

Focusing on

NORTHERN IRELAND

Teaching Responsibility at Malone Integrated School

Malone Integrated School in Belfast received a Partnership grant of \$20,000 for the establishment of a Personal Education Center, which provides extra literacy and numeracy support, personal development, career services, and problem solving skills for at-risk students. The center has achieved tremendous results in only its first year, decreasing detentions, suspensions, and behavioral citations amongst students who use its services.

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Northern Ireland Human Rights Fund

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Fund is committed to solidifying the tenants enshrined in the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement through community action. Professor Monica McWilliams, signatory to the Good Friday Agreement, spoke in Seattle in an effort to raise funds and awareness for this initiative.

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Educating the Heart in Derry & Donegal

The Partnership is working with Children in Crossfire to bring compassion training to teachers at 9 Derry and Donegal schools. These teachers will integrate their training into the classroom, teaching conflict resolution, emotional awareness, and reduced bias to their students.

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How to Support Northern Ireland

Are you interested in advancing peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland? Learn about the many ways to do so through The Irish American Partnership.

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Partnership Board member Sir Bruce Robinson with students at the inaugural RDS Primary Science Fair Belfast

RDS Brings Joy of Science to Belfast

This year, the RDS and The Irish American Partnership expanded the RDS' esteemed primary science fair program to Belfast, providing an opportunity for students from the North and South to come together through a shared love of science. The other RDS fairs are located in Limerick and Dublin, making it difficult for students in Northern Ireland and the border counties to attend due to travel time and cost. Thus, the addition of Belfast fair was lauded by teachers, students, and local government as a great addition to the program.

The fair drew **1,500 students and teachers** from 38 schools in the North and South. When added to the 6,000 students and teachers that attended each of the Dublin and Limerick fairs, this brings the total of students and teachers who have participated in this year's RDS fairs to **13,500!** This fair was unique, however, in that it expressly encouraged North-South Cooperation by recruiting schools from both sides of the border.

The RDS primary science fairs are non-competitive events where classes of students present a scientific investigation they conducted. The fairs boost student confidence, produce gains in literacy and numeracy, and cultivate a passion for science at a young age.

Please consider a donation in support of the Partnership's work in Ireland, North and South. Donors may select a specific school, village, town, or county as a recipient of their gift.

Cementing the Good Friday Agreement through Community Action



Professor Monica McWilliams speaks at an NI Human Rights Fund event in Seattle

The Irish American Partnership has been a long-time supporter of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. Recently, the Community Foundation launched a 10-year initiative to promote the full realization of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement called the Northern Ireland Human Rights Fund. The Partnership supported this effort with a grant of \$30,000 in 2015.

This spring, the Partnership assisted the Northern Ireland Human Rights Fund with an event in Seattle featuring Professor Monica McWilliams. Professor McWilliams was a signatory of the Good Friday Agreement, co-founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition political party, and served as the Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission from 2005-2011. She now advises women on negotiation and peacemaking strategy in conflict zones across the world.

If you are interested in supporting the Northern Ireland Human Rights Fund, you may give a designated gift through the Partnership. Please indicate "NIHRF" on your check or donation slip.



Students at Malone Integrated School receive a Partnership check from Board member Bruce Robinson

Personal Education Center Puts At-Risk Students Back on Track

Last year, the Partnership gave Malone Integrated School in southwest Belfast a grant of \$20,000 for the creation of a Personal Education Center. This center provides extra literacy and numeracy support, personal development, career services, and problem solving skills for at-risk students.

Nearly 70% of students attending Malone Integrated School come from low or no-income families, and many are at-risk for dropping out of school. This personal education center has made an enormous impact—over the past school year, the majority of students using the center have over 92% attendance, and the school has reported decreased detentions, suspensions, and behavioral citations since last year. These tangible improvements show the enormous difference a Partnership grant can make for a school.

Malone also has a large population of “newcomers”—students who have just arrived to Northern Ireland and do not speak English as their first language. These pupils need additional support from the school to acquire English fluency and catch up with the curriculum. Malone and the Integrated Education Fund have created a dedicated strategy for welcoming newcomers and ensuring their unique educational needs are met.

The Partnership's grant last year to the Personal Education Center at Malone was hugely appreciated by the school and all in the Integrated Education Fund. Malone is working so hard to do all it can to address educational underachievement in a deprived community. It is encouraging to see such an effort start to pay dividends. Thank you for believing in us and the project.

- Paul Caskey, Integrated Education Fund

Due to her visionary work with the Personal Education Center and Newcomer Support Strategy at Malone, Principal Máire Thompson has been presented with a Silver Award in the UK Pearson Teaching Awards. Máire will proceed to the final in London later this year which will be broadcast by the BBC.



Principal Máire Thompson receiving her UK Pearson Teaching Award

Educating the Heart in Derry & Donegal

Richard Moore, founder of Children in Crossfire, was blinded by a rubber bullet during The Troubles. He went on to be an advocate for peace and reconciliation around the world, publicly embracing the British soldier who shot him and speaking out about the need for compassion. This year, the Partnership is pleased to team up with Children in Crossfire to bring compassion training to teachers at **9 Derry and Donegal Schools**.

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.

The “Educating the Heart” Program seeks to train teachers that will empower students to:

- ◆ become active citizens who have the capacity and courage to stand up for peace in their own communities and beyond
- ◆ develop knowledge, skills, and confidence to bring about change and a fairer, more peaceful world

Your support of the Northern Ireland Appeal will benefit the Educating the Heart Program, impacting the lives of **2,128 students in Derry and Donegal**. Many of these schools will go on to serve as models for compassion training, creating best practices that can be adapted in post-conflict zones throughout the world.

Schools Participating in the Educating the Heart Program



**Scoil Eoghain
Donegal
251 students**



**St. Anne's Primary School
Derry
441 students**



**St. John's Primary School
Derry
725 students**



**Scoil Bhríde
Donegal
196 students**



**St Patricks National
School
Donegal
182 students**



**Culmore Primary School
Derry
70 students**



**Holy Child Primary
School
Derry
52 students**



**St Oliver Plunkett
Primary School
Derry
116 students**



**St Brigid's National
School
Donegal
95 students**

HOW CAN I ADVANCE PEACE & PROSPERITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND?

GIVE A DIRECT GRANT TO A SCHOOL

The Partnership supports many schools in Northern Ireland and would like to fund more. Donors often select schools that are close to their heart due to family connections or fond memories from travels through Ireland. **This is a great way to honor your ancestors or give back to a place you hold dear.** Partnership grants range from \$2,500-\$10,000. If you would like to support a school with a gift, please indicate your designation on your check or reply slip.

SPONSOR A STUDENT TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY

The Partnership believes that education is one of the best ways to maintain peace in Northern Ireland. For many young people, third level education provides an opportunity to escape cyclical poverty and obtain a stable, well-paying career. Yet, the costs involved can be prohibitive for those who need access the most. **For as little as \$3,500 a year, you can cover the costs of a student attending university,** transforming their future in a very tangible way.

“ADOPT” A SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY PROGRAM

With a recurring gift made on a monthly or quarterly basis, you can adopt a specific school or community program in Northern Ireland. The Partnership will notify the school/organization of your commitment and disburse the funds regularly. You may select a school or program that we currently support or choose one of your own. If you would like assistance choosing a school or organization, please consult Mary Sugrue at (617) 723-2707 or mary@irishap.org.

Donors who give \$100 or more a month will receive personalized updates from the school or program. This is a great way to make a lasting impact in Northern Ireland.

SUPPORT SCIENCE LEARNING WITH THE RDS SCIENCE FAIR

A strong economy where all communities have an equal chance to thrive is vital to cementing the tenuous peace in Northern Ireland. Students today need to have a strong foundation in science and technology to thrive in a modern economy. The RDS Primary Science Fair Belfast teaches those skills and so many others in a fun, collaborative environment. **With your support, the Partnership will be able to maintain its funding of the RDS Primary Science Fairs for years to come.**

NI SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS RECENTLY SUPPORTED BY THE PARTNERSHIP

174 Trust
Avoniel Primary School, Co. Antrim
Building Communities Northern Ireland
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland Human Rights Fund
Cumber Claudy Primary School, Co. Derry
Elmgrove Primary School, Co. Antrim
Gaelscoil na gCrann, Co. Tyrone
Glenwood Primary School, Co. Antrim
Glynn Primary School, Co. Antrim
Holy Cross Boys Primary School, Co. Antrim
Holy Cross Girls Primary School, Co. Antrim
Integrated Education Fund
Malone Integrated College, Co. Antrim
Portadown Integrated Primary School, Co. Armagh
Scoil an Droichid, Co. Antrim
Scotch Irish Trust
St. Columbille's Primary School, Co. Omagh
St. Kieran's Primary School, Co. Antrim
St. Louise's Comprehensive College, Co. Antrim
St. Matthew's Primary School, Co. Antrim
St. Nailes' Primary School, Co. Fermanagh

St. Patrick's Primary School, Co. Antrim
The Guestbook Project
The Pushkin Trust
Ulster American Folk Park
Ulster University (Belfast Campus), Co. Antrim
Youthlink NI



Students at Holy Cross Boys Primary School conduct a science experiment