



Honoring our Irish Heritage, Investing in Ireland's Future  
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# Impact Report

SPRING 2019 APPEAL



## Fastrack to Information Technology

Promoting STEM apprenticeships to break the cycle of poverty



## Off the Field and into the Classroom

Partnership pledges \$100,000 to support Gaelic players becoming teachers in their local communities

Students learn coding skills at a coderdojo workshop. The Partnership supports initiatives to increase participation in STEM at all levels.

## INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION



Consider making 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 gift.

8

## EVENTS

Ahalin National School in Knockaderry, Co. Limerick



received a special grant in honor of Michael Dowling, CEO of Northwell Health, during the annual New York Business Leaders Breakfast.

5



Students at St. Iosagain Primary School, Co. Cork

# Dear Friends,



*Spring has always been my favorite season in Ireland. The rainy, gray days give way to blue skies and emerald fields, bringing with them a renewed sense of joy and optimism.*



Communities are abuzz with activity as children head out to play and parents enjoy a walk or cycle. It is a season that replenishes us after a long winter and breeds hope for the future.

Here at the Partnership, we hope to restore your connection back to Ireland, whether first or seventh generation. Our mission is to foster this connection by linking you back to the people and places you hold dear.

We do this by building relationships with schools and communities that are charting a path towards a peaceful and

prosperous future—one that protects the Irish way of life we love while also creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

This work would not be possible without your generous support. Your commitment to honoring your Irish heritage serves as a constant source of inspiration and is met with gratitude by all those we support in Ireland. *Ní neart go cur le chéile*, we are stronger together.

**Míle buíochas**, a thousand thanks,

Mary Sugrue  
CEO, Irish American Partnership





## EDUCATING GIRLS AND EMPOWERING WOMEN TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE ICT SECTOR

In the next six years, Ireland will see an estimated 44,500 job openings in the Information and Communications Technology sector (ICT).



Currently, however, fewer than 25% of jobs in the ICT industry are held by women. The Irish government has made this a priority, and academia, industry, and the public sector alike are scrambling to find solutions.

Fastrack to Information Technology (FIT) has been training unemployed individuals in technology for over twenty years, and in 1989 was one of the Partnership's first grantees.

In an effort to address the gender gap in ICT, the Partnership has funded a FIT pilot program whereby 16 long-term unemployed women from Dublin's "Silicon Docks"—the area around the Grand Canal Dock containing most of the major technology companies' European headquarters—complete a

two-year apprenticeship with a local tech company.

This innovative program brings an underrepresented population into stable and well-paid positions with companies that, though they are located in their neighborhood, often feel a world away.

Long-term unemployed women are one of the more marginalized groups and are often barred from re-entry by a variety of social and economic factors. The FIT pilot program demonstrates that jobs in ICT are not just available to men, or even the affluent—they are available to everyone. The impact reduces the cycle of poverty and empowers women of all backgrounds to participate in the ICT sector.

## PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

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

St. Oliver Plunkett is a large, urban primary school serving an underprivileged community. 61% of students at St. Oliver Plunkett are entitled to free school meals, which is double the Northern Irish average. Principal Paddy McCabe works tirelessly to ensure that his pupils have every opportunity afforded to their more affluent peers.

Given the enormous budget constraints faced by Northern Irish schools, St. Oliver Plunkett has been unable to purchase updated technology. Thus, principal McCabe applied for a Partnership grant of \$6,000 to purchase 15 new iPads for St. Oliver Plunkett's 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



*Local Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) clubs encapsulate the spirit of rural Ireland.*

They define and redefine Irish culture by welcoming people of all backgrounds—uniting diverse communities under club colors. Often, the local GAA is the first place people turn to when they are new in town or need a hand. For small villages, the GAA is the lifeblood of the community, providing strength and cohesion as the rural way of life confronts the challenges of modernity.

But the GAA is nothing without its players, whose struggles were for too long sidelined as the country cheered them on to victory. This is why the work of the Gaelic Players Association (GPA) and Women’s Gaelic Players Association (WGPA) is vital in protecting the interests of amateur players, who often sacrifice their personal growth for team victory, and providing for their wellbeing.

Gaelic players are integral members of the community. Their prominence as role models creates an enormous responsibility to serve as positive examples on and off the pitch. This status also provides a unique opportunity to connect with a younger generation.

The Partnership is delighted to provide \$100,000 to the GPA’s scholarship program. This grant will support university scholarships for Gaelic players wishing to give back to their communities by pursuing careers in education.

Many players’ experience with coaching and mentoring throughout their athletic careers inspires a love of teaching and a desire to enter the field of education. However, given the cost of university education and the rigorous demands of their playing career, a degree in teaching may feel out of reach.

Financial support enables players the opportunity to pursue their academic interests while continuing their Gaelic sports careers. As players are paid minimally for their work on the field, securing sustainable and fulfilling professional employment is of great importance to player welfare.

The Partnership is committed to help players attain their goals of becoming educators in their communities with this impactful scholarship program.





Tommy Dwyer, Ambassador Anne Anderson, Honoree Michael Dowling, CEO Mary Sugrue, Consul General Ciaran Madden, Lorraine Turner MBE, Chairman Mike Clune

**“YOUR ORGANIZATION IS RELATIVELY SMALL, BUT YOUR IMPACT IS HUGE. YOU ARE CHANGING LIVES AND THAT IS EXTREMELY, EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.”**

2019 New York Business Leaders Breakfast Honoree Michael Dowling, CEO, Northwell Health

## MICHAEL DOWLING HONORED AT NY BUSINESS LEADERS BREAKFAST

The Partnership made a special grant of \$10,000 to Ahalin National School in Knockaderry, Co. Limerick.

The Partnership made a special grant of \$10,000 to Ahalin National School in Knockaderry, Co. Limerick during its annual New York Business Leaders Breakfast on April 10th. The grant is in honor of keynote speaker Michael J. Dowling, President and CEO of Northwell Health, the largest integrated health care system in New York State and the state’s largest private employer.

Michael Dowling is a revolutionary thought leader in the field of health care. Prior to his corporate career, Dowling held high-level positions in public service and academia.

Dowling noted the critical importance of education in his own life: “Education, for me, has been the

key to whatever success I have had,” and highlighted the Partnership’s vital work in supporting education and community development across Ireland.

The grant will establish a musical loan scheme at Ahalin, allowing the school to purchase 49 instruments that will be loaned to students where they will have daily music lessons. The loan scheme will create a more inclusive environment where all students, regardless of their family’s ability to pay, can enjoy the benefits of learning a musical instrument.

This wonderful initiative will enhance student life, increase educational outcomes, and promote Irish music and culture.



## PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

**ST. SENAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ENNISCORTHY, CO. WEXFORD**

St. Senan's Primary School serves a disadvantaged community in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. They, like St. Oliver Plunkett, work to give their pupils every competitive advantage by teaching a robust STEM curriculum. After renting a set of Lego WeDo kits for two weeks, teachers saw how effectively these robotic Lego sets taught teamwork, critical thinking, coding, engineering and robotics. St. Senan's applied for a Partnership grant of \$2,000 to purchase 9 Lego WeDo sets for its students.



*"STEM is the way forward and the children in our school will have their eyes and minds opened to STEM through Lego WeDo. Exposing the children to this technology will be the way forward for them."*

John Barron, Principal

# Create a Lasting Legacy for Ireland

Join the Irish Legacy Society and ensure your gift benefits generations to come.



At the age of 14, Christine O'Beara Sullivan Kelley left Cork City alone and boarded a ship bound towards her relatives in Boston. With few opportunities available to her in Cork, her family felt they had no choice but to send her to America, where she could make a better life for herself. She settled into life in Boston, eventually marrying and giving birth to a son who would go on to serve as the 28th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Former Partnership Chairman General P. X. Kelley sought to honor his mother's sacrifice with a longstanding and transformative

gift to The Irish Legacy Society. Inspired by his mother's fond recollection of the Shandon Bells, he established the Kelley Family Endowed Scholarship to provide resources to five primary schools in Cork City in perpetuity. The schools rotate, but all are within earshot of the famed bells—the same bells of his childhood stories.

For General Kelley, the ability to give students in his mother's hometown a great education, and with it the opportunity to stay, live, and work in Cork, is a tangible way to connect with his Irish heritage.

### JOIN THE IRISH LEGACY SOCIETY

We can help you identify the best options to fulfill your charitable vision. To establish an endowed scholarship, please contact Mary Sugrue (617) 723-2707 or [mary@irishap.org](mailto:mary@irishap.org).





OUR HALLMARK DIRECT GRANTS TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM IS AT THE HEART OF THE PARTNERSHIP'S WORK TOWARDS EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF IRISH YOUTH. MOST DIRECT GRANTS GO TO SMALL RURAL SCHOOLS, BUT SOME BENEFIT DEIS (DISADVANTAGED) CITY SCHOOLS.

#### WHAT ARE THE FUNDS USED FOR?

- The funds are sent to schools to purchase literary, numeracy and science materials, but they may also be used for other educational supplies. Some schools, for instance, desperately need a school counselor or money to save their music program. We believe that the principals know their schools' needs best, and are guided by their suggestions for funding.

#### WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT?

- The grants are modest in size but make a transformative impact on the schools they benefit. Grants range from \$500-\$10,000 depending on the size of the donor's gift.

#### HOW ARE THE FUNDS TRACKED?

- Principals are asked to answer a questionnaire with details about their school and how the funds are used. They are also asked to submit receipts and pictures of the purchased materials with students using them.

#### CAN I PRESENT MY GIFT IN PERSON, IN IRELAND?

- Yes! If you are visiting Ireland the Partnership can arrange a visit to the school you would like to fund. Please note the Partnership needs to receive your gift before scheduling a meeting with the school.

#### ARE NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?

- Some donors wish to honor their ancestors with a named scholarship or annual gift to the school they attended. These are immensely appreciated by the schools and allow them to budget with the gift in mind, creating a sustainable impact. Scholarship programs can be crafted based on consultation with the school, donor, and Partnership staff.

#### MY GIFT IS LESS THAN \$500. WILL IT STILL BENEFIT A PARTICULAR SCHOOL OR COUNTY?

- Yes! The Partnership will wait until enough donations come in for that county or school and pool the contributions to send a minimum of \$500 directly to the school. We do this to ensure schools have enough funds to make a meaningful purchase that will benefit their students.

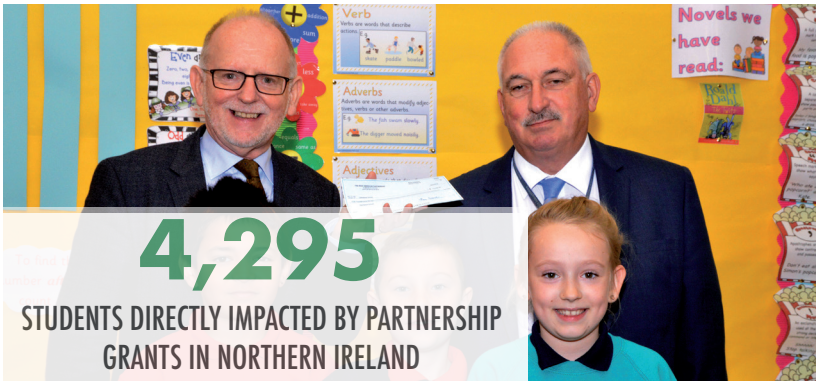
#### MAY I SUGGEST A SCHOOL FOR FUNDING?

- Yes! The Partnership encourages donors to suggest schools for funding.

#### ARE NAMED ENDOWMENT OPPORTUNITIES ALSO AVAILABLE?

- Yes! Please contact Mary@irishap.org, Clodagh@irishap.org, or call (617) 723-2707 for more information on these unique and impactful giving opportunities.






**4,295**  
STUDENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND



**53** SCHOOLS RECEIVED DIRECT GRANTS



**20** STUDENTS RECEIVED UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS



**7,500+**  
STUDENTS ATTENDED SCIENCE FAIRS



**6,847**  
STUDENTS IMPACTED BY OUR GRANTS TO SCHOOLS



**103** TEACHERS RECEIVED SCIENCE TRAINING

**We thank you for your support.**

## WILL YOU JOIN US IN GIVING THE GIFT OF EDUCATION?

CONNECT, GIVE BACK, AND CHANGE YOUNG LIVES WITH TARGETED GRANTS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Irish American Partnership.

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_



IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

[WWW.IRISHAP.ORG/DONATE](http://WWW.IRISHAP.ORG/DONATE)

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