



IRISH  
AMERICAN  
PARTNERSHIP

40  
YEARS

# Impact Report

SPRING 2026



## Bridging Cultural Divides in Northern Ireland

In collaboration with the Integrated Education Fund, the Partnership supports a series of learning opportunities at Integrated College Dungannon.

p4

## Success Beyond The Game

The Ireland Sports Fund, a scholarship initiative funding education and career development for Irish rugby players.

p11



Killinkere National School students, County Cavan

# Dear Friends,

*For 40 years, our community has invested in young people across the island of Ireland, honoring our heritage by giving back to the people and places that mean the most.*



Now, in this spring season of renewal and hope, I reflect with pride on all we have accomplished together. Over four decades, this incredible community has raised \$63+ million for over 700 schools, scholarships, and grassroots programs throughout Ireland, providing resources, opportunities, and support to young people in every corner of the country.

Because of you, a primary school in rural County Offaly has a new library, giving children expanded pathways to discovery through reading.

A first-generation scholarship recipient in Belfast dreams bigger, knowing you believe in her.

Students in County Cork expand their learning outside of the classroom, presenting their ideas at a science fair you helped fund.

In this **Impact Report**, I am delighted to share more stories like these that demonstrate the extraordinary impact of 40 years of your generosity. As you read, I hope you will share my pride in our remarkable community – and my excitement for all that we can still achieve together.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to uplifting Ireland’s next generation through education. None of this would be possible without you.

**Michael T. Clune**  
*Chairman, Irish American Partnership*

---

*Thank you for your unwavering commitment to uplifting Ireland’s next generation.*

---



Olympic Gold Medalist & Undisputed Lightweight Champion of the World Katie Taylor with Tiglin Co-Founder, Senator Aubrey McCarthy

*Partnership funding supports Tiglin in providing education to those in recovery.*

**I**n communities throughout Ireland, **Tiglin** offers vital support to people in need. Driven by an unwavering belief in dignity and the power of hope, Tiglin provides both immediate support and sustained solutions to young people and families struggling with life-controlling problems.

From the Irish *Tigh Linn*, meaning ‘our house’, Tiglin empowers young people with the tools they need to restore their lives and reconnect with their communities using education as a key to recovery. In collaboration with South East Technological University, Tiglin delivers meaningful educational opportunities to new and returning learners, designed to support personal growth, skill development, and long-term employability.

Thanks to you, the Irish American Partnership is proud to support Tiglin’s education programs in honor of our Ambassador and 2026 Nollaig na mBan Honoree, **Katie Taylor**. Based in her native County Wicklow, Katie recognizes the incredible impact of Tiglin’s initiatives locally and across the island.

During a recent visit to Tiglin, Katie shared that recovery, like boxing, requires perseverance, discipline, and faith. In just the past year, Tiglin has helped hundreds of

young people access job training and further education, with over 100 participants earning a third-level certificate.

*With Partnership support, Tiglin continues to uplift those in recovery, restoring dignity, purpose, and hope through education.*

Without your generosity, the Partnership could not support grassroots organizations like Tiglin. Thank you for investing in a brighter future for young people across the island of Ireland.



Tiglin youth learners



Students and coach at Integrated College Dungannon, County Tyrone

# Bridging Cultural Divides in Northern Ireland

Partnership support helps secondary school students in County Tyrone celebrate diversity and commit to lasting peace.

In 1995, as hope for peace in Northern Ireland gradually spread, parents across Armagh and South Tyrone came together to build a brighter future for their children. Recognizing education as key to reconciliation, they founded ***Integrated College Dungannon***.

Over 30 years later, the College remains committed to its inclusive ethos, serving over 700 students from varied religious, cultural, and economic backgrounds. Now, in this diverse school, celebrating cultural differences is essential to student success.

---

*“Our children are most engaged in their learning when they feel welcome, safe, and happy in their classrooms.”*  
— *Principal Andrew Sleeth*

---

In collaboration with the Integrated Education Fund, the Partnership supports a series of learning opportunities at the College, designed to foster connection and understanding among students.

Thanks to you, students participated in a Proud of My Identity Day where they had the opportunity to celebrate their heritage, learn from their peers, and develop empathy, presentation, and public-speaking skills.

---

*“I really enjoyed Proud of My Identity Day because we came together as a class and recognized all the different cultures in our school – it was amazing!” – Charlie, year 8 student*

---

Through peace walks and museum visits, students also explored Northern Ireland’s history, practicing respectful dialogue and examining themes of identity, belonging, and reconciliation.

At Integrated College Dungannon, cultural programs funded by your generosity are preparing students to be future ambassadors of peace – just as its founding families intended.



Founded in 1992 as an independent charitable foundation, the IEF supports the growth and development of integrated education in Northern Ireland. Children learning and playing together from different traditions help to build a society where there is respect and celebration, not fear of religious and cultural diversity.



Integrated College Dungannon students at the Sanctuary Garden

**Thank you** for your continued commitment to integrated education and lasting peace on the island of Ireland.



# Future-Proofing Ireland Through Digital Education

With Partnership support, students at an Irish-language primary school in Dublin prepare for a digital future.

Since its founding in 2016, *Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige* has worked to provide an exceptional education to all students, stretching resources to create learning opportunities for every child.

This Gaelscoil is an Irish-medium primary school where all subjects are taught through Irish, giving children from any background the opportunity to become fluent in the language through full immersion.

These schools are driven by a desire to preserve the Irish language - which had been declining - and fueled by parents wanting to provide their children with bilingual skills.

“We have limited resources,” said Principal Aisling Fay. “But we know that our students have far more potential we can tap into when we have additional support.”



Students at Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige, County Dublin

Thanks to you, funding from the Partnership has helped provide that support, enabling Principal Fay and her fellow teachers to invest in the resources their students need most to prepare for future success.

With the new technology, children from kindergarten to sixth grade have access to improved science and technology education at the school.

“ *Because of your generosity, we have been able to purchase full sets of Chromebooks and iPads for our classrooms, giving our children digital learning opportunities they would not have had otherwise.* ”

- Principal Aisling Fay

From basic computer use to online research and coding, students are developing key skills that will help them succeed in an increasingly digital future, both in the classroom and beyond.

Digital learning is now a cornerstone of school life at Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige, made possible by the technology purchased with your generous support.

As Principal Fay said, “On behalf of our school community, I cannot thank you enough. We are beyond grateful to the supporters of the Partnership for making these opportunities possible for our students.”





Students at Killinkere National School, County Cavan

# Early Education, Equal Access

As the need for special education resources rises throughout Ireland, the Partnership supports a rural primary school's commitment to inclusive learning.

Nestled between the towns of Virginia and Bailieborough in County Cavan, ***Killinkere National School*** serves both mainstream students and pupils with additional needs.

“ *Our students all learn in different ways, and we are constantly looking for resources to ensure each child has the support they need to thrive.* ”

- Principal Mary Brady

This co-educational national school has a current enrolment of 158 pupils, 9 teaching staff, and two special needs assistants. Thanks to you, Partnership grants helped the school build a sensory room, a safe space where students can self-regulate and receive individualized emotional and academic support.

Open to all students, the sensory room is having a profound impact on the entire school community, improving student wellbeing and expanding access to learning. For students with additional needs, the room prevents sensory overload, improves concentration, and enhances positive engagement in classroom activities.

The addition of the sensory room has also enabled the school to meet a critical need in the local community: in September, Killinkere National School will open its first class for children with autism.

“

*Now, students with autism can come to school in their own community, with their siblings and friends. It may seem like a small thing, but it makes an incredible difference to our children, their families, and the whole community.*

”

- Principal Mary Brady



Reflecting on the importance of your support for the school, Principal Brady continued: “Despite the great distance in miles between us, the impact of your generosity is felt here on a daily basis. Thank you.”





# From STEM *To The Stars*

Dr. Norah Patten speaks at the Partnership's 2026 St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Boston

*In collaboration with the Norah Patten Foundation, the Partnership continues to invest in science education.*

**D**uring a childhood trip to NASA, **Dr. Norah Patten** became obsessed with outer space. When she returned home to County Mayo, Dr. Patten set her sights on a career in space science. “There was no roadmap for a little girl with big dreams,” Norah said. “So I decided to carve out my own path to the stars.”

Now, as she prepares to make history as the first Irish astronaut, Dr. Patten is also paving the way for Ireland's next generation of scientists, working to expand access to STEM education through the **Norah Patten Foundation**.

With Partnership support, the Foundation provides science workshops for inner-city primary school children, sharing Norah's incredible story to foster enthusiasm for discovery and learning. Through guided discussions and creative projects, students engage with core STEM concepts and improve foundational skills.

For these children, access to STEM learning through the Foundation is transformative, igniting interest in science and reshaping their ideas of what they can achieve.

Thanks to your generosity, the Partnership supports leaders like Norah in delivering the educational opportunities Ireland's young people need most. As Norah said, “Our work would not be possible without collaboration and support from people like you. Thank you so much.”



# Success Beyond the Game

*Your generosity is funding university scholarships for young Irish athletes.*

Irish Olympian **Billy Dardis** knows that professional rugby requires total commitment, yet offers limited long-term stability.



Olympian & Partnership Scholar Amy Larn

To compete at the elite level, players often forgo education and professional development, leaving them under-prepared for life after the game. “Education builds identity, opportunity, and long-term careers,” says Billy. “But many athletes struggle to access further study while playing professionally.”

Drawing on his own experiences, Billy founded the **Ireland Sports Fund**, a scholarship initiative funding education and career development for Irish rugby players.

With Partnership support, the Fund provides scholarships to men’s and women’s players to cover essential study costs like tuition, technology, and transportation.

“*Juggling college, training, and commuting is costly. My scholarship alleviates that financial pressure, allowing me to give my all to both my degree and rugby career.*”

—Amy Larn, Olympian & Partnership Scholar

In its first year, the Fund awarded scholarships to 11 players – 4 of whom were supported directly by you. Your generosity enabled these athletes to train, compete, and succeed at the highest levels, all while completing their university degrees.

“Now, I can pursue my ambitions in both education and rugby. This support helps me stay fully focused on rugby and build the academic foundation for my long-term success,” said Stephen Smyth, Partnership Scholar.

Thank you for investing in access to university education for promising young people in Ireland.

“*Your support is transforming futures for these athletes, empowering them with the tools they need to succeed beyond the game. We cannot thank you enough.*”



**IRISH 40**  
**AMERICAN**  
**PARTNERSHIP**  
SINCE 1986

# Honoring our Heritage. Investing in *Ireland's Future.*

SCAN TO DONATE  
securely online



Yes! To mark 40 years of impact, I will make a milestone gift in honor of my Irish heritage.

- I will give through my Donor-Advised Fund.  My gift is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- I will include the Partnership in my estate planning - send me information on the Irish Legacy Society.
- I would like to make this a monthly gift.  My company will match this gift.

My email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Checks are payable to: Irish American Partnership  
15 Broad Street, Suite 210, Boston, MA 02109

Clearly see the impact of your giving at  
**WWW.IRISHAP.ORG**

www.irishap.org