



The Irish American Partnership

Report on Activities

Summer 2013

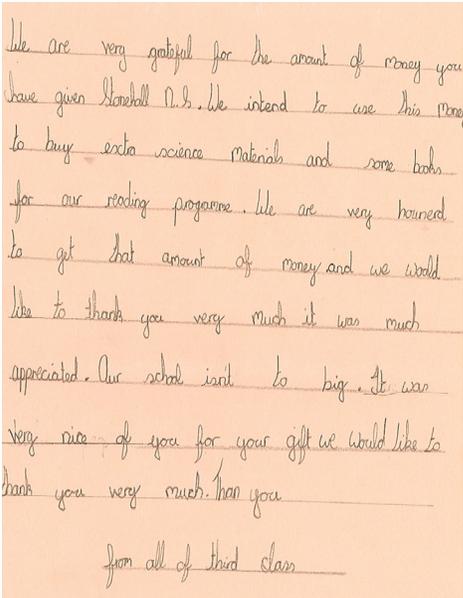


Recent correspondence and 'thank-yous' received from...

Killury National School
Causeway, County Kerry



Stonehall National School
Newmarket on Fergus, County Clare



Pictured (left to right): Two students at Tullycarnet Primary School in Belfast work on a project, Children play a game with Baroness May Blood and their teacher, Young students in County Mayo sit together and read from books in their renovated library.

The summer months of 2013 have gone well for The Irish American Partnership. The Partnership has provided many grants to schools and community programs across Ireland, North and South. As the impacts of the recession continue, the need for external contributions remains, and the generosity from the Irish diaspora is appreciated.

The Partnership has focused on strengthening our library and science programs, and raising direct funds for schools. We believe the widest impact can be achieved through a comprehensive approach of support, from primary-level through university. Creating an interest in science, or any trade, must start at a young age, but it also entails remedial support for the teachers and upcoming researchers, who may not have access or necessary materials to be successful.

The Partnership continues to encourage the development of scholarship and teaching programs in the sciences. Through university Access scholarships and Masters of Science fellowships at major Irish universities, the Partnership is pleased to advance college-level research and the promise of tomorrow's leaders (p. 4-6). Through the 'Connecting with Science' Newsletter, a network of teachers across Ireland have been introduced to one another, and best practices are regularly exchanged to improve curriculum and students' success.

Four schools in County Clare were awarded grants in honor of the late Frank McInerney. Responding with appreciation, teachers and students sent correspondence on the importance of the grants in this time of government cuts to education spending (p. 2).

The Partnership's annual Golf Championship Series included three golf tournaments that brought together great Irish spirit and golf play, with proceeds of over \$90,000 going directly to fund Partnership sponsored programs.

The Partnership welcomes designated gifts from donors. A particular school, program, or county may be of specific interest. The 174 Trust in Belfast, Kylemore Abbey in County Galway, and The Foynes Flying Boat Museum in County Limerick, have all received recent donor-advised gifts (p. 7) to fund important work in the community.

We hope you will read on, and that this brochure provides further insight on our current work and future plans.

Partnership Hosts Annual Golf Tournaments

in Albany, Chicago, & Newport, Rhode Island

Golf Championship Series Raises \$90,000 for Schools in Ireland



The Irish American Partnership Newport Golf Tournament was hosted at the historic Newport Country Club in June 2013.

This summer, the Partnership led three golf tournaments as part of the Championship Golf Series for 2013. One-day amateur tournaments were held at Beverly County Club in Chicago, Newport Country Club in Rhode Island, and Schuyler Meadows Club in Albany. Each tournament was filled with fine golf and Irish camaraderie. Funds raised from the Partnership's tournaments go directly to support schools in Ireland.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors and tournament leadership whose efforts made each tournament a success. The Partnership would like to recognize Chicago Honorary Chairman Alderman Patrick J. O'Connor and the Chicago Tournament Golf Committee, Albany Honorary Chairman Mayor Gerald D. Jennings and Tournament Chairman Thomas R. Tyrrell, and Newport Tournament Chairmen Aidan F. Browne, Esq., John G. Finnegan, Jr., and John P. Heffernan, Jr.

Newport The Partnership welcomed Captain Paul O'Grady and Eoin O'Sullivan from the Royal Dublin Golf Club who invited guests to Ireland to play in the inaugural Christy O'Connor Tournament. The winning low-net team of Dan Gaquin was awarded *The Irish American Partnership Newport Cup*. The surprise of the day was a hole-in-one by Michael Wallace visiting from Baltimore!

Albany An exciting playoff happened on holes 17 and 18 resulting in the winning low-net foursome of Jack Phelan. Tournament Chairman Tom Tyrrell paid tribute to Mike Bette, long-time supporter of the tournament. In honor of Mike Bette, a gift has been given to Ballybunion National School (pictured at right), and a trophy was committed in his name. *The Irish American Partnership Mike Bette Memorial Trophy* was given to Mayor Gerald D. Jennings for his work for the city of Albany.



In honor of Mike Bette from the Albany Golf Tournament, Didgie O'Connor presents Principal Eily Walsh of Ballybunion National School in County Kerry, with a Partnership grant. Principal Walsh wrote "everyone in town knows about our great treat! Many many thanks to The Irish American Partnership."



Featured in *The Mayo News*, Irish American Partnership supporter Patrick Heneghan of Chicago presents Principal Seán Ó Mainnín of Colaiste Mhuire (Tourmakeady Secondary School) in County Mayo, with a grant from the 2012 Chicago Golf Tournament.

Chicago Congratulations were afforded to the winning foursome of Legacy Steel. The Irish Consul General, Aidan Cronin, was a welcome guest at the evening reception. He addressed the golfers thanking them for their support of Ireland and endorsing the Partnership efforts.

Proceeds from the Chicago golf tournament were distributed to schools in support of their science and library programs. The grant recipients included Scoil Naisiunta an Gheleanna in County Kerry and Colaiste Mhuire (Tourmakeady Secondary School) in County Mayo.

Colaiste Mhuire was a grant recipient from the 2012 Chicago Golf Tournament. Pictured beside is Tournament Committee Member Patrick Heneghan presenting the check to Principal Seán Ó Mainnín of Colaiste Mhuire.

Donor-Advised Gifts



In operation since 1982, the 174 Trust is committed to helping in North Belfast's most deprived

areas. Dedicated to the process of lasting peace and reconciliation, the Trust facilitates a variety of projects in North Belfast to build relationships among members of the community. The Trust offers opportunities to people of all ages – from pre-school to senior – by leading after-school programs and providing scheduled assistance for individuals with disabilities at its Duncairn complex.

The Trust leads a pre-school playgroup and after-school program for young children to partake in activities that keep them engaged and out of the surrounding troubled streets. More than 40 children, aged 5-11 yrs., and their parents use the afterschool support services.

In 2013, the Trust is renovating and renewing its existing building to become the Trust's new Center for Arts, Culture, and Heritage. Keeping its same vision and programs, the Trust will expand its reach with an invigorated environment.

The Partnership is pleased to continue to support the important work of the Trust. At the direction of two donors, the Partnership has recently given grants to the Trust.

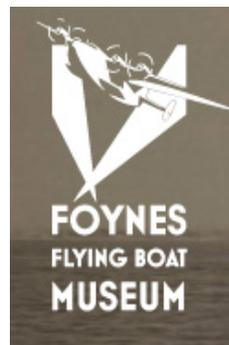


Children from North Belfast enjoy a craft project and get to know each other in the 174 Trust's preschool program.



Kylemore Abbey in County Galway represents Ireland in its natural beauty, tranquility, and spirituality. A vision for the development of Kylemore's programs set forth in year 2012, and aims to strengthen every aspect of its mission.

At Kylemore, the strong tradition of education will be advanced through recent Partnership grants. A new Education Center is being built and will welcome national and international university students to study. Accepting gifts through the New York Campaign for Kylemore, the Partnership has forwarded over \$25,000 in grants as of August 2013.



Foynes, County Limerick, is famed for hosting one of the largest civilian airports during World War Two, and for the invention of the Irish coffee in 1943.

The Foynes Flying Boat Museum commemorates these events and offers an educational experience for

those young and old. Bringing back the era of the 1940s, the museum showcases memorabilia and a replica of the famous flying boat that transported military officers, and many well-known figures.

The Partnership is delighted to support the educational mission of the museum through a donor-advised grant in 2013.

Designated Gifts

An opportunity to give a directed contribution



The Board of Directors of The Irish American Partnership welcomes designated gifts. The gifts are processed efficiently, insuring that all conditions are met. In order to qualify for IRS tax consideration, the donor may not personally benefit from the gift and, for the Partnership to accept and transfer the funds, the gift must be part of our stated mission.

If you would like to make a gift to a specific project or county in Ireland, please contact the Partnership at (617) 723-2707.

Creating Pathways for Skill Development

In Honor of the late Frank McNerney, Four Schools in County Clare are Awarded Grants

Scoil Naisunta Na Maighdine Mhuire

Stonehall National School

Ballycar National School

Clonmoney National School

In May 2013, grants of \$1,500 each were given to four schools on behalf of The Irish American Partnership, in particular, from the family of the late **Frank McNerney** of Massachusetts. Scoil Naisunta Na Maighdine Mhuire, Stonehall National School, Ballycar National School, and Clonmoney National School will use the grant for the purchase of books and science materials. The Partnership received the following correspondence from the schools.

Located in the village of Newmarket-on-Fergus in County Clare, **Scoil Naisunta Na Maighdine Mhuire** has a bustling population with 185 students and 11 teachers. The grant will support their 'Literacy Lift-off' program, which seeks to promote competence and confidence in reading. The contribution will enable the purchase of additional reading materials.

Principal Ann McMahon wrote "[the grant] is a very welcome boost to our funds at a time when cuts in spending in education in our country are punitive."



In Co. Clare, Stonehall National School students expressed their appreciation for the Partnership grant by sending hand-written notes from each class.

Stonehall National School is a four-room school in eastern County Clare, situated just two miles outside Newmarket-on-Fergus. The grant will support science equipment and library upgrades in the upcoming school year. The Partnership received a thank you note from a sixth grade student sharing the surname, McNerney.

The student wrote "It has been great to be in the school where my ancestors lived and worked. Especially since I have been taught for the past year in the original class where my grand father went to school. The gift you gave us is a wonderful addition to our small school...we are all excited and very grateful."

Clonmoney National School is a thriving school with 129 students, from Junior to Sixth Class, and five full-time class teachers. School Principal Benedicta McEvoy wrote,

"We very much appreciate this kind gift and it was never more needed! We are currently fundraising in our school to help raise money to set up an accelerated reader program, which encourages students to read more...you can be assured this money will be spent wisely and in the best interest of our students here at Clonmoney N.S."



Students at Ballycar National School in Co. Clare participated in the Community Games Art and Model Making Competition - 16 students from Ballycar received awards!

Ballycar National School in County Clare is a lively community of 53 students with three teachers and a Learning Support/Resource Teacher. Located in Newmarket-on-Fergus, this school is pleased to use the grant in the upcoming school year. In early 2013, many students participated in Community Games Art and Model Making Competition (pictured at left with their projects).



Inishbofin National School & Scoil Naisuinta Ard, Aird Thiar, County Galway Receive Grants for Educational Programs

Nestled close by the water's edge in County Galway, **Inishbofin National School** is an important resource to the island's sustained future. Hosting an average of two teachers per year, the thriving student population of 20 students learns within the small school. In June 2013, Inishbofin was given a grant of \$1,500 in honor of Partnership Board Member Michael Clune of Illinois.



Inishbofin National School.

Principal Cathy O'Halloran recognized the grant, saying: *"This grant aid will be used to enhance the education of our island children. Your members commitment to supporting education in Ireland through the Rural Primary School Library & Science program is sincerely appreciated."*



Inishbofin Island,
County Galway.

Correspondence from...

Scoil Naisuinta Ard, Aird Thiar Connemara, County Galway

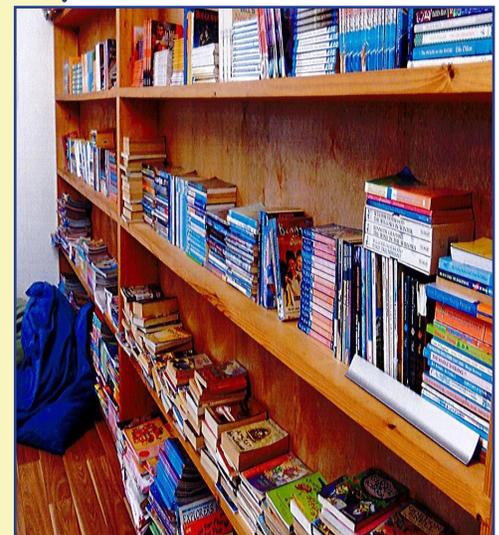
The Partnership is pleased to support Scoil Naisuinta na hAird in Connemara, County Galway. The grant of \$1,500 was put toward improvements to their reading and multimedia materials. The students now enjoy a wide array of ways to learn.

Principal Mary Flaherty wrote *"the children in the school have a great love of reading and enclosed is a picture of the children with some of the new editions in our library. Again many thanks for your support and we extend an invitation to your organization to visit our school and see first-hand the fruit of your kind donations."*

The photos below show children with the new purchases made possible by Irish American Partnership donors.



Children at Scoil Naisuinta Ard, Aird Thiar, in Connemara, County Galway, are excited about the new book purchases made possible by the Partnership grant.



Scoil Naisuinta Ard's enhanced library with beanbag chairs to sit, read, and enjoy!

Partnership-Smurfit Scholarship Recipient Produces Research on Inward Investment in Ireland

Continuing to encourage university education, the Partnership provided a scholarship to Ms. Linh Nguyen to study for a Masters of Science in Business at the University College Dublin, Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School.

Ms. Nguyen successfully completed her research on **“The role of Ireland in the Export Platform Strategies of U.S. Multinationals in the Information Technology Industry, 1990-2010.”** Her research objective was to examine the impact of host-government investment incentives on subsidiary development in Ireland.

By surveying chief executive officers of U.S.-owned Irish subsidiaries in Dublin and performing quantitative analysis, she discovered two observations.

The first finding was that U.S.-Irish owned subsidiaries now place a significant higher value on Irish government investment, especially in tax R&D incentives, compared to 5 years ago. Host government incentives were found to have a direct impact on the level of internal competences, and generally attract more foreign investors.

Second, host government incentives can encourage, and sometimes initiate, the development of

internal subsidiary competences; therefore, giving it more bargaining power in discussing investment with its parent group, and provide a good rationale for the parent group to expand its operation abroad. These conclusions were presented to the Partnership Board of Directors in Dublin last August.

The Partnership is delighted to support another student in the upcoming 2013-14 academic year. The research will be on a similar topic and advised by the Academic Director of the Master of Science in Business program at the Smurfit School.



Partnership-Smurfit Scholarship recipient Ms. Linh Nguyen with Academic Advisor Dr. Sean Cassidy.



UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School scholarship recipients and administrators host a round table discussion with the Partnership Board of Directors in 2012.

The Partnership Supports Youth Development Programs in innercity Belfast



Willowfield Parish Community Association, Belfast.

One of the greatest problems in the inner Belfast areas is educational under-achievement. Levels of literacy and numeracy among students remains low, and only a small number of youth transition from primary to grammar school. While the realities that Belfast youth face are challenging, it has been identified that after-school homework assistance and extra-curricular activities boost the likelihood of young people’s success, especially when little to no parental support is given. Willowfield Parish Community Association (WPCA) leads a variety of support programs that build strong relationships between children and their families and instill long-term community success.

Established ten years ago, the WPCA focuses on benefiting youth, specifically in the areas of East and South Belfast. Support programs such as homework clubs, sports teams, self-esteem programs, and anti-bullying workshops are open to Belfast children and their parents. The After-School program for children in Primary 1-7 runs twice a week and has seen significant increase in demand, from its start serving 12 children to now serving 65 children.

The Partnership is delighted to support the meaningful work of the WPCA. At the direction of Baroness May Blood, the Partnership has given a \$5,000 grant, which is being used to implement education programs, including workshops, homework help, and liaising with local schools to foster initiatives that benefit Belfast children and further community development.

Facilitating Avenues for Students to Reach University

Collaborating with Access programs at Dublin City University & Trinity College, Dublin

Dublin City University Access Program



In its 22nd year, the Dublin City University Access Program is based on its founding principal of educating young people who may not have otherwise had an opportunity. Many deserving young people have financial burdens and other socio-cultural barriers that prevent them from pursuing a place at university.

Even in modern Ireland, going to university is not possible for many students. The DCU Educational Trust supports students who gain a place in the Access Program with a fully-funded scholarship. The Access Program continues to increase, validating the increased need in today's economic times and the success of the program. DCU Access students have an average completion rate of 93%.

Access students pursue their own studies, while also being encouraged to reach out to the larger community. In collaboration with the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute at DCU, Access students studying the sciences are linked with young students in neighboring primary and secondary schools. Access students mentor young minds by encouraging hands-on activities in this weekly after-school science mentor program.

In 2012, the Partnership supported Philip McMahon (Cafrey) from Ballymun, who studied for a Bachelor of Science in Education and Training, and Vicky Kavanaugh from North County Dublin, who studied for a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. Into 2013, the Partnership continues to fund a year's tuition for three students.



Over 200 students attend the Access program orientation at Dublin City University, aimed to create a supportive transition into university.



A DCU Access student tutors a Trinity Comprehensive junior high school student through a joint-initiative between the DCU Access Program and the Ballymun Initiative for Third-level Education that create peer academic support services.

Trinity College Dublin, Access Program

The Partnership continues its support for students in year 2013



Celebrating its 20th year, Trinity College administers the Trinity Access Program (TAP), under the vision of encouraging young people to pursue education and a future. Realizing that a college education is a central part of long-term success, the TAP program addresses educational disadvantage and increases participation by funding scholarships for young people with financial and socio-cultural barriers.

The Partnership is delighted to support the important work of TAP. In August 2012, the Partnership Board of Directors engaged with TAP students and spoke with Trinity administrators about the future of the program. The Board toured facilities that are specifically provided to TAP students, including multimedia resources and venues where students can complete assignments in a supportive environment.

TAP student Gary Gannon, a native of inner city Dublin, spoke of the program, *"Trinity College was ten minutes and a world away from me. There isn't a strong tradition to attend third level education. By supporting TAP, you are contribut-*

ing to a more educated Ireland which incorporates everyone from all backgrounds. Now I have something to work towards. I have an objective."

In the upcoming 2013-2014 school year, more than 300 additional students will join TAP. The Partnership has renewed its commitment of support.



Trinity College Access Students come from a wide range of backgrounds and are encouraged to pursue their chosen fields of study with scholarship support.



Derryclough National School (County Cork) students and teachers raise their school flag, featured in *Southern Star* article on July 6, 2013.

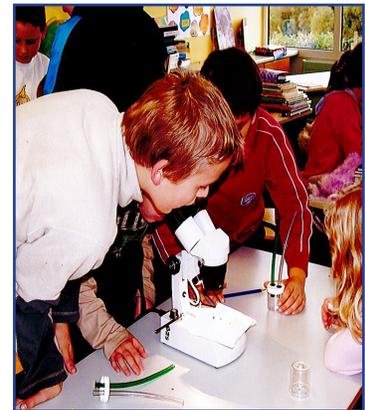
Promoting Interest in Science ~ from Primary-level to University

On behalf of a donor-advised gift, the Partnership has given an additional grant of \$500 to Derryclough National School in West Cork in June 2013. A school of 24 students and two teachers, Derryclough National School had cuts to their capitation grants in 2012 and 2013, which significantly reduced school operating funds.

With the grant, the school has increased its library book collection and tools for science exploration. Their most recent purchase has been a weather station, which allows students to check, record, and make observations. Principal Teresa Holland said of station, *“The children never seem to tire of checking the readings, which can also be connected to our laptop, and the findings reproduced in a variety of graphs and trends.”*

Beyond the teaching of weather systems, Derryclough teachers continue to develop their science education program in a number of areas, including environmental and health sciences. The school’s recently-created green flag celebrates students’ interest in recycling and commitment to making healthy choices.

The Partnership is delighted that the grants are being used to inspire young people’s interest in science, and in pursuit of a knowledgeable future workforce for Ireland.



At Scoil Eoin in County Kerry, students examine insects using microscopes.

Partnership Supports Student Research in Biomedical Engineering

The Irish American Partnership is providing a grant of \$8,500 to a student undertaking a Masters Degree at the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG). NUIG has a bright student population of over 17,000 and is a leading institution in many fields of interdisciplinary research. The Partnership scholarship will support a student to complete independent research with a faculty advisor at the National Center for Biomedical Engineering Science and the Institute for Business, Social Sciences, and Public Policy.

The student will undertake a dissertation on the topic **“An Analysis of Medical Device Sectors in Ireland and Massachusetts,”** which will evaluate research & development, product concentration, and assess opportunity for academic-industry interaction. The scholarship is open to graduate students pursuing a Master of Science, and is promoted through NUIG. Upon completion, the Partnership will receive a copy of the research report.



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



Graduate students at National University of Ireland, Galway have access to advanced lab equipment to practice scientific procedures and prepare for real-world application.