



# Impact Report

2022 SPRING APPEAL

## Innovating Health Education

Launching a new  
degree program with  
the Royal College of  
Surgeons in Ireland  
p5



Image: Julien Behal





## Welcoming Our New Patron

Three-time Major Champion and European Ryder Cup Captain **Pádraig Harrington**

The US Ambassador to Ireland, Claire D. Cronin, held a reception on March 22nd in the Ambassador's Residence to mark the announcement of our new Patron. The event in the Phoenix Park was attended by guests from academia, sports, business, and included staff and Board members of the Partnership.

The patronage honors Pádraig's roots and reflects his belief in using sport to bring people from different backgrounds and communities together, bolstering support of Irish schools and community organizations.

To celebrate Pádraig's patronage we have launched an *Outdoor Play & Learning* program providing \$250,000 funding for primary schools to purchase resources. *Outdoor Play & Learning* has been developed in response to the great need identified by teachers to encourage young children to get outside, particularly in the wake of virtual learning necessitated by COVID-19.



The Partnership plays such a vital and unsung role in supporting young people in some of Ireland's most underprivileged areas. I have been so impressed with the Board and team and their tireless efforts to champion young people, and I'm proud to join them as a Patron.

- Pádraig Harrington



---

### YOUR IMPACT

**50,000+**

Irish students, young people and community leaders have benefited from Partnership funding.

**\$50,000,000+**

has been invested in the future of Ireland - its people.

**550+**

Schools and community organizations have received your support.

---





# Not All Classrooms Have Four Walls

Partnership supporter Martin Comey's crucial funding enabled the greenway path installation for year-round activity in County Westmeath



Tang National School students at their annual 5k school walk/run fundraiser



**T**ang National School is a rural primary school in Westmeath between the towns of Athlone and Ballymahon. With a teaching staff of six and one teacher shared with another school, Tang serves 129 pupils across all 8 class levels. The school was built in 2006 and sits firmly at the heart of this small community.

Thanks to funding provided by the Partnership, school Principal Emer McDonnell installed a perimeter pathway for the football pitch, as during the winter and spring months the pitch cannot be used due to the weather. Installing the footpath has enabled the school children to increase their physical activity during these wet months, improving health and wellbeing.

*“The pathway is used every day by every class level. Daily jogging and running was incorporated into our class timetables for the promotion of pupil health and wellbeing. Thank you - we are delighted to have it.”*

- Principal Emer McDonnell

## TANG NATIONAL SCHOOL

**1865** first primary school in Tang

**2006** new school built

**129** students

**8** class levels

**6** teachers



# BUSINESS LIVING LAB

The Partnership is proud to support Maynooth University's Business Living Lab - specifically designed to help level the playing field for students from under-represented backgrounds.



Recent graduates from Maynooth University School of Business

**M**aynooth University is Ireland's fastest growing university. Established just 25 years ago, it traces its origins to the foundation of the Royal College of St. Patrick in 1795, drawing inspiration from a heritage that includes over 200 years of education and scholarship.

The Partnership is pleased to partner with the university on the rapid expansion plan for its School of Business - one of the fastest growing business schools in Europe with faculty rising from 6 to 70+ in over a decade. Maynooth is proud to have one of the highest university degree completion rates for disadvantaged students in Ireland. Nearly half of MU students require support in order to attend.

The funded Business Living Lab is specifically designed to connect these students directly with employers—giving them real-world experiences such as company-client project consultations, entrepreneurship and innovation competitions, mentorship and a speaker series.

Our support is important fuel for the expansion of the School of Business in a way that keeps students—and particularly students from disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds—at the heart of its model. Partnership funding sends the message that these students are valued and that our greater community believes they can succeed.



Rebecca Doolin  
Director of Development  
& External Relations

“

Gifts from supporters like you who recognize the transformative value of education can literally change the course of a student's life. On behalf of the President, the Board of the Maynooth University Foundation, and especially the students whose education you are helping to support, thank you.

”





# Innovating Health Education

Student, and future students, at the RCSI annual Teddy Bear Hospital for children

Image: Julien Behal

**T**he Royal College of Surgeons Ireland mission is to enhance human health through endeavor, innovation, and collaboration in education, research, and service.

The Irish American Partnership is proud to support the expansion of the Physician Associate concept across the Republic of Ireland, with scholarship support for five students as they pursue their MSc degree program in Physician Associate studies.

The Physician Associate (PA) role was introduced into the Irish healthcare system in 2015, when four PAs from North America were recruited to work in Ireland as part of a two-year pilot program. The role is in its development phase in Ireland, but studies suggest that they fill an important role by providing continuity of care to both patients and the medical team. PAs in Ireland are valued by their team members, and have been shown to enhance the efficiency of the Irish health service.

PAs funded through this program will become advocates for the profession, using their recognition as “Irish American Partnership Scholars” to serve as ambassadors for both RCSI and the Irish American Partnership.

---

## PILOT PROGRAM

*“These student scholars will advocate for the full inclusion of physician associates in the Irish healthcare system whilst performing a multifunctional role in providing care for patients. RCSI is delighted to have received such an important grant from the Irish American Partnership; the impact this will have on our talented students, and ultimately patients in Ireland, is significant.”*

- Professor Lisa Alexander, Director of Physician Associate Program



2022 Physician Associates students at RCSI University



# On The Fast Track

Upskilling job seekers is central to the role of FIT (Fastrack Into IT), and in particular those who are vulnerable to unemployment long term. FIT programs are carefully tailored to give job seekers new marketable skills to compete for quality jobs in an inclusive smart economy.

As a longstanding partner of FIT, the Partnership is pleased to support an innovative initiative entitled *Gizmo Labs*. Serving 10 secondary schools and reaching 200+ students, this program removes barriers post-primary students face in making informed decisions on the varied career pathways in Advanced

Manufacturing and Emerging Technology sectors.

In order to increase awareness and enthusiasm for specific disciplines, the program delivers a vibrant sampling of content to post-primary students in transition year, in advanced manufacturing work practices incorporating Robotics, 3D printing, and simulated virtual reality and augmented reality environments.

Broader access to tech and advanced manufacturing skills training leads to exciting new career paths and quality employment opportunities. We are delighted at the continued success and expansion of FIT programming across the country.



Abi Delaney and Sophie Pilkington of Loreto Crumlin, during FITs Choose Tech program

## EQUALITY OF ACCESS

By providing a clear and guided avenue for school-goers to navigate this continuum of career choices, this tremendous program inspires students to reach their potential toward a tech career:

- Advising on appropriate career paths, promoting awareness of digital skills for the workplace
- Providing career progression advice and guidance
- Fostering awareness of industry initiatives
- Delivering a diverse skills sampling of advanced technologies
- Facilitating students to inform and shape their career ambitions, and
- Promoting links with post-primary schools students with a particular focus on disadvantaged schools.

# The Legacy of *The Immortal Irishman*

**T**homas Francis Meagher was an Irish patriot, US Army General, and Governor of Montana, who flew the first Tricolor flag on the 7th of March, 1848.

The legacy of that moment is carried on by the Thomas F. Meagher Foundation, which honors his memory and seeks to spread knowledge about the Irish flag, particularly among schoolchildren.

The Partnership is delighted to support the Thomas F. Meagher Foundation (the Foundation) in promoting active citizenship among the next generation of Irish leaders. Our shared vision for Ireland's future is one where all children prosper, have access to education, and have an equal and meaningful opportunity to participate in Irish society.

For over a decade, the Foundation has promoted pride in and respect for the Irish flag, and the understanding of its symbolism and meaning for peace. The message of the flag – inclusion – irrespective of background, ethnicity, culture, creed, gender and sexual orientation – is powerful to our young people, and one they take pride and inspiration from, as an emblem of a future that can be as great as their dreams allow.

---

## TEACHING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

As Educational Partner, our support has funded the annual Awards and Scholarship program, reaching more than 180,000 school children, and encouraging them to dialogue and demonstrate what the flag



Jan Ronan Macatangay from Colaiste Muire Mathair in Galway, with his winning category entry

means to them. The overall winning entry this year was judged out of 175; “*Children of the Flag*” was written and performed by three 6th year students: Donal Ojiekhudu, Hakim Ali and Olumide Ogunlela from Nagle Community College, Mahon, Cork. Its accompanying video filmed and edited by 6th year student Wiktor Owczarek.

We congratulate all this year's entrants to the Irish American Partnership Awards & Scholarships Program, and commend the Thomas F. Meagher Foundation on their incredible work.

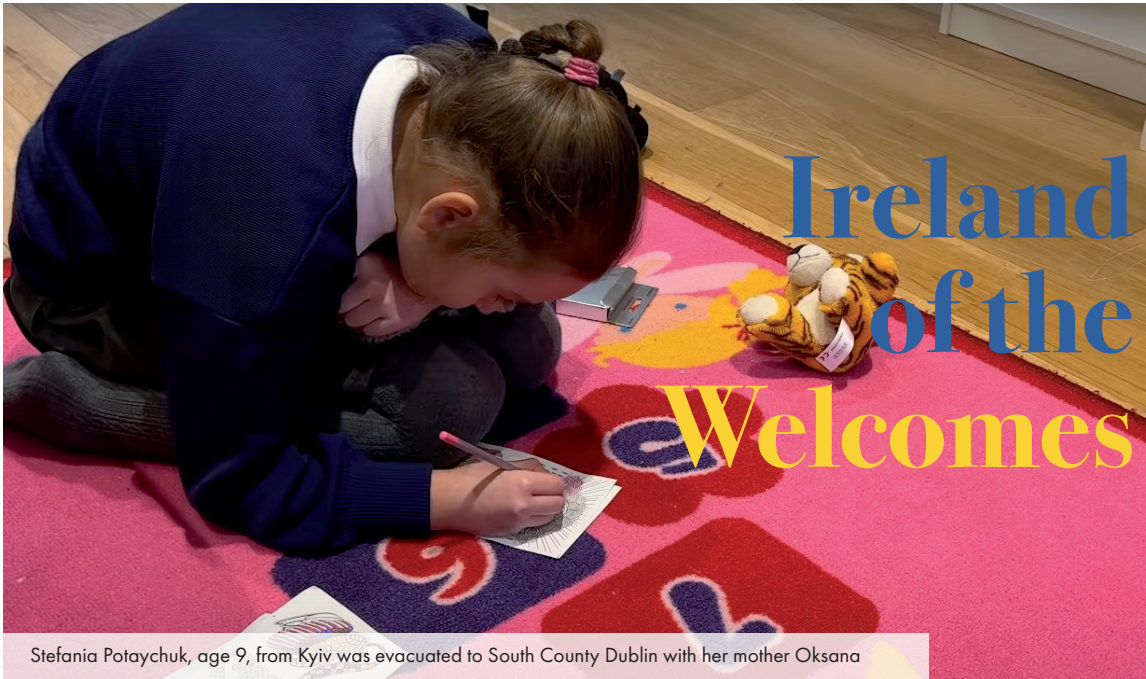
“

The flag is a statement of intent. It holds aloft our aspiration to be a peaceful country where all traditions are respected and reconciled. It flies high to remind us we are not there yet but it is the mission of each generation to bring us nearer to permanent peace one heart at a time.

- 8th President of Ireland, Mary McAleese

”





Stefania Potaychuk, age 9, from Kyiv was evacuated to South County Dublin with her mother Oksana

**Our hearts are with the people of Ukraine.**

From Dublin to Galway and every county in between, educators and students alike have opened their hearts to the plight of Ukranian children and their families. As the Irish story is one of resilience in the face of hardship, we stand in solidarity.

For our part, the Irish American Partnership continues to provide grants to Irish schools enrolling Ukranian children in their classrooms. We are donating all proceeds from our spring events in Boston, Chicago, New York, and Dublin to schools across Ireland who have welcomed these children who had to flee their homes.

It is our hope to ease this difficult transition for them, and it is your vital support, as part of our flagship O'Neill School Grants program, which makes this possible. Thank you.

**CONNECT, GIVE BACK, AND CHANGE YOUNG LIVES**

**Join us in giving the gift of education.**

Yes, I am pleased to support the Irish American Partnership's work to empower and educate!

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ Checks payable: Irish American Partnership

Please accept my gift in the amount of  \$2,500  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100

I wish to make my gift in honor of / in memory of (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make this a recurring monthly gift.  Enclosed is my company's matching gift form.

I would like to know more about planned giving with the Irish Legacy Society; our special community of forward-thinking supporters who invest in the Partnership's transformative mission through a planned gift or provision in their estate plans.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Michael T. Clune  
Chairman  
Chicago, IL

Mary Sugrue  
Chief Executive Officer  
Boston, MA

Aidan F. Browne, Esq.  
Boston, MA

Dessie Farrell  
Dublin, Ireland

David Greaney  
Boston, MA

Michael J. Kilbane  
Chicago, IL

Thomas A. Leonard, Esq.  
Philadelphia, PA

Lorna Martyn  
Dublin, Ireland

Donal O'Brien, Esq.  
Chicago, IL

Kathleen O'Toole  
Boston, MA

Maureen Pace  
Boston, MA

Niall Power Smith  
Dublin, Ireland

William J. Reilly Jr.  
Boston, MA

Sir Bruce Robinson  
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Brian Ruane  
New York, NY

Regina Sullivan  
Boston, MA

**DIRECTORS EMERITI**

Joseph F. Leary, Jr.  
President Emeritus

John P. Murray  
Chairman Emeritus

Liam Connellan

Charles L. Donahue Jr.

The Honorable Frank J. Kelley

John V. McManmon, Jr.