



Focus on Northern Ireland

2019 APPEAL



Creating Pathways to Ulster University

Widening access to university for Northern Ireland's disadvantaged and historically excluded populations



Continuing Our Commitment to Integrated Education

Partnership gifts \$10,000 to Slemish College in Ballymena, Co. Antrim

Students at Holy Cross Boys' Primary School, Belfast



INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

We have proudly supported schools, students, and communities of all traditions in Northern Ireland for more than 30 years.

We hope that you will consider a gift in support of the Partnership's work to empower and educate. Donors can select a specific school, village, town, or county throughout Ireland as the recipient of their philanthropy.

See the direct impact of your generosity at www.irishap.org



Thanks to you, the Partnership commits \$50,000 to Ulster University's Creating Pathways Program.

Ulster University's Creating Pathways Program aims to widen access to university for Northern Ireland's disadvantaged and historically excluded populations. This program takes a holistic approach to increase educational opportunity at all levels—from primary school students to young adults.

The Partnership grant of \$50,000 over 5 years will fund Ulster University's engagement with Northern Irish schools, as well as scholarships to assist with the cost of attending the university. Currently, Ulster University (UU) engages with 368 schools with Free School Meal Entitlement, a metric commonly used to measure disadvantage. These schools receive varying interventions, from workshops and tutoring, to field trips to give students their first taste of campus life.

They also offer Foundation Academy, a one-year certificate program which helps prepare and equip students, academically, socially, culturally and psychologically, for university life. This program is offered to students who do not currently meet UU entry requirements, but have the potential to succeed with a little additional assistance. The Partnership's funds will also support scholarships for disadvantaged students to attend UU. These scholarships

incentivize students who are achieving academically and have been inspired to apply to university by UU's engagement programs, but who may be put off by the fear of debt and inaccessibility.

“Receiving the scholarship aided my studies in a number of ways, crucially allowing me to reduce my hours at my part time job, which created a multitude of opportunities for me both in university and outside, significantly enhancing my academic marks and experience which in turn undoubtedly enhanced my graduate outcomes.”

- Christopher Moore, scholarship recipient

This Partnership investment in educational opportunity will transform Northern Irish society, building pathways out of poverty for a generation of young people.



Partnership Board member Sir Bruce Robinson with Baroness May Blood, Campaign Chair of the Integrated Education Fund, and students at Slemish College, Ballymena, Co. Antrim

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2019 NOMINATION FOR INTEGRATED EDUCATION GROUPS

Our longtime partner the Integrated Education Fund (IEF), along with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education are collectively in contention for the prestigious prize.

The nomination from eminent politicians and academics shows an international appreciation of the work of parents, campaigners and schools to develop integrated education in Northern Ireland. It also recognises the daily work within integrated schools to actively and intentionally celebrate religious and cultural integration in Northern Ireland's divided society.

BRINGING CHILDREN TOGETHER TO LEARN; RESPECTING THE DIVERSITY THEY REPRESENT

Every year, your generosity allows the Irish American Partnership to award an integrated school in Northern Ireland a grant of \$10,000 through the Integrated Education Fund.

This year's grant recipient was Slemish College in Ballymena, Co. Antrim. Slemish College is a secondary school with 810 pupils, 25% of whom come from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds and 22% of whom have special educational needs.

The College opened in 1996, in response to parental demand for an integrated college in Ballymena, at a time when community relations in the area were at an all time low due to sectarian tension.

Slemish used the Partnership grant to create a wellness room where students can drop-in for sessions with the school counselor or relax between courses. Originally an old science storeroom, the wellness room now boasts comfortable

furniture, soundproof walls, and a small kitchen. It offers a retreat where young people can share their personal struggles in a safe and supportive environment.

Mental health and wellness are increasing concerns for schools in Northern Ireland and have become top priorities. This effort increases access to personalized mental health services, promotes a culture of wellness, and generates greater capacity to address day-to-day struggles.

"We welcome children of all traditions, cultures and beliefs, offering a safe, happy environment where each individual can truly flourish and fulfil their potential socially, spiritually and educationally."

- Mr. Michael Bennett, Principal



"This is a testament to all the pioneers who have been committed to opening and developing integrated schools in the face of social challenges and political inertia."

Tina Merron, IEF Chief Executive

PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, CO. ANTRIM

The teachers at St. Oliver Plunkett work extremely hard to even the playing field for their students, the majority of whom come from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.



The Partnership will distribute a grant of \$6,000 to the school to further promote STEM Education. Principal Paddy McCabe will use the funds to purchase new technology for their STEM Club.

“Our focus on STEM is part of that daily effort to give our children not only a sense of wonder and awe about STEM, but to give them the aspiration to pursue a career that may allow them to access opportunities and experiences they may otherwise not have been able to grasp.”

Paddy McCabe, Principal



The Thomas J. Moran Scholarship

The Partnership established the Thomas J. Moran Scholarship at Queen’s University in memory of Tom’s enormous heart, unparalleled generosity, and commitment to peace in Northern Ireland.

Former Chairman of Mutual of America, Chancellor of Queen’s University and true friend of Ireland, Tom Moran had traveled extensively in personal and philanthropic capacities. He frequently spoke of the impact his travels had on his life. He believed that travel illustrated that people are more alike than different—that all parents want a better life for their children. He was inspired by the strength, resilience, and optimism he witnessed in some of the poorest countries of the world, and often thought about “the Irish surviving the Hunger and the powerful spirit they had.”

which enable disadvantaged undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences to travel for work or study in the summer between their first and second year. These opportunities have traditionally excluded lower income students due to the prohibitively high cost, yet are often the basis for future academic research, fellowships, and work. The Moran travel scholarships make an incredible impact on the lives of these students, giving them every opportunity to succeed in their academic and professional endeavors.

In an effort to build a fitting tribute to the legacy of a larger-than-life man, this scholarship at Queen’s University provides a stipend for low-income undergraduate students to pursue work or study abroad.

Now in its second year, the program is poised to accommodate a greater number of deserving students.

The Partnership’s funding supports two Moran Scholarships annually,



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