



THE  
IRELAND  
FUNDS  
GREAT BRITAIN

# Annual Grant Round 2021 Impact Report



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Progress  
Through  
Philanthropy  
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# Delivering For Ireland

If delivering for Ireland and Irish communities is at the heart of The Ireland Funds' mission, then the generosity and compassion of our donors is the lifeblood that powers our endeavours. Every year, funds raised by The Ireland Funds Great Britain are directed to charities and not-for-profit organisations through our Annual Grant Round. Maximum impact is what we strive to achieve in allocating these funds. We are proud to share with you the impact of your generosity in 2020/21.

## Creative and new ways of working

Restrictions was the by-word for the difficult times of 2020/21 which meant our fundraising activities and ability to fundraise were limited. However, if the pandemic narrowed our reach, then this was offset by the outstanding, innovative and creative work of our grantees. As they adapted to new ways of working, The Ireland Funds Great Britain was there to help them ensure a continuity of care for the communities they tirelessly deliver for.

We celebrate our brilliant grantees, the outstanding work they do and the lives that have changed because of them. In joining us to praise their valuable work, please also take a moment to feel proud of the support you have given us.

Kind regards,

**Katie Jemmett**

Executive Director

The Ireland Funds Great Britain



# Supporting Communities

The Ireland Funds' expertise and insight into the non-profit sector ensures that all donations are used where the need is the greatest, and we focus our funding in four key areas:



**Community Development**



**Peace and Reconciliation**



**Education**



**Arts & Culture**

## Reaching People

The Ireland Funds Great Britain delivers much needed funds to charities and not-for-profit organisations in two ways:

### ● Donor Advised Grants

We work closely with donors to understand the causes they are passionate about and we help them to direct their philanthropy to Ireland in a tax efficient way. The Gift Aid claimed on these donations is granted to the same charities, offering additional benefit and support.

### ● Annual Grant Round

Funds raised through our flagship fundraising events, 100 Club, Young Leaders and private and corporate donations are directed to the Annual Grant Round. Charities are invited to apply for funding to support their projects and communities. All applications are reviewed and assessed by our Grants Committee.





## 2021 Annual Grant Round

In 2021, The Ireland Funds Great Britain Annual Grant Round provided much-needed financial support for 19 remarkable not-for-profit organisations; a total of £76,742 was offered in grants. Aided by our donors' generosity, these outstanding organisations delivered for their communities in the following priority areas:



**Digital Inclusion**



**Elderly Services**



**Mental Health Support**



**Tackling Social Isolation**



**Support For Arts  
And Culture**



**Youth Engagement  
Second Level Education**

## Annual Grant Round 2021 Grantees

Brent Irish Advisory Service  
Coventry Irish Society  
Cruse Bereavement Care  
Eglish Cross Community Group  
Iaml.ltd ( lamirish )  
Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy  
Irish Chaplaincy  
Irish Community Care  
Irish Community Services  
Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith

Irish Heritage Limited  
Irish Music and Dance in London (IMDL)  
Leeds Irish Health and Homes  
Lewisham Irish Community Centre  
London Irish Centre  
London Irish Pensioners Choir  
Luton Irish Forum  
MyBag Charity  
Via Wings

10,000 +

People directly benefited from The Ireland Funds Great Britain funding in 2021 through these 19 organisations



LUTON IRISH FORUM



Irish Pensioners Choir



12,000 +

free information and advice sessions providing social, financial and legal support



125,000 +

meals provided including meals on wheels and food bank distribution



# Charity Spotlights

## Lewisham Irish Community Centre

Reducing social isolation and loneliness, Lewisham Irish Community Centre saw its community meals project boosted by our Annual Grant Round as it continued to provide meals to an elderly Irish community in need.

### Our Impact

*"It's the only time the doorbell rings,"* one beneficiary said of the Centre's generosity. *"I look forward to chatting to the volunteers."* Those chats and meals happened more than 1,000 times last year as the Centre provided weekly meals to elderly and vulnerable service users, thanks to the support from The Ireland Funds Great Britain Annual Grant Round.



## ICAP

Aided by our generous donors, Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy (icap) continued to meet its aims to improve mental health in the Irish community. Older and vulnerable Irish people in London were among the beneficiaries in 2021.

### Our Impact

184 hours of vital psychosocial support groups were provided for 40 older and vulnerable Irish people - a direct impact of the support icap received from The Ireland Funds Great Britain 2021 Annual Grant Round. This was in addition to 30 hours of individual support, while social gatherings were arranged for 10 people. The results are life enhancing for service users - *"I would not be here today without my therapist's support,"* one said. *"I cannot find the words to express how eternally grateful I am for icap."*

## MyBag

MyBag does its part to try and ensure no child feels alone and that vulnerable young people in care are made to feel loved. It does this through the provision of birthday cards and comfort boxes of clothes, food and hygiene items, four times a year.

### Our Impact

Support from The Ireland Funds Great Britain allowed the charity to increase the regularity in which it sends out comfort boxes. 720 boxes were sent out in 2021 with 180 young people thankful each quarter. In addition, MyBag spent £750 on birthday cards for children in care in Nottinghamshire - a relatively small sum that had a tremendous impact. *"Often, it can be the only form of card or gift that these children receive,"* the charity said.





# In Their Own Words

## *“They kept us together at a difficult time”*

### **Via Wings**

“Wage cuts, furlough and then redundancy - the impact of my husband losing his job was immense on our family of four. Overnight we went from living on his £50k annual salary to being £200 short on our bills. I was distraught. I couldn't ask family or friends for help. I felt helpless until I saw an advert for Via Wings. Twice, I picked up the phone, but it wasn't until the second day that I could actually call the number.

The girl in Via Wings asked if I had heating. I was embarrassed to say 'no'. She told me not to worry and that Via Wings would be there for us until my husband got his first wage. Via Wings texted me later that day to say an oil delivery would be coming the next day along with food parcels. I cried again. I had never felt anything like the mixture of relief, thanks and exhaustion. They pulled me back from the edge. They helped keep our family together at a very, very difficult time in our lives.”

## *“I cannot stress how helpful they've been”*

### **Cruse Bereavement Group: Mental Health Support**

“We lost our mum unexpectedly during COVID. It was scary and distressing. None of us could be with her during the last weeks of her life because of the lockdown. The experience was unreal - like something from a movie, only worse. It shocked me to the core and I reached out to Cruse for support. I cannot stress how helpful they have been to me during my grief process - in fact, I am now interested in becoming a volunteer myself”.

## *“Our family is understood”*

### **#IamIrish**

“There's a saying - 'you know you're home when you can see your face in the people passing you'. I am a Dubliner, originally, but, having lived abroad for a long time, I have never had my family reflected in my Irish community - until I found #IamIrish. As a white Irish mother of three Irish-Nigerian children, claiming and being proud of our heritage is long overdue. Hearing other people speak about belonging and their experience breaks down barriers for my children. The work #IamIrish do is powerful. It's a place where our family is understood.”

# Grant Round 2022

The brighter months of 2022 saw The Ireland Funds Great Britain return with renewed vigour to our full fundraising activities. This has had a direct impact on a further 34 charities who have received grants totalling £138,300 in our 2022 Annual Grant Round. We look forward to sharing their full impact with you next year when the projects have concluded.

Among those organisations funded include **The Vale Pantry** who, in the current cost-of-living crisis, are providing vital food and support for 228 households trapped in food poverty. **Lets Unite for Autism** do exceptional educational work to tackle the stigma and denial around autism that prevents children in diverse communities from receiving support and services early; while **Bikes for Refugees** (Scotland) who, through their cycling initiative, support the resettlement and inclusion of isolated and socio-economically disadvantaged refugees and asylum seekers in Glasgow.

## Looking Ahead

Our 2023 Grant Round will work with charities who need our support more than ever. From the surging cost of living to the ongoing energy crisis, the ongoing funding of their work is crucial as they seek to improve the wellbeing of the vulnerable and support those most in need in these turbulent times.





## Empowering Our Communities

Every donation to The Ireland Funds has the potential to change a life. This is the extraordinary impact of your generosity. We are proud of the charities we fund through our Annual Grant Round. We are grateful for the important work they do for their communities.

The Ireland Funds Great Britain would like to extend our thanks to all of our supporters including our private and corporate donors, 100 Club members, Young Leaders, guests at our fundraising events - without your dedicated donations and support, this valuable funding stream would not be possible.

### Support Your Community

We invite you to support our work by joining the 100 Club; an initiative that raises funds for our Annual Grant Round. Members donate £100 a month and 100% of this donation is ringfenced to support organisations like those you have read about today.

Take a minute to make a difference.

Set up your direct debit for a monthly donation of £100 [here](#)

# With Thanks

The Ireland Funds Great Britain would also like to extend our thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors and the Grants Committee who give their time to ensure your donations are awarded to outstanding organisations making a real impact in our community.

## IFGB Board

**Eoin Bastible** - Partner, Sera Global

**Emily Bohill** - Managing Partner, Bohill Partners

**Evelyn Bourke** - Non-executive director, Bank of Ireland and Marks & Spencer Group plc and former CEO, Bupa Group

**Ruairi Conneely** - Managing Director, Sunlight Project Finance Ltd

**John Feeney** - Managing Director, Head of European Corporate Finance at Mizuho

**Emer Finnan** - President (Europe), Kildare Partners

**Rory Godson** - Owner, Powerscourt, and Chair, The Ireland Funds Great Britain

**Garrett Hayes** - Partner, McDermott Will & Emery

**Conor Hillery** - Co-Head of Investment Banking (EMEA), J.P Morgan

**Rachel Naughton** - Head of SME Banking, AIB

**Sue O'Brien OBE** - Executive Chair, People Advisory, UK & Vice Chair, Teneo

**Declan Tiernan** - Co-Head of Europe and Partner, Oak Hill Advisors

**Bridget Walsh** - Global Private Equity Industry Market Leader, EY

**Zachary Webb** - Director – Catalyst, M&G Investments

**Susan Whelan** - Chief Executive, Leicester City Football Club and Senior Executive Vice President, King Power International

## Grants Committee:

**Seamus McGarry** (Chair until 2021), **Ruairi Conneely**, **Ruairi Cullen**, **John Curran**, **Anthony Harte** (until 2021), **Michael Keaveney**, **Eileen Kelliher**, **Gemma Moynihan** (from 2022), **Rachel Naughton** (from 2022), **Victoria Wallace**, **Susan Whelan**



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The Ireland Funds Great Britain raises money to make a real difference to those in need and to support Irish culture in Great Britain and also on the island of Ireland.

Progress Through Philanthropy

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