



THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Education in Ireland, North and South

Annual Campaign 2014-2015



“The Irish American Partnership has a great track record in supporting worthy causes in Ireland, particularly in the area of education. I thank the members of the Partnership for everything they do to promote and support the great connection between Ireland and the United States.”

Taoiseach Enda Kenny
Prime Minister of Ireland

Inishbofin National School,
County Galway

*Honoring our Heritage,
Investing in Ireland's Future*



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The Irish American Partnership works to empower the next generation of Irish leaders by supporting educational initiatives. In the past year, we have sent **\$718,350** to Ireland, North and South, funding **direct grants to primary schools, science teacher training, university access scholarships, and employment learning programs.** Your support is crucial in ensuring that these programs remain funded next year.

Direct Grants to Primary Schools

Ireland's education system has greatly suffered from budget cuts, forcing schools to increase class sizes, cut teachers, and make do with their existing resources. This leaves no funds for integrating technology into the classroom or even for purchasing science materials. Since two of Ireland's largest educational priorities are development of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects and improvements in literacy, the Partnership provides small grants of \$1,500-\$2,500 directly to schools to help them buy science materials and build their libraries. For particularly disadvantaged schools, these grants are repeated annually. In the predominantly small, rural schools that these funds go to, a little money goes an incredibly long way. By supporting the annual campaign, you ensure the continued availability of these direct grants.



1: Students at **Derryclough Primary School in County Cork**; **2:** The Board poses in front of the **Partnership funded mobile unit at Drumlins Integrated Primary School in County Down**; **3:** **Derryclough** students display some of the new books purchased with the **direct grant** funds; **4:** Chairman John Murray and Executive Director Mary Sugrue McAleer present a check to **Dublin City University** President Brian MacCraith for the **access program**; **5:** **Trinity College access scholarship** recipients talk to the Partnership about their experiences

University Access Scholarships

The Partnership funds Access Scholarship Programs at four universities in Ireland: Trinity College, Dublin City University, University of Limerick, and University of Ulster. Access scholarships target historically underrepresented student populations, guaranteeing that modern Irish universities have a student body that is as richly diverse as the country itself. Most of these disadvantaged students would not be able to attend college without financial support, so the grants are crucial in ensuring equal opportunity for all Irish students to receive a college education. University Access Programs also provide vital counseling services and tutoring to help students acclimate once they get to school. This has proven so successful that, at DCU, access graduation rates are significantly higher than non-access!

During this challenging economic time, Ireland's schools need your support more than ever. Please consider making a donation to the Annual Campaign.

Science Teaching Programs

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Partnership identified a lack of confidence and understanding in the primary science curriculum due to a lack of science teacher training and sought to correct this by offering science teacher training courses across the country. Partnering with St. Patrick's College and Mary Immaculate College, we have brought continuing professional development (CPD) in science teaching to schools in Mayo, Kilkenny, Kerry, Galway, and the Munster area. Teachers consistently oversubscribe these voluntary courses, and schools have seen gains in science grades for the students of teachers that participate in our CPD courses.

Royal Dublin Society (RDS) Primary Science Fair

Each year, the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) hosts a non-competitive primary science fair in conjunction with the BT Young Scientist Fair. At the event, classes of students present a project and learn from students at other schools. This is the perfect atmosphere for young children, who are able to learn teamwork and build their curiosity as they investigate a scientific question with their peers. By holding the event in conjunction with the revered BT Young Scientist Fair, primary school students experience all of the excitement around this important event and gain aspirations to compete in Young Scientist when they are older. Many of the classes had articles written about them in local papers, making the small scientists feel a sense of accomplishment that is normally reserved for sport. The Partnership provided travel grants for disadvantaged schools that were more than 2 hours away, allowing hundreds of students to participate in this inspiring event.



6-8: Primary school students engage in scientific investigation; 9: A workshop at Springvale Employment & Learning Solutions in Belfast designed to provide hands-on training for unemployed individuals looking for work in construction; 10: Chairman Murray and Executive Director Sugrue McAleer present Peter Davitt a check for Fast Track to IT.



Employment Learning

To address its high unemployment rate and increasingly service-based economy, Ireland needs a job training program for the 21st century. This is why the Partnership funds programs such as Fast Track to Information Technology (FIT). FIT provides employment learning for unemployed people looking for work in the tech sector. Rather than training people only for the top level positions, FIT provides training for stable, middle level employment, giving companies people with the skills they need while employing thousands who would otherwise be out of work. FIT has placed 13,500 in jobs and hopes to train 20,000 by 2020. Having supported FIT from the beginning, we are committed to providing funds to help them achieve this lofty goal.

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2014 Grants

Thanks to your generosity, we have made a meaningful impact on hundreds of students' lives through our direct grants to primary schools, science teacher training, university access scholarships, and employment learning programs. With additional support, we could expand these programs even further.

County Mayo

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| The Holy Family School, <i>Fahy, Westport</i> | \$500 |
| Roxboro National School, <i>Ballinrobe</i> | \$500 |
| Knock National School, <i>Claremorris</i> | \$1,000 |
| Ballyvary National School, <i>Ballyvary, Castlebar</i> | \$500 |
| St. Brendan's National School, <i>Kilmeena, Westport</i> | \$2,500 |
| Crimlin National School, <i>Crimlin</i> | \$675 |
| Holy Family National School, <i>Newport</i> | \$675 |
| Knockrooskey National School, <i>Knockrooskey, Westport</i> | \$675 |
| St. Attracta's National School, <i>Charlestown</i> | \$675 |
| St. Patrick's Teaching College used our grant to administer science programs in the following Mayo Schools: | \$12,000 |
| Bekan National School, <i>Claremorris</i> | |
| Culleens National School, <i>Meelick</i> | |
| Culmore National School, <i>Swinford</i> | |
| Killasser National School, <i>Swinford</i> | |
| Barnacogue National School, <i>Swinford</i> | |
| Kinaffe National School, <i>Swinford</i> | |
| Carrowmore National School, <i>Swinford</i> | |
| The Neale National School, <i>Ballinrobe</i> | |
| Ballycushion National School, <i>Shrule</i> | |

County Fermanagh

St. Naile's Primary School, *Kinawley* \$1,000

County Galway

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| Scoil Inis Meadhaoin, <i>Aran Islands</i> | \$500 |
| Scoil Naisiunta Eoin Pol, <i>Aran Islands</i> | \$500 |
| Scoil Naisiunta Caomhain, <i>Aran Islands</i> | \$500 |
| Scoil Naisiunta Ronain, <i>Aran Islands</i> | \$500 |
| Scoil Naisiunta Ard Carna, <i>Carna, Connemara</i> | \$2,000 |
| Scoil Naisiunta Ard Mhoir, <i>Carna, Connemara</i> | \$2,000 |
| Scoil Naisiunta, <i>Briocain, Ros Muc, Connemara</i> | \$2,000 |
| Scoil Naisiunta Mhuir, <i>Ros Muc, Connemara</i> | \$2,000 |
| Aran Islands GAA, <i>Aran Islands</i> | \$5,500 |
| Kylemore Abbey, <i>Connemara</i> | \$150,921 |
| Inishbofin National School, <i>Inishbofin</i> | \$1,000 |
| Coldwood National School, <i>Craughwell</i> | \$675 |
| Scoil Bhrige agus Bhreadain Naofa, <i>Corrandulla</i> | \$675 |

County Cork

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| North Monastery Christian Brothers, <i>Cork</i> | \$2,000 |
| St. Vincent's National School, <i>Cork</i> | \$2,000 |
| North Presentation Primary School, <i>Cork</i> | \$2,000 |
| Scoil Mhuire Fatima, <i>Cork</i> | \$2,000 |
| Scoil Cholmicle Christian Brothers, <i>Bishopstown</i> | \$2,000 |
| Kilcrohane National School, <i>Bantry</i> | \$500 |
| Gaelscoil Dr. M. Ui Shuilleabhain, <i>Skibbereen</i> | \$500 |
| Coachford National School, <i>Coachford</i> | \$675 |
| Darrara National School, <i>Clonakilty</i> | \$675 |
| Killavullen National School, <i>Mallow</i> | \$675 |
| Kilmeen National School, <i>Clonakilty</i> | \$675 |
| Knockclarig National School, <i>Rockchapel</i> | \$675 |
| Midleton Education Together NS, <i>Midleton</i> | \$675 |
| Scoil Bhríde, <i>Midleton</i> | \$675 |
| Inchigeelagh National School, <i>Macroom</i> | \$2,000 |
| Derryclough National School, <i>Drinagh</i> | \$2,000 |
| Mallow Development Project, <i>Mallow</i> | \$2,000 |
| Scoil Mhuire, <i>Ballincollig</i> | \$675 |
| The Eiru Trust, <i>Cork</i> | \$100,000 |
| Kilmagner National School, <i>Fermoy</i> | \$2,000 |

County Clare

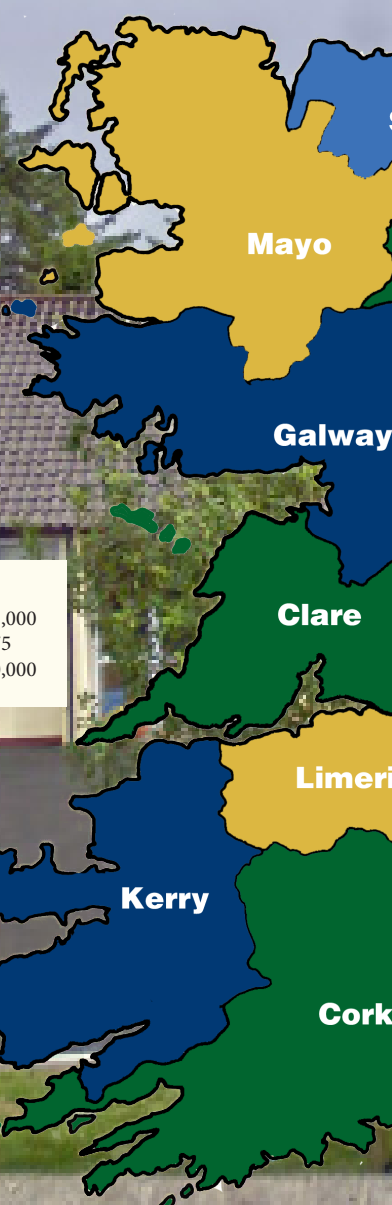
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| Kilshanny National School, <i>Kilshanny</i> | \$11,000 |
| Scoil Naisiunta Eoin Baiste, <i>Ballyvaughan</i> | \$675 |
| Shannon School of Hotel Management, <i>Shannon</i> | \$10,000 |

County Limerick

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| University of Limerick, <i>Limerick City</i> | \$10,000 |
| St. Nessian's Secondary School, <i>Limerick City</i> | \$2,500 |
| Scoil Christ Ri, <i>Limerick City</i> | \$2,500 |
| Ballylanders GAA, <i>Ballylanders</i> | \$5,000 |
| Ballylanders National School, <i>Ballylanders</i> | \$1,500 |
| Glenroe National School, <i>Kilmallock</i> | \$1,500 |
| Glenbrohane National School, <i>Kilmallock</i> | \$1,500 |
| Foynes Flying Boat Museum, <i>Foynes</i> | \$2,115 |
| Knockadea National School, <i>Ballylanders</i> | \$1,500 |
| Gaelscoil an Raithin, <i>Limerick City</i> | \$1,000 |
| Mary Immaculate College | \$10,000 |

County Kerry

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| Castlegregory Mixed National School, <i>Castlegregory</i> | \$500 |
| Scoil Naisiunta Gleann Beithe, <i>Glenbeigh</i> | \$1,250 |
| Curaheen National School, <i>Glenbeigh</i> | \$1,250 |
| Moyderwell Mercy Primary School, <i>Tralee</i> | \$675 |
| Carnegie Arts Center, <i>Kenmare</i> | \$5,000 |
| Kenmare Community Hospital, <i>Kenmare</i> | \$5,000 |



County Donegal

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| St. Oran's National School, <i>Cockhill</i> | \$2,500 |
| Robertson National School, <i>Ballintra</i> | \$675 |
| Scoil Eoin Baiste, <i>Umlagh, Letterkenny</i> | \$675 |

County Antrim

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|---|----------|
| Glengormley Integrated Primary School, <i>Glengormley</i> | \$10,000 |
| Scoil an Droichid, <i>Belfast</i> | \$2,500 |
| Malone Integrated College, <i>Belfast</i> | \$2,500 |
| 174 Trust, <i>Belfast</i> | \$500 |
| Integrated Education Fund, <i>Belfast</i> | \$20,000 |
| Avoniel Primary School, <i>Belfast</i> | \$5,000 |
| St. Louise's Comprehensive College, <i>Belfast</i> | \$5,000 |
| University of Ulster Access Program, <i>Belfast</i> | \$10,000 |

County Down

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| Drumlins Integrated School, <i>Ballynahinch</i> | \$10,000 |
| The National Trust, <i>Northern Ireland</i> | \$30,000 |

County Tyrone

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| The Pushkin Trust, <i>Newtownstewart</i> | \$20,000 |
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County Monaghan

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| St. Michael's National School, <i>Castleshane</i> | \$1,000 |
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County Dublin

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| Dublin City University Access Program | \$20,000 |
| Trinity College Access Program | \$10,000 |
| St. Patrick's College Science Teaching Program (distributed under Mayo and Kilkenny) | \$22,000 |
| University College Dublin | \$4,500 |
| Smurfit Business School | \$51,500 |
| Irish American Arts & Music Foundation | \$44,000 |
| Best of Ireland Gala | \$10,000 |
| The National Concert Hall | \$50,000 |
| Fast Track to IT | \$10,000 |

County Wexford

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| The Wexford Opera, <i>Wexford</i> | \$10,000 |
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County Kilkenny

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| Craignamanagh Boys National School, <i>Craignamanagh</i> | \$1,000 |
| St. Patrick's Teaching College used our grant to administer science programs in the following Kilkenny Schools: | \$10,000 |
| Scoil Mhuire, <i>Kilvemnon, Mullinhone</i> | |
| Skeoughvosteen National School, <i>Skeoughvosteen</i> | |
| Lisnafunchion National School, <i>Castlecomer</i> | |
| St. Kiernan's National School, <i>Johnstown</i> | |
| St. Nicolas National School, <i>Windgap</i> | |
| Clonouty National School, <i>Cashel</i> | |

County Waterford

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| Whitechurch National School, <i>Cappagh, Dungarvan</i> | \$1,000 |
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6 Ways to Support Ireland

1

Finance a Direct Grant to a Disadvantaged School

For **\$2,000**, you can replenish a school's library or outfit a science cabinet

For **\$3,000**, you can provide a school with an interactive whiteboard, transforming the classroom experience

For **\$10,000**, you can purchase iPads for an entire class.

2

Contribute to the Partnership's Primary Science Teacher Training Program

For **\$1,000**, you can sponsor a week of Science Week activities for primary school students through Mary Immaculate College

For **\$10,000**, you can provide science training to a cluster of 10 schools through St. Patrick's or Mary Immaculate College

3

Fund an Employment Learning Program

For **\$10,000**, you can sponsor a job-training class in a highly marketable subject through Fast Track to IT

4

Provide a College Education to an Underprivileged Student

For **\$3,500**, you can provide one year of tuition to an undergraduate student

For **\$15,000**, you can cover a full 4 years of an undergraduate's degree program.

5

Send Students to the Primary Science Fair

For **\$750**, you can subsidize the transportation costs of an entire class, allowing them to attend the Royal Dublin Society Primary Science Fair in January

6

Fund a Master's Program Scholarship

For **\$15,000**, you can finance a student's Master's degree in a field of interest



Supporting the Next Generation of Scholars

Breda Kenny was one of the Partnership's very first Master's scholarship recipients in 1992. After receiving her Master's in Business from the **University of Limerick**, Breda went on to pursue her PhD in business while founding her own Strategic Marketing firm, Surecom. Now, she serves as the Head of the Hincks Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence at Cork Institute of Technology, where she has been advising this year's **Partnership Master's scholarship** recipient, Sarah Davis. After 28 years, it's amazing to start to see Partnership programs come full circle!



Building a Workforce That "FITs"

Peter Davitt grew up in Ballymun, an impoverished part of Dublin where most aspired to enter blue collar careers. Peter began work at the **Ballymun Job Center**, placing unemployed residents in laborer positions. However, he quickly realized that these jobs were disappearing fast. Ireland was transitioning to a service based economy, and, in a couple of years, bricklaying would no longer be considered a stable job. He channeled the skills he gained at Ballymun Job Center to create **Fast Track to Information Technology (FIT)**, an employment learning provider that trains unemployed individuals for entry level positions in technology. The Partnership met Peter at Ballymun Job Center nearly 25 years ago and has been supporting his work ever since through our **employment learning grants**.

“When I took the FIT course it set me off in a completely new direction. Working for a big company like Siemens is way above anything I ever imagined when I started the Business Through Computers course.

It really has changed my life, literally”

-Paul Murray
User Account Manager at Siemens



Cultivating Leaders through Education

Growing up in Ardoyne, **Nichola Mallon** never thought she would grow up to be the **Lord Mayor of Belfast**. She says it was her parents’ commitment to education that made all of the difference. An avid reader, she quickly read through all of the interesting books in resource-strapped **Mercy Primary School’s** library. It was a **Partnership grant** to Mercy that allowed them to replenish their collection, providing the future Lord Mayor an opportunity to develop her literacy skills at a formative time.

The Irish Legacy Fund

The Irish Legacy Fund, the Partnership’s recently created endowment program, is aimed at sustaining program funding far into the future. Over 27 years, the Partnership has seen how transformational steady funding can be, especially in the area of education. When we began distributing small grants in Ireland, leaders like Nichola Mallon, Breda Kenny, and Peter Davitt were only in primary school. Now, they are prominent agents of change in their communities, ensuring that Ireland remains competitive in the 21st century. Lasting progress will only result from a long-term strategic commitment over generations. A contribution to the Irish Legacy Fund will provide the steady funding needed for programs to thrive for years to come. For further information, please contact Mary Sugrue McAleer at the Partnership office.



Partnership Board members with Lord Mayor of Belfast Nichola Mallon during the August 2014 Leadership Mission



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FALL ACTIVITIES

The Partnership had a busy fall activities schedule, from the **Leadership Mission** in late August, to a lunch with **Minister of Tourism Paschal Donohoe**, to a breakfast with **Belfast Lord Mayor Mallon** in late October, and beyond. We value these opportunities to connect Irish America with Irish leaders of today and hope that our forums spark new ideas and cement relationships among our supporters. We have an exciting winter and spring events schedule planned, with an **Affiniti Concert in Chicago**, **Nollaig na mBan in Washington, D.C.**, and, of course, the **St. Patrick's Day Breakfasts**. Consult the schedule below for more information.

LEADERSHIP MISSION

Last August, Partnership Board members, staff, and invited guests embarked on a week-long trip aimed at **monitoring program funding** and **building relationships in Ireland**. The delegation enjoyed a busy week packed with **school visits**, **meetings with government officials**, and **reports from supported programs**. The positive feedback mission participants received was a testament to the progress the Partnership has attained, but the work is far from done. All involved came away with a better understanding of the current educational landscape and a stronger commitment to the Partnership's work.



LUNCH WITH MINISTER DONOHUE

On September 26th, **Paschal Donohoe, TD, Irish Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport**, spoke to a crowded room of Partnership supporters. Minister Donohoe noted that **American tourism to Ireland was up 18% over the summer**, indicating the success of organizations such as Tourism Ireland and the resurgence of both economies. The Minister also noted that travel to Shannon Airport was reaching normal levels once again, a phenomenon aided by Boston Mayor Walsh's trip to Ireland via Shannon in September. On behalf of Minister Donohoe, we hope you are able to take a trip to Ireland in the near future!



BREAKFAST WITH LORD MAYOR MALLON

The Honourable **Nichola Mallon, Lord Mayor of Belfast** is a dynamic, young mayor dedicated to creating a stronger Belfast for all. The Lord Mayor graciously hosted the Leadership Mission at Belfast City Hall, so we were delighted to return the favor when Mallon's delegation was in Boston for talks about the **Sister-City Agreement**. At the breakfast, Partnership supporters heard from Boston Corporation Counsel **Gene O'Flaherty**, Executive Vice President at Invest Northern Ireland **Gary Hanley**, Belfast City Councillor **Brian Kennedy**, **Reverend Bill Shaw**, and **Lord Mayor Mallon**. Both Nichola Mallon and Marty Walsh are committed to bringing the Boston-Belfast Sister City relationship to life through mutual exchange. We are eager watching the evolution of this important Boston-Belfast connection and can't wait to see what comes next!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 3rd: Affiniti Concert at the Newberry Library in **Chicago**

Tuesday, January 6th: Annual Nollaig na mBan (Women's Christmas) breakfast celebration in **Washington, D.C.**

Friday, March 13th: Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast in **Chicago**

Tuesday, March 17th: Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast in **Boston**

Monday, June 1st: Chicago Golf Tournament at **Beverly Country Club**

Monday, June 8th: Newport Golf Tournament at **Newport Country Club**

Monday, June 22nd: Albany Golf Tournament at **Schuyler Meadows Club**

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