



ANNUAL  
CAMPAIGN

2016 - 2017

*Honoring your past  
Building Ireland's future*





Inishbofin National School, Co. Galway

## *A Century of Commitment:* Partnership Donor Continues Family Legacy in Inishbofin

For Michael T. Clune and his children, Inishbofin represents nearly 100 years of philanthropic commitment to a community that has profoundly impacted their lives. The association began with Clune's grandfather, Michael J. Clune, who served as Postmaster of Clifden, Co. Galway from 1923-1935. During his tenure in this role, he visited Inishbofin on several occasions and became committed to giving back what he could to the hardworking people on the island. He passed this love on to his son, Michael A. Clune, who carried on his charitable legacy.

Michael A. Clune, known as Melice, grew up accompanying his father on trips to Inishbofin, experiencing the natural beauty for himself. He developed a fondness for the island and often took his own family, living in Dublin, with him during his visits. Melice and his wife May were enchanted by the warm hospitality of the Bofin people, making many lifelong friends. Together, they organized Christmas food drops and were later instrumental in launching diving expeditions, a valuable source of tourism for Inishbofin. Clune became a name synonymous with generosity on the island.

Melice and May's children built their own friendships and memories on the island, which was a source of respite from city life. Their son, Michael T. Clune, remembers how appreciative the Bofin people were towards his father and resolved at a young age to continue the tradition of generosity.

A construction worker by trade, Clune left Ireland in the 1970s to pursue work in the United States, eventually settling in Chicago. There, without even a high school diploma, his tireless work ethic and natural charisma won over the affections of the Chicago business community. Clune launched his own company—Clune Construction Company—in 1985. The company quickly rose to prominence on the back of a professional culture of philanthropy.

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**“In June 2016, Clune brought his children back to the island to pledge \$25,000 to Inishbofin National School over the next five years.”**

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A long-time Partnership supporter and newly appointed Chairman of the Partnership's Board of Directors, Clune wanted to honor his family with a special gift to Inishbofin. In June 2016, Clune brought his children back to the island to pledge \$25,000 to Inishbofin National School over the next five years. As he handed the first check of \$5,000 to his children to present to the school, he entrusted them with a family legacy that has endured nearly 100 years.

Principal Cathy O Halloran greeted Clune and his family when they visited this summer. She could not express how much this grant meant to her rural school, explaining: “The grant has been spent on technology which will enhance the children's overall learning experience as well as being a valuable tool for the teachers. All the pupils in our school will benefit from the integration of this technology across all curricular areas.” While Michael J. Clune couldn't have fathomed the technology making its way to Inishbofin, he certainly would have been proud of his family for getting it there.

# Joseph Leary Retires After 28 Years as President

## President Joe Leary & Chairman John Murray Retire



John Murray and Joe Leary with former Belfast Lord Mayor Nichola Mallon during the 2014 Leadership Mission Trip

After a combined 50 years of service to the Partnership, Board Chairman John P. Murray and President Joe Leary retired on August 31, 2016.

Joe Leary served as President of The Irish American Partnership for 28 years, during which he tirelessly grew the organization and built the framework for its success. Mr. Leary is involved in the Boston Irish-American community and is respected for his commitment to peace in Northern Ireland. Even during dangerous times, he would insist on visiting schools and community organizations in person, knowing that the only way to effectively help was to truly understand the problems on the ground. This personal touch was not overlooked by political leaders on both sides of the conflict, who came to trust The Irish American Partnership. The Partnership's approach of giving modest, direct grants to schools and community programs in Ireland, North and South, continues to serve as the funding model. Mr. Leary will stay on in an advisory role as President Emeritus.

John Murray joined the Partnership's Board of Directors in 1995 and was elected Chairman of the Board in 2000. A first-generation Irish-American, he is passionate about honoring his parents' sacrifice and giving back to the land they loved dearly. As a tribute to his unparalleled contributions to the Board, he will retain the title of Chairman Emeritus.

Chief Executive Mary Sugrue said, "Mr. Leary's and Mr. Murray's business acumen, vision, and unwavering commitment to Ireland have made the Partnership what it is today. Their passion for the Northern Irish peace process, dedication to supporting Irish education and community programs, and pride in their heritage is an inspiration to everyone they meet."

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## New Leadership

Michael Clune, Chairman of Clune Construction Company in Chicago, was voted in as Board Chairman on September 1, 2016. Mary Sugrue, a 27-year employee of The Irish American Partnership and Kerry native, assumed the position of CEO.



**Mary Sugrue**  
CEO

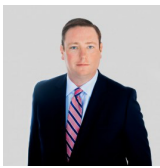


**Michael T. Clune**  
Board Chairman

## New Board Members



**Aidan F. Browne, Esq.**  
Partner,  
Sullivan & Worcester



**David Greaney**  
President, Synergy  
Investments



**Donal O'Brien, Esq.**  
Partner, Bryan Cave



## Direct Grants to Schools



### Ald. Burke Returns to Labasheeda to Honor His Mother & Son

Alderman Ed Burke, Chicago's longest serving Alderman, returned to his mother's native Labasheeda, Co. Clare in May to present a Partnership grant to the primary school she attended. Greeted by a full crowd at Labasheeda National School, Alderman Burke was touched by the warm reception he received and the degree of appreciation expressed for the Partnership's gift.

## | Supporting Ireland North and South |

# 108

Direct Grants to Schools

# \$86,000

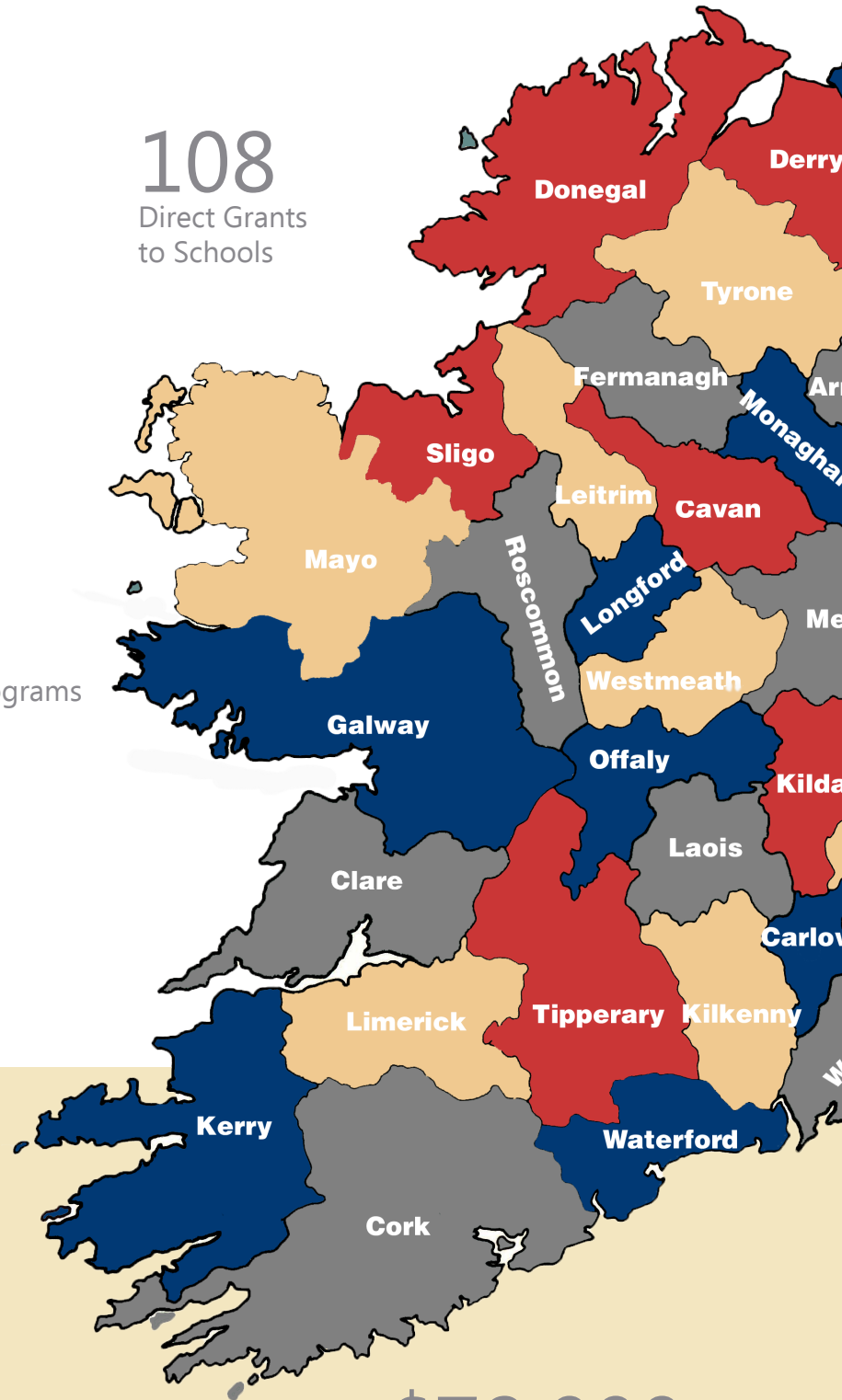
to University Access Programs

## University Access Scholarships



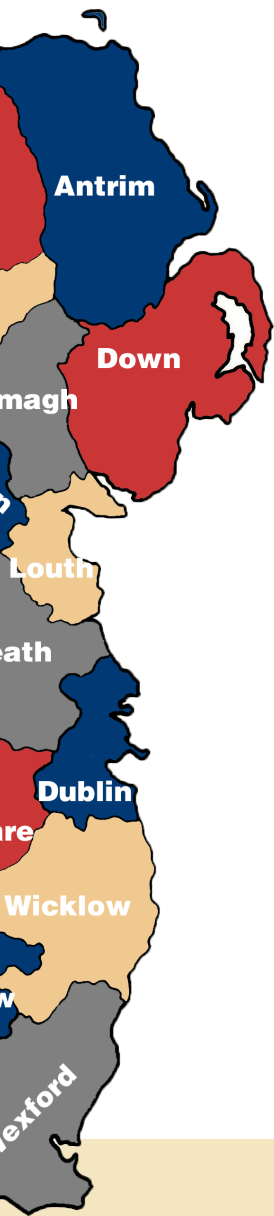
### Youthlink Northern Ireland

The Partnership sponsored three disadvantaged students to pursue a BA Honours Degree in Youth & Community Work and Practical Theology through Youthlink NI, an interfaith organization devoted to training young people in youth work and ministry in the hopes they will act as transformational agents in their communities.



# \$78,000

to RDS Primary Science Fairs



## Science Education



### RDS Primary Science Fairs Expand to Belfast

The Partnership has worked with the RDS to introduce primary science fairs across the island of Ireland. The first fair, located in Dublin, was oversubscribed by its second year. The Partnership and RDS then introduced a fair in Limerick to accommodate additional students. After the widespread success of both the Dublin and Limerick Fairs, the Partnership and RDS have decided to create a third fair in Belfast in 2017.

**\$1,062,332**

2015 Revenue

## Heritage Promotion



### Rebuilding Cahersiveen's Fort

Cahersiveen, a scenic town on the Ring of Kerry, has endeavored to rebuild its historic Sive Ringfort with a Partnership grant of \$11,000. The Ringfort has long been demolished, but architects recently uncovered remnants, allowing them to piece together a rendering of the original site. The Sive Ringfort will be a great boost to tourism for a rural town still struggling to recover from the devastation of the recession.

## Employment Learning



### FIT Conducts Tech Skills Audit

FIT, the ICT talent pipeline, is using their Partnership grant to conduct a skills audit for the Irish tech sector. This report will detail industry trends and identify the skills needed to succeed in Information and Communications Technology. Lauded by government and business leaders alike, this Partnership-supported audit will be a tremendous step forward for the Irish economy.

**84%**

to programs in Ireland

## Community Development



### Bringing Communities Together with 174 Trust

Cross-Community organizations such as the 174 Trust in Belfast do tremendous work in bringing people of different backgrounds together to work towards common goals. 174 Trust is a non-denominational Christian social justice organization working within Belfast to promote peace and reconciliation.





## Bringing Science to Rural Primary Schools

From 2004 to 2007, the Partnership co-financed a study with the Irish Government of 15 schools in County Kerry to determine ways to improve science education in rural primary schools. The study identified four primary impediments to a robust science education:

- (1) lack of teacher confidence in the primary science curriculum
- (2) lack of teacher training in science
- (3) lack of adequate support and resources
- (4) inability to keep up with new trends in science teaching

To combat these, the study suggested increased teacher training, greater support for schools, a focus on children aged 9-12, and a traveling professional facilitator to work with teachers. It also suggested clustering rural schools based on geographic area to promote the sharing of best practices and increase the efficiency of science teaching workshops. Since then, the Partnership has been funding St. Patrick's Teaching College to implement these guidelines throughout rural Ireland.

Over the past few years, St. Patrick's has worked with the regional education centers to develop a small schools science program, whereby a facilitator based at the center will go out to small rural schools in the area to teach a science lesson and provide hands-on guidance to the teachers. Teachers at these schools also have opportunities to attend science teaching workshops at the education centers, where they practice science lessons, gather new ideas, and create a support network of other local teachers. As St. Patrick's science Professor Greg Smith said:

"A really important theme of the program was to break down the professional isolation that teachers in small rural schools face."

**This year, the program is supporting 20 schools in Kilkenny and 8 schools in Clare.** Teachers at these schools have the opportunity to participate in Continuing Professional Development seminars, where they learn best practices for science teaching, and facilitators in Kilkenny and Clare will visit all of the schools to teach a science lesson and work with the teachers on site.



## The Irish American Partnership

### Mission

The Irish American Partnership works to empower the next generation of Irish leaders by supporting **educational initiatives** and **community development programs** in Ireland, North and South. The Partnership provides forums for visiting leaders from Ireland to speak in the U.S., connecting Irish-Americans with their heritage and promoting economic development through tourism, trade, and mutual exchange.

### Board of Directors

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General P.X. Kelley, USMC (Ret.)  
John P. Murray





Students at Holy Cross perform a science experiment with baking soda and vinegar

## Thanks to your generous support, the Partnership presented \$15,000 to 3 Schools in Belfast, Northern Ireland



### Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

Holy Cross is located in Ardoyne, a traditionally Catholic area in North Belfast. Of the 436 boys at the school, 78% receive free school meals. Holy Cross used their funds for science materials such as the circuitry materials pictured left. They also used the grant for a thinking and reflective corner where students learn anger management and conflict resolution techniques.

### Cross-Community Efforts

Beyond the demonstrated financial need of the student bodies at Holy Cross and Glenwood, the Partnership selected these two schools for funding because of their track record on cross-community programs. The schools frequently work together on cross-community initiatives, building lifelong friendships through group excursions and academic projects. The schools also put on parent workshops, whereby Holy Cross and Glenwood parents can take photography classes or other parenting seminars together. This helps reinforce the connections that students make and creates a supportive family environment for cross-community friendships.



### Glenwood Primary School

Glenwood is a Protestant school located just south of Holy Cross. Of the 509 students, 70% receive free school meals. Glenwood will use its funds to purchase science and literacy materials and for cross-community programming.



### Malone Integrated College

Malone is an integrated secondary school located in southwest Belfast. Of its 585 students, 65% receive free school meals. This year, Malone created a Personal Education Center, designed to teach topics such as goal setting, problem solving, cooking and hospitality, and career planning. During the 2015-2016 school year, Malone saw the PEC make a tremendous impact on students, citing a decrease in behavior mentions, detentions, and suspensions. Attendance and punctuality also improved, with the majority of students having above 92% attendance.



## The Irish Legacy Society

The Irish American Partnership recently launched a planned giving program designed to support Ireland for generations to come. This program, whose members comprise The Irish Legacy Society, is designed to provide donors with a way to give back to Ireland. Donors may choose from a variety of bequest formats to make a giving decision that works best for them.

The Irish American Partnership's Irish Legacy Society is a community of supporters who choose to honor their heritage through a planned gift to Ireland. For more information and to receive The Irish Legacy Society Brochure, please contact Mary Sugrue at (617) 723-2707.



### Upcoming Events

Nollaig na mBan: January 6, 2017  
University Club of Washington DC

St. Patrick's Day Chicago: March 10, 2017  
Union League Club of Chicago

St. Patrick's Day Boston: March 17, 2017  
Seaport Boston Hotel

Chicago Golf Tournament: June 5, 2017  
Beverly Country Club

Newport Golf Tournament: June 12, 2017  
Newport Country Club

Albany Golf Tournament: June 12, 2017  
Schuyler Meadows Club



A contribution to The Irish Legacy Society ensures Irish students keep getting new library books and school supplies well into the future

## Please consider a gift to the Partnership's 2016-2017 Annual Campaign

You may direct your gift to a particular county, village, town, or school, or to one of our programs.

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

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

BY CREDIT CARD:

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**Thank you for your support.**