

The Worldwide Ireland Funds reach the \$200 Million Goal of their Promising Ireland Campaign, to benefit Irish Charities, six months ahead of schedule.

Announcement is made at the 30th Annual Worldwide Conference in Kerry.

Friday June 19th, 2015

The Worldwide Ireland Funds have announced that they have reached the \$200 million goal of their *Promising Ireland* Campaign, six months ahead of schedule. In total over 10,000 donors from the 12 countries contributed to this extraordinary total to support Irish charities and causes worldwide.

The announcement was made at the Gala dinner of the conference at which the honored guest was An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. The Taoiseach expressed his gratitude to the 180 philanthropists gathered in Kerry from around the world.

The *Promising Ireland* Campaign was launched in 2009 with a goal of raising \$100 million. When that initial goal was reached ahead of schedule, it was doubled to \$200 million. All funds raised have come from private philanthropic sources around the world as the Ireland Funds neither seek nor accept public money.

Commenting, Kieran McLoughlin President and CEO of The Worldwide Ireland Funds, said "Our donors are proud of Ireland and want to give back. They appreciate how Irish charities have helped maintain the country's social fabric during a very difficult time. The success of the Campaign is a tribute to these charities, our donors and the power of philanthropy."

Over the past year projects assisted by The Worldwide Ireland Funds include: Music Generation, Foróige Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), Fighting Words, Women for Election, The Early Learning Initiative (ELI), Playhouse Derry, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland and the Little Museum of Dublin. These organizations represent the over 800 not-for-profit groups that have benefitted directly from the philanthropic support of The Ireland Funds *Promising Ireland* Campaign.

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About The Worldwide Ireland Funds

The Worldwide Ireland Funds are a philanthropic network across 12 countries that has raised over \$500 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 sources - individuals, corporations and foundations.

In response to the severe downturn in the Irish economy, The Worldwide Ireland Funds launched the Promising Ireland Campaign in 2009 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 was exceeded and the target was doubled to raise \$200 million. This \$200 million goal was reached six months ahead of schedule. As a result, over one third of the Funds' total earnings since foundation have been raised during the six years of the Campaign. Over 800 outstanding projects and organizations have received support from the Promising Ireland Campaign.

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