated supporters understands how important education and community development are to Ireland's long-term stability and success. For more information, please visit [www.irishap.org/irishlegacy](http://www.irishap.org/irishlegacy) and contact Chief Executive Mary Sugrue at (617) 723-2707.

The greatest gift one can give is the gift of education. *Please consult with your attorney and financial adviser before making any decisions regarding planned giving.*

## CEO OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS INTERNATIONAL TO KEYNOTE NOLLAIG NA MBAN



Mary Davis, CEO of Special Olympics International, will be keynoting the Partnership's annual Nollaig na mBan celebration on January 5th, 2018 at the University Club of Washington DC.

Mary Davis has been a life-long leader within the Special Olympics movement, beginning her career as a volunteer coach with Special Olympics Ireland. Since then, she has served in a series of leadership roles with the organization, dedicating nearly 40 years of her life to the Special Olympics movement. She was formally appointed CEO of Special Olympics International in May 2016 after serving as Acting CEO since October 2015.

Nollaig na mBan, or Women's Christmas, is held each year in January throughout Ireland to celebrate women's leadership within the family and community. The Partnership commemorates this tradition with a breakfast highlighting prominent female leaders and the positive impact they have worldwide. In the past, the Partnership has been privileged to host President Mary Robinson, Ambassador Anne Anderson, Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, and many other inspiring women as our keynote speakers.

The proceeds of this year's Nollaig na mBan breakfast will be given to **Special Olympics Ireland**. If you would like to attend, tickets are \$75 and can be purchased via check or online at [www.irishap.org/events/nollaig](http://www.irishap.org/events/nollaig).

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 5, 2018: Nollaig na mBan DC  
March 15, 2018: St Patrick's Day Boston  
March 16, 2018: St. Patrick's Day Chicago  
June 4, 2018: Chicago Golf Tournament  
June 11, 2018: Newport Golf Tournament  
TBD: Albany Golf Tournament  
September 23-28, 2018: Leadership Mission

## Please consider a gift to the Partnership's 2017-2018 Annual Fund

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BY CHECK: Please make checks payable to *The Irish American Partnership*.

BY CREDIT CARD:

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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**You may also donate online at [www.irishap.org/donate](http://www.irishap.org/donate)**

The Irish American Partnership is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent permitted by the law.