

March 6, 2014
For Immediate Release
The American Ireland Fund

**The American Ireland Fund to Honor
John Hartnett with The American Ireland Fund Distinguished Leadership Award
and Dr. Michael Hasenstab with The American Ireland Fund International Business Award
at the 2014 San Francisco Gala Dinner**

The American Ireland Fund will host its *San Francisco Gala Dinner* on Friday evening, March 7, 2014 in the Grand Ballroom of the iconic St. Francis Hotel in Union Square, San Francisco. As the focal point of the evening, The American Ireland Fund will recognize Limerick-born **John Hartnett**, founder and President of the Irish Technology Leadership Group (ITLG) and Silicon Valley Global Partners (SVG Partners) for his distinguished service to Ireland with **The American Ireland Fund Distinguished Leadership Award**. John has been a visionary pioneer in developing a powerful network of Irish people - and friends of Ireland - who are raising Ireland's profile on the world stage. The Irish Technology Leadership Group has attracted a strong following through John's leadership, and his investment in key companies through SVG Global Partners is showing positive results. One of John's greatest achievements in 2013 was playing a key part in encouraging Aer Lingus to resume nonstop flights from SFO to Dublin (beginning April 2014), making it easier to vacation and conduct business in Ireland.

Dr. Michael Hasenstab Ph.D. of Franklin Templeton Investments has won numerous awards globally, and will receive special recognition with **The American Ireland Fund International Business Award** for his pivotal role in reviving the Irish bond market. Michael's investment, at a critical juncture in Ireland's economic downturn, proved to be the turning point, demonstrating confidence in Ireland's ability to recover.

"Both men have contributed greatly to Ireland's recovery by the promotion of technology, access to the country and improving the country's credit rating. We are proud to salute them," said Kieran McLoughlin, President & CEO of The Worldwide Ireland Funds.

The Gala will bring together San Francisco's vibrant Irish and Irish-American community including, leaders in politics, business, the media and the arts as they celebrate Irish culture and heritage while generating funds for The Worldwide Ireland Funds' *Promising Ireland* Campaign which has assisted over 650 Irish charities to-date.

About The American Ireland Fund

The American Ireland Fund is part of The Worldwide Ireland Funds, a philanthropic network across 12 countries that has raised over \$450 million for worthy causes in Ireland and Irish causes around the world. It is the largest network of friends of Ireland dedicated to supporting programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development. Founded in 1976, The Worldwide Ireland Funds have benefited over 3,000 organizations. Funds raised are contributed by private philanthropists and organizations.

In response to the severe downturn in the Irish economy, The Worldwide Ireland Funds launched the *Promising Ireland* Campaign in 2009 to raise \$100 million for charities experiencing an increased demand for their services at a time of a major reduction in resources. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of donors, the initial goal has been exceeded and the target has been doubled to now raise \$200 million. As a result, one third of the Funds' total earnings since foundation have been raised during the five years of the Campaign. Over 650 outstanding projects and organizations have received support from the *Promising Ireland* Campaign.

The American Ireland Fund holds a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator in recognition of efficiency, sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

For More Information Contact:

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