

PRESS RELEASE

THE AMERICAN IRELAND FUND NANTUCKET CELEBRATION HONORS ANNE FINUCANE OF BANK OF AMERICA

Nantucket, July 19, 2014 - On Saturday, July 19, The American Ireland Fund hosted over 150 people at its annual Nantucket Celebration, held at the home of **Bart & Lesley Grenier**.

This year's Nantucket Celebration was co-chaired by **Chris and Ann Quick, Bob and Laura Reynolds** and **Jack and Suzy Welch** and the Honoree was **Anne Finucane** of Bank of America.

Among the guests attending were: **Senator Ed Markey; Joe Scarborough** and **Mika Brzezinski** of MSNBC's "Morning Joe"; *Vanity Fair* feature writer **Maureen Orth** and her son **Luke Russert** of MSNBC; **Jack Manning** (Boston Capital Corporation) and his wife **Lyle Howland**; President & CEO of The Worldwide Ireland Funds **Kieran McLoughlin**; The American Ireland Fund New England Director **Steve Greeley** and his wife **Jan**; Irish Consul General in Boston **Breandan O'Caollai** and his wife **Carmel**; and **Chad Gifford**, former Chairman, Bank of America and his wife **Anne**.

Past honorees of the Nantucket Celebration include, among others, Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Nobel Peace Prize Winner John Hume, Special Olympics President and CEO Tim Shriver, the late author Frank McCourt, the late broadcast journalist Tim Russert and print and broadcast journalist Mike Barnicle, husband of this year's Honoree Anne Finucane.

About Anne Finucane, 2014 Nantucket Celebration Honoree

Anne Finucane is global chief strategy and marketing officer at Bank of America, and a member of the company's executive management team. She chairs the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, overseeing a 10-year, \$2 billion charitable giving goal, and also serves as president of the Northeast region. In addition, Finucane leads Bank of America's corporate social responsibility program, which leverages the unmatched capabilities of the company and power of its global platform to help partners, people, communities and a broad client and customer base more effectively address a wide range of social issues.

Under Finucane's leadership, Bank of America has made significant contributions to Irish arts and culture over the past few years. Through its Art Conservation Project, the company worked with the National Gallery of Ireland to restore the iconic painting *The Marriage of Strongbow and Aoife* by Maclise; in addition, Bank of America partnered with the Abbey Theatre to conserve four portraits by John Butler Yeats, and loaned approximately 100 photographs from its corporate art collection to the Irish Museum of Modern Art. In 2013 Bank of America awarded a \$1 million grant to Music Generation – Ireland's National Music Education Programme – which will help build a national framework to deliver local, performance-based music education opportunities to complement the teaching and learning of music for children and young people in Ireland's public schools, with a focus on those most in need.

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 \$480 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.

www.theirelandfunds.org

Members of the media interested in more information please contact:

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Photo Credit and Captions:*

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DSC_0833 – Chris Quick, Mike Barnicle & Anne Finucane, Bob Reynolds, Steve Greeley

DSC_0873 – Mike Barnicle & Anne Finucane

DSC_0725 – Joe Scarborough, Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, Mika Brzezinski, Steve Greeley

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