

*Celebrating this year's honorees who are from all walks of life and every kind of job.
They each serve and advance worthy concerns and causes and by doing so
are living up to the best traditions of the American Irish.*



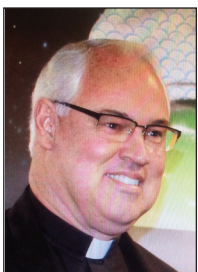
Friday, June 10th, 2022

Rosie O'Grady's, 800 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019

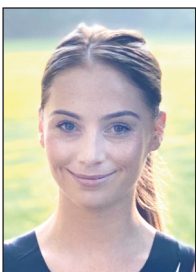
2022 Community Champions



Keith Breen



Fr. Mark Connell



Sarah Cosgrave



Katie Curran



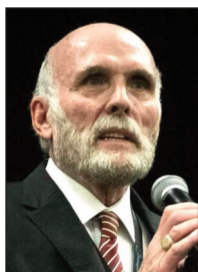
Áine Duggan



Colleen Egan



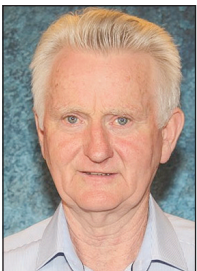
John Handy



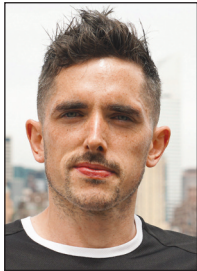
Michael Hogan



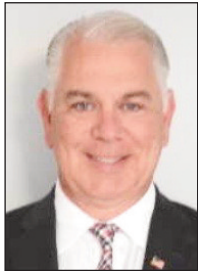
Amy Brett



Patrick Buckley



Seamus Keane



Brian Lang



Jane McCooley



Nicholas McKeon



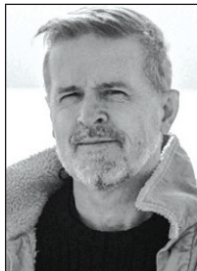
Tim Murphy



Cathy Nolan



Bernadette Clancy



Colin Broderick



Padraig Ó Cearúill



Liz Prendergast



Emer Quinlan
Mooney



Niamh Reilly



John Richards



Catherine Schramm



Michael Carroll

Celebrating Our Community Champions

By Ray O'Hanlon

The idea of community is something that we all cherish, but sometimes, perhaps, take a little for granted. Much of the time we go about our daily lives as individuals, or as members of families.

The broader concept of community does enter our consideration of course, sometimes in a positive context, sometimes in a situation in which one or more of us might be under pressure or stress. It's in difficult times that we look for the headline about the community "coming together."

We all understand that if that line was nowhere to be seen we would be in, to say the least, a spot of bother. In the normal run of things our communities depend for their health and well-being on individuals and groups reaching out, taking an extra step, going that extra mile.

It's fair to say that most of the work undertaken by people we would recognize as being community champions goes largely unseen and unacknowledged. And that's as most would have it. But from time to time we like to see what is being done to make life easier and better for people. We like to acknowledge this work and reward it, if for no other reason than for the possibility that by holding unselfish acts up to the light we might inspire others to follow, to pitch in, to take that extra step for others.

Back in 1996, the Irish Echo held an awards event at the Irish Consulate in

Manhattan to honor individuals who fell under the definition of "Unsung Hero." What we learned at the time and as a result of people nominating their unsung heroes, was both surprising and inspiring.

We're in the business of news and knowing things, but the unsung heroes who stepped into the light that evening twenty-six years ago were as surprising to us as they were remarkable in their previously, but mostly unsung, lives.

Unsung Heroes was a one-off event. But we never forgot the impression that it made on us. And in the intervening years we have not forgotten that there are people in the community who, every day, work to make the world a better place. Most of these efforts takes place under the radar.

Regardless of the precise nature of the work, and drawing on the spirit of those unsung heroes from 1996, we held our inaugural Community Champions Awards event at Rosie O'Grady's in Manhattan in 2016. The awards were well received and, in truth, we were not surprised. People want to acknowledge the best in their fellows. The Echo simply provided an opportunity and venue. We did so again in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and were planning a similar get together in the spring of 2020.

But of course we know what hap-



pened in the early months of 2020. Covid-19 was unleashed upon the world, and the constellation of definable communities in our world. So a gathering to celebrate community champions was suddenly a non-starter. Nevertheless, a new plan was drawn up and it was decided to go ahead with the awards, though now with a particular focus on Covid-19 and honorees who were, in some way or another, working in the front lines on behalf of our Irish American community, and our broader American one.

And so, in November of 2020, the champions of our community were celebrated by means of technology. It was

a salute to a group of extraordinary individuals from around the United States who were battling the pandemic and its grim effects in a variety of ways. It was splendid celebration but of course we fervently hoped it would be a one off, that Covid-19 would be forced into retreat and ultimately eliminated.

Then we could return to honoring our community champions in person in a physical space.

And that we did in December of 2021 with a return to Rosie O'Grady's helped by the wonders of vaccination. This would be the sixth celebration of Community Champions.

The emphasis in 2020 had been on honorees working in the fields of medicine and health care. Many of the 2021 honorees were also drawn from these fields as Covid remained a daily challenge.

But the 2021 awards also cast an eye back to the 2019 event bestowed honors on a range of individuals working in a range of fields.

This Friday evening, June 10, and again in Rosie O'Grady's, there will be a gathering, the seventh such, to celebrate an array of champions in a world not yet rid of Covid, but one learning to work around it day to day.

We have much to be thankful for. We have our Community Champions to be thankful for. Congratulations to them, one and all.

We congratulate all our Award Winners

Keith Breen

Amy Brett

Colin Broderick

Patrick Buckley

Michael Carroll

Bernadette Clancy

Fr. Mark Connell

Sarah Cosgrave

Katie Curran

Áine Duggan

Colleen Egan

John Handy

Michael Hogan

Seamus Keane

Brian Lang

Jane McCooey

Nicholas McKeon

Tim Murphy

Cathy Nolan

Pádraig Ó Cearúill

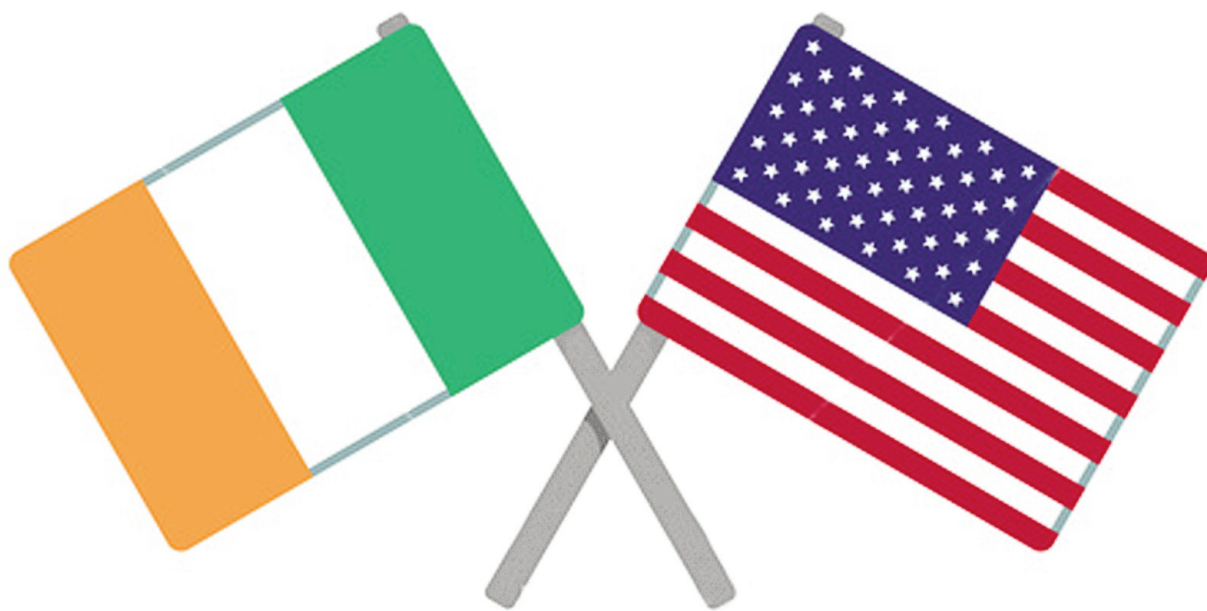
Liz Prendergast

Emer Quinlan

Niamh Reilly

John Richards

Catherine Schramm



*The Council for American Ireland Relations, Inc.
would like to congratulate*



Mike Carroll
*on receiving The Irish Echo
Champion of Civil Rights
in Northern Ireland Award*

*From your fellow board members, Brian O'Dwyer (Chairman)
Cody McCone (VP & Sgt at Arms) and Ed Brady (Treasurer)*

Solutions that make sense

Peter McDermott

pmcdermott@irishecho.com

"It's like bailing out the flood without turning off the faucet."

That's how Áine Duggan describes New York City's approach to the problem of homelessness.

It could be and should be different, said the president and CEO of the Partnership to End Homelessness.

There are solutions and they have been tested and have worked elsewhere.

"The most humanitarian approach is the most cost-effective," she said. "We've done the math on it."

"It is seen as intractable," Duggan said, which might suggest that it's been static over time, but, she added, "the fact is we have much greater levels of homelessness than decades ago."

The Partnership for the Homeless worked on the problem for nearly 40 years and came to the view that the trend could be radically reversed; recently, its new president and CEO oversaw the change of name to reflect that philosophy.

Duggan, who grew up in rural West Cork, has spent most of her adult life working on and thinking about social issues in America's biggest city. (See her Community Champions bio on Page 38.)

She said the most difficult part of the homeless problem, street homelessness, demands the greatest patience and sustained engagement to tackle it, and it "gets almost of all of the media attention."

But the street homeless are a little under 10 percent of the numbers involved – 4,000 to 5,000 people – compared to the 50,000 women and children that bed down in sheltered accommodation each night in New York City. Or, one could say it's 1 percent of the problem in that up to half a million people are in rental arrears.

Duggan said the typical adult that her organization steps in to assist is a woman of color, a young working mom, perhaps with a frontline job.

"She's earning. She might have one or two kids. She can cover the rent and the food bills in a good month," the president and CEO said. "Something happens – there's an extra medical bill or there's a death in the family. Some extraordinary expense and it puts her behind. She can't pay rent for a month."

There's more money owed in arrears than the non-profits can pay off. Covid has exacerbated things greatly, of course, because so many people were made part-time at work in 2020. Most are back with their full-time jobs, but some can't cover the rental arrears incurred. There are now hundreds of cases winding their way through the court system, Duggan reported, because the eviction moratorium has ended and the federal money for rental assistance has dried up.

Her organization's efforts are first



Áine Duggan is president and CEO of the Partnership to End Homelessness.

PHOTO BY PETER MCDERMOTT

of all focused upon helping families financially so they don't go to eviction proceedings.

The street homeless are a particularly vulnerable and marginal population, but it is the working poor who are bearing the brunt of overcrowding and evictions in a city that doesn't have enough affordable housing.

"Very often they're families who've suffered through domestic violence," Duggan said of those in sheltered accommodation. Upwards of 80 percent will have a domestic violence history or of childhood sexual abuse, or current situation going on, and the Partnership to End Homelessness provides some counselling in the short term as well as referrals for therapy in the longer term.

New York has at least in its favor a legal right to shelter, in contrast to certain other wealthy cities where homelessness is rather more visible and ultimately more costly in terms of health and social services, not to mention the damage done to the social fabric.

It costs New York \$70,000 per annum for a family to reside in shelter, while the average stay in the system is a year and a half. As the arrears the Partnership to End Homelessness typically pays or helps pay are \$4,000 or \$5,000, it argues that policy solutions that involve a bigger and earlier intervention ultimately make the most sense.

System simplified

At the micro level, the Partnership to End Homelessness changed its way of doing things in 2020. Let's say a family owes \$5,000. It might be eligible for a "one-shot deal" from the city, which might pay \$3,500 or \$3,800 out of the \$5,000.

"The family is left with this balance," Duggan said. The family then

usually makes it up by going to a series of non-profits, which might give \$300 here and \$400 there until the target is reached.

In each place, it has to do an "intake," answering the same questions that the city had asked, meeting with officials and counselors, and letters from each of the other organizations, and so on.

"It's a fulltime job navigating that system," Duggan said. "We don't do that. If they're eligible for government funding we help them get government funding, but we cover the rest of the balance. We do what we call a 'full-payment model.'"

"The landlord is more likely to engage with us, because they are not waiting for multiple checks. They are dealing with the one entity, and they learn to trust that entity."

"It's better for our donors because we're able to negotiate with the landlord and make the dollars go further."

For Duggan, there are no heroes or villains in this problem, for the most part, just things that work, or would work if tried properly, and those that don't so much.

"In some ways it's a very simple prescription, but because of the bureaucratic nature of our systems it's a real uphill battle to get it done."

"We are expending most of the effort and most of the money after the fact. We should be investing in prevention," she said. "It's not about any one entity – it's not about any one mayor, or pointing the finger and saying that this person is doing x, y and z wrong. It's an entire system – it's multiple systems all working together in this way that's feeding the problem."

Referring to the engagement with street homelessness, where multiple problems intersect, but most of all chronic mental health issues and poverty, she said "there are so many obstacles in the way."

Duggan added, "The primary way we should be engaging is with mental health services. A lot of it is making sure you have the right mental health workers, that they are properly trained, they're properly resourced. And now you have a combination of the NYPD and mental health workers doing outreach, approaching people on the streets. But that's difficult work. Does it belong with the NYPD? Are they being trained separately or are they being trained together?"

"Are they going out every night in teams with the same people?"

"You're not getting them off the street by engaging with them once," she said of a homeless person in the subway or the street. "You're going to have to engage with them nine times, 10 times, before they build the trust with you. In order to be able to receive the assistance you are trying to provide. And that means you have to have a very low case count in order for you to be effective at that job."

'Helsinki model'

As for the more manageable crisis – albeit much bigger in terms of numbers – of families in sheltered accommodation, Duggan believes the priority must be to get stable housing.

There's a lot of interest in the U.S. in the "Scottish model," so-called because the onus is on the Scottish government to house a family within 90 days of their entry into the sheltered accommodation system. It's clearly better than anything here, but for Duggan that's too "downstream" a solution, because it suggests a family must fall into homelessness before its problems can be addressed.

The "Helsinki model" is a more "upstream" intervention and it makes more sense to the Partnership to End Homelessness.

Finland, indeed, is the only European Union country where homelessness has been on the decrease.

A 2019 Guardian piece on its Housing First policy reported, "As in many countries, homelessness in Finland had long been tackled using a staircase model: you were supposed to move through different stages of temporary accommodation as you got your life back on track, with an apartment as the ultimate reward."

It quoted Juha Kaakinen, one of the new program's founders, saying, "We had to get rid of the night shelters and short-term hostels we still had back then. They had a very long history in Finland, and everyone could see they were not getting people out of homelessness. We decided to reverse the assumptions."

"We decided to make the housing unconditional. To say, look, you don't need to solve your problems before you get a home. Instead, a home should be the secure foundation that makes it easier to solve your problems."

That's the foundation stone, according to Duggan.

"The best way for anyone to think about that is our own lives," the president and CEO said. "If we didn't have our apartments to go to tonight, if we weren't able to close the door behind us, to settle in, make dinner, unwind from the day, and then get up and do it all again tomorrow, we wouldn't be able to function."

"That's the experience we have with a lot of the families we have – once they're stably housed, you pay off rent arrears, you can engage them in all sorts of other services and they're able to start, they're able to grow their own stability. It's remarkable what families are able to achieve. It does work."

Duggan then raised again and broadened her central point, "When the most humanitarian approach is the most cost-effective, then there's a big question as to why we're not investing in it."



The Emerald Society of Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

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2022 Irish Echo Community Champion
Award Winner

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Community Champ Cathy Nolan Stepping Down after Lifetime of Public Service

by Peter Nolan

"May a path of yellow moonlight bring us all safely home."

With those eloquent words of Irish poetry Assemblywoman Catherine (Cathy) Nolan voted yes on the final bill of her long, illustrious career in the New York State Assembly, reaching back to her Irish roots to bring down the curtain on a life in public service that dates back to 1984.

With news of the horrors of Buffalo and Uvalde still fresh, Nolan (no relation to this writer), repurposed the words of Irish poet John O'Donohue that she had first read to her Assembly colleagues in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As for the bill itself, it called for a temporary state commission to conduct a study and produce a report on the utilization of Paid Family Leave. Or as Nolan told the Irish Echo in a lengthy phone conversation, "we have had a paid family leave program since 2016 but it was a pretty modest program and I would like to see it expanded."

When the 64 year old Nolan announced earlier this year that she would be stepping down from the office that she held for 38 years it set off a scramble for her seat representing the 37th Assembly District.

The Assemblywoman was frank with the Irish Echo for her reason for stepping down saying in an almost off-handed way, "I really had considered retiring three years ago, then ironically decided to run one more time and did win my reelection — but then found that I had cancer."

"I'm feeling well thank God, I've been good and my cancer's stable," Nolan said before adding with a hearty laugh, "but you know that you can make all the plans you want to but you never know what's in store."

That hearty laugh was much in evidence throughout our conversation but so too was a sense of pride as we discussed something very important to Nolan, family.

"My father worked for the phone company and was a very active labor guy, shop steward, so when I became chair of the labor committee, (the first woman to hold that position) that was a very, very happy day for him."

"He went to Queens Vocational, and he was in the Air Force for four years, he was a sergeant in the Air Force. And, you know, he had a very great love of country. I was thinking of him yesterday, Memorial Day. A great guy, and very, very committed. His brother, my uncle, was a World War II vet, and I have a cousin - I'm tearing up - a Vietnam vet. So, definitely got an Irish family that served this country. Very, very much so."



LEADING FROM THE FRONT: With members of Teamsters Local 804 in the Well, Albany, NY, last month.

"And," Nolan continued, "my mother worked at a local hospital here. As a secretary to a local hospital, and, you know, she would have loved to have been a nurse. So, of course, the way these things are, my sister became a nurse, and my brother became a police officer. And I became a politician, which my brother loves being in the union movement, so the three of us did kind of live out their dreams a little bit."

Perhaps surprisingly for a politician from Queens an issue that really stirs Nolan is her success in getting Justice for Farmworkers through the Assembly. "Thank you for bringing it up," Nolan said before getting a little emotional recalling a 1990s trip upstate to see the conditions farmers were subjected to.

"That was a heartbreak," she recalls. "The workers were absolutely mistreated, most people had no idea they were making subminimum wages and New York was really behind."

Nolan described a process that took 20 years with small gains along the way ultimately ending with the farmworkers winning the right to unionize. There remains work to be done, Nolan says, "we still don't have the 40 hour week," but she is hoping to get there eventually through tax incentives for the farm owners.

Nolan's stance as a pro-Union politician came in for some scrutiny back in 2019 when she supported the controversial proposal for infamous anti-union company Amazon to build a headquarters in Queens.

Three years after Amazon pulled the plug on the deal Nolan still looks at the project as "a missed opportunity."

Explaining her position on the deal, Nolan begins, "the project was not a perfect project." But Nolan points out that Amazon "had agreed to do a very large community board, which most projects don't agree to."

"And I felt the support of the late Héctor Figueroa (former President of Local 32 BJ Service Workers union) and Gary La Barbera of the Building trades, was key for me because that was the first time that Amazon had had any real acceptance of unionization."

"I know that there is the recent vote in the warehouse but I think the fact that they were willing to sign agreements with the building trades and 32BJ, I think, was very significant."

"So," Nolan told the Irish Echo, "I made my choice based on what I thought was a valid reason. And obviously, some people disagreed, but I'm comfortable with the choice I made."

"You know," Nolan added, "70 elected officials in the city signed the letter to tell Amazon to come to

New York, so I wasn't alone in that. But when it heated up, a lot of people changed their position. I did not, you know, it's not my style."

Perhaps Nolan's most difficult brief was education, where she served as the Assembly's Education Chair from 2006 through 2018, an assignment Nolan says comes "with a lot of stress."

Nolan, whose son Nicholas attended Aviation High School in Queens, says of the education post, "you can never make anybody happy because it's about people's children."

Still, when prompted, Nolan points to several achievements during her time at the helm.

The Campaign for Fiscal Equity saw state aid divided up more fairly, "frankly, a little more geared towards children with lower income children," Nolan notes. "So that helped the city of New York."

As Chair Nolan says she expanded the pool of agents. When I first got to Albany it was just about



THE WAY WE WERE: Cathy Nolan with Governor Mario Cuomo and District Attorney Brown.

all men, so we wanted to put more women in." "I put the first Asian American Chinese woman on the Board of Regents from Queens County. I put the first Latina in, and I feel pretty good about that."

"And, the retiring Assemblywoman notes, "the number one local thing was that we finally got rid of all the trailers because our district was notorious for overcrowding, districts 70 and 24. And between Sunnyside and Long Island City we had kids for years and years; their classroom was a trailer, and just just such a terrible outrage. So we worked really hard and finally got the capital money. But we had to put a lot of state money into it; it took a long time."

Cathy Nolan, who will be honored as a Community Champion by the Irish Echo on June 10, left the New York State Assembly with these words from Beannacht/Blessing, a poem by Irish poet John O'Donohue. (Nolan's additions in parentheses)

*May the nourishment of the earth
be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors
be yours.*

*And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around (each and every
member of this house) you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life. (in service to our
country.)*



IRISH CHEER: With Al O'Hagan, Grand Marshal of the NYC St Patrick's Day Parade, 1986.



Dedication of two new boats for the
San Miguel Academy Rowing Program through the
A Most Beautiful Thing Inclusion Fund, October 2021

**The Board of Trustees of San Miguel Program
Congratulates Father Mark Connell
*and all of the 2022 Irish Echo
Community Champion Award Honorees***

18 years ago, Father Mark envisioned a meaningful educational option for the children of Newburgh. That dream became a reality when San Miguel Academy opened its doors in 2006. Today, San Miguel Program is pioneering new strategies for low-income urban learners while creating post-primary school options for under-served boys and girls. Over 250 families have benefited from a San Miguel education with more families being added each year.

The Board of Trustees is proud of the success of San Miguel Program and grateful to Father Mark for his vision and determination. Education equality and breaking the cycle of poverty through education are at the forefront of everything Father Mark does for San Miguel Program.

San Miguel Program
245 Renwick Street
Newburgh, NY

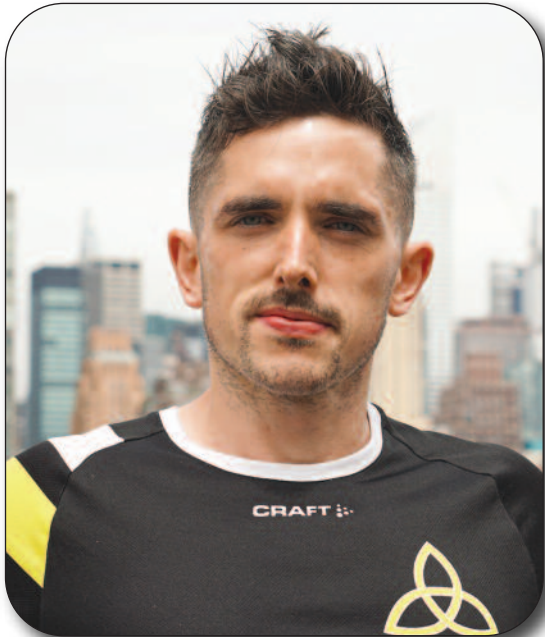
Seamus Keane

Place of birth: Louisburgh, Ireland.
What motivated you to get involved in your community? Shortly after I finished college I read a story about a Fitness Trainer from Galway Pat Divilly who had brought over 500 people to an event and helped raise a lot of money for charity and for the Community. This sowed a seed and for a long time after I wanted to leave my job in Finance and be a Fitness Trainer as I saw the effect that a healthy body and mind can have on an individual's health and on a communities too.
How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? When I finally plucked up the courage to go all in I decided I was going to help positively impact as many lives as I could through Health

and Fitness Events and raise money for deserving causes through these events also. Fast forward 5 years and I have been lucky enough to be involved with some great people and play a part in some amazing Community Initiatives through 5K Walk/Run Events right up to Marathons and Mountain Hikes.
Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Exercise is a great metaphor for life. In Clann Health we encourage our Community to lean into fear and push themselves out of their comfort zones with Exercise but also in other areas of their lives. This helps to build and maintain a strong body and mind. We feel better, we have more energy and we become better people.
Something people would be surprised to know about me: I played

pool for Ireland so if you know anyone that wants to hustle for a few quid ;).

In 2014 Seamus arrived in New York and was working in Finance. He soon realized he wanted to work in the Health and Fitness industry and so left his job to create Clann Health. Clann Health are a community of people who live to their fullest through Health, Fitness and Adventure. This is done through their Personal Training Programs, Fitness Classes, and Group Adventure Trips. Additionally Seamus and his team are heavily involved in fundraising initiatives in the New York Community primarily in partnership with Team Aisling and Concern Worldwide raising hundreds of thousands of dollars together.



John Richards

Place of birth: Los Angeles.
What motivated you to get involved in your community? Two fold. First, being the founder of the Irish American Business Networks, I saw an opportunity to leverage the collective strength of the group's membership (now totaling appx 20,000) to be a true grass roots movement for good. This opportunity was not only to help fellow IABN members, but for communities throughout country and beyond.
Next. Having spent over 20+ years in the staffing industry, I wanted to leverage a career's worth of knowledge and business contacts all over the country, into helping individuals with job search and career advice. This was especially handy during the pandemic, and now as we have started to emerge from the pandemic.
How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? Via the examples I mentioned above I am proud to report that my organization (The Irish American Business Networks) has raised over \$80,000 for our respective charities over the past decade.
And I am personally proud that my efforts in utilizing my industry experience in employment/staffing, has enabled me to help dozens of individuals from all over the globe land good

jobs or facilitate meaningful business relationships.
Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Absolutely. My industry is unique in that I don't deal with widgets, or products per se. I deal with people, both on the company side as well as the individual side. All people come from a different place, have different sensibilities, and require different ways to communicate effectively with. My job has enabled me to develop relevant skills to help in the community.
My profession has also enabled me to develop strong, lasting friendships and contacts, that have participated and assisted me in the various charitable or philanthropic pursuits I have tried to bring exposure to.
Something people would be surprised to know about me: Although very proud of the Irish in me, I recently learned that I have several old branches of my family tree directly descended from the Royal House of Tudor.

I live with my wife Georgia and 2 kids Quinn and Jillian in San Clemente CA. a little beach town half way between LA and San Diego. I'm in business development for Ledgent Technology, a nationwide technical staffing provider. I absolutely live for travel! I also enjoy sports of all kinds. I am active politically, and passionate about the two charities I support: the St. Baldrick's Foundation as well as the Surfrider Foundation.



Nicholas McKeon

Place of birth: Queens NY.
What motivated you to get involved in your community? I am a firm believer in paying it forward. I have been lucky enough to benefit and be influenced throughout my life from time given up by Coaches, Mentors and Teachers so I thought it was my turn to do the same for others.
How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? Working with my Manhattan College community I think we have been able to prepare the players for

what comes after school and allow them to benefit from the experience of the alumni. In PSLC community we have provided a great baseball and softball program and make our organization a hub for community and relationship building.
Has your job or profession helped in your community work? LBI Software has always has always been supportive of me volunteering my time and has allowed me the flexibility to do so when needed. The have been a big advocate for the mentoring program that I have started for Manhattan College Baseball community and have been supportive through internships and financial resources.
Something people would be surprised to know about me: Got to play in Shea Stadium and Yankee Stadium the last week of my senior year of High School.

I was born and raised in Queens, NY. I graduated Archbishop Molly and then attended Manhattan College on both an academic and athletic scholarship. I currently live in Manhattan in Peter Cooper Village. I have been married to my wife Kate for 10 years and have 2 children Avery and Nick Eamon IV. I am the Chief Growth Officer for LBI Software, a custom software company that specializes in Sports Technology platforms for pro sports franchises.



Pádraig Ó Cearúill

Place of birth: Gaoth Dobhair. Co Donegal.
What motivated you to get involved in your community? The Irish language contains information about our culture, our ancestors and the land itself. As a native Irish speaker, I am keenly aware of our loss as Irish language use recedes. I have become an educator to promote and preserve the Irish language.
How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? Many of the students whom I have taught over the years have travelled to the various Gaeltacht's in Ireland for the language , the

music and to attend Language courses there where they are enriched by the experience and contribute to the local economy.
Some of my students have become teachers themselves and are now actively promoting and preserving the language.
Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Yes. As a professor in Glucksman Ireland House, New York University where I have been teaching since 1994. I have also worked on an NYU six week summer abroad course since 1998 bringing up to 50 students on that course annually. I have also provided community outreach classes along with many cultural events over the years at Glucksman Ireland House.
Something people would be surprised to know about me: I worked as a bartender in Hells Kitchen when I first came to New York.
I was born and raised in the Gaoth Dobhair in the Irish speaking region (Gaeltacht) in shadow of mount Errigal in Donegal. It was a center for language learning and traditional music and still is. In the summer, In the 70's and early eighties I met and worked with many of the hundreds of students from Belfast, Newry and Omagh who came to attend Irish College courses in Gweedore and brought stories of the Troubles. I studied Irish and History in UC Galway, received a Higher Diploma in Irish language Education in Trinity College Dublin and a Master's in Communications in NYU.

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Niamh Reilly

Place of birth: Newry.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? I think the world was shocked to the core of hearing the murder of Ashling Murphy. And like everyone else we felt outraged and powerless, that going for a run at 4pm could cost you your life. It could have been any one of us. About 3 days later I got a call from my friend, Amy, asking if I wanted to help organize a walk, in memory of Ashling, while fundraising for Women's Aid Ireland. Of course, I jumped on it straight away.

We truly expected 50, a push 60, people to show up on the following Sunday. Through Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp groups, we started spreading the word. Day by day, it grew more and more attraction. By the Wednesday evening, there was 600 people signed up. We had messages from all across the States, parents & Irish abroad who couldn't make it on the day but wanted to contribute. At least 850 people, men, women, children and dogs came out that afternoon and walked along with us, at 4pm, the same time Ashling set out, in solidarity for violence against women.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? The fact that an incident like that, so brutal and so terrifying, happened in day light, affected people in a way like no other. It highlighted a fear that many men do not have to worry about. And I do

believe men are more aware of the daily struggle of walking by self. In New York, it really brought the Irish community together, unfortunately it was in mourning but at least we were there together.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? I am very fortunate that my boss and company fully supported me and contributed massively during that time of organizing the walk.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: As a teenager and until 21, I worked as a youth leader. Every Friday night throughout the school year and then for 2 weeks during the summertime. The youth club on a Friday would have members aged from 11-16 in Dundalk. Sports, board games, discos and group activities would take place. During the summer, we would take children from Dundalk, Tallaght, Waterford, Cork and Newry to a camp in Youghal, to stay for a week.

I am a 27 year, living in New York since 2016. I originally moved over by myself and that was the best decision I ever made. It forced to be more outgoing and try to make friends. Currently working as an accounts manager in an Irish construction company in mid-town called H&L Ironworks. I have been working with them since May 2017. I have a huge passion for sports, especially Gaelic Football. Got involved with my club, Manhattan Gaels since 2018 both on the field and behind the scenes and haven't looked back. (Even though Amy Brett has tried to send me transfer papers.)

Jane McCooley

Place of birth: Armagh, Ireland.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? Both "Liberty Gaels Camogie Club" and "Women with Ambition" were born out of necessity in an effort to provide support, encouragement, and community to Irish and Irish-American women living and working in New York and the Tri-State area.

1. Before moving to NYC in October 2013, I had lived in many different places around Europe, and was always deeply embedded into their GAA communities. Yet, when I arrived to NYC, there was no adult Camogie team. I immediately wanted to change that, finding a way to recruit and encourage people to join a sport for which they either had no experience, or if they did, we had no competition to play in the NYC area. Luckily, the large Irish community in NYC immediately became engaged and motivated, with many women wanting to play Camogie, learn more about this aspect of Irish culture and heritage, and most importantly, meet new people and make life-long friends.

2. Women with Ambition has evolved from the professional challenges I noticed both myself and other women facing as we have gained seniority in our careers. Working in New York is extremely rewarding -- but mixed with the many positive opportunities are some inherent cultural and gender challenges that women must constantly confront. I wanted to create a unique professional network for Irish and Irish-American women to meet and confidentially communicate and celebrate career goals, successes and ambitions, because I truly believe in the power of women coming together and the key role we can play in enriching each other's careers.

3. When I first moved to NYC, I became involved with establishing the Manhattan Gaels Ladies Football Team. I was their first Ladies Officer, tasked with recruitment and team support, and I was on the Board for several years. I am so happy to see that the Ladies team has flourished tremendously over the last eight years, and I played with the club for many years and was part of the winning 2020 Championship team.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change?

1. As we enter the eighth season of Liberty Gaels Camogie, I believe the positive change is the strength of adult Camogie representation in New York because it was non-existent before Liberty Gaels Camogie. We have created a vibrant community of women catering from beginner to all-star, and importantly, we are elevating women in sport and have secured a seat at the table for Camogie of all ages within the New York GAA framework. Before Liberty Gaels Camogie Club, there had been no adult Camogie in New York for over 20 years. Eight years later, we have established an adult New York Camogie

League and inspired two other teams to build based on the foundation that we provided. We play Camogie throughout North America, which has inspired other cities and towns around the country to establish their own Camogie roots, further manifesting the power of women in sport and the contribution that Liberty Gaels is making to this movement. Liberty Gaels Camogie has enabled many women to play Camogie in New York where it was previously non-existent, thus laying down community ties, creating life-long friendships, and contributing to the magic of Irish sport, culture and heritage abroad.

2. As a successful Camogie team and following our win to become the 2021 North American Senior Champions, when the Taliban invaded Afghanistan in August 2021, I wanted to avail of the strong platform that Liberty Gaels Camogie has created to not only raise money for the women and children of Afghanistan, but also to raise awareness regarding the horrific consequences of the Taliban's invasion on women. Like many of us living in New York or Ireland, these Afghan women simply want to be educated, work, and achieve their ambitions, and yet they have had their lives completely devastated by the Taliban. Given the timing of our Camogie success and its contrast to their horrors, I wanted to use the strength of our voices to show support and solidarity with these women. We worked in conjunction with the charity "Women for Afghan Women" to raise money and awareness for the women of Afghanistan.

3. I believe that Women with Ambition has brought about positive change by creating a space for mid-career Irish and Irish-American women working in many industries to connect more deeply, form a meaningful and supportive network, and take some time to focus on intentional self-development. We are working to suppress the stigma around the image of an "ambitious woman" by providing women with a platform to see ambition as a positive and empowering quality. While we pursue our individual goals, collectively we create a community that is redefining ambition together. Women with Ambition's

group sessions, peer-mentorship, networking events and expert guest speakers enhance confidence, uplift members, and open their eyes to enriching paths they may not have ever considered before. This is evidenced by the fact that since joining Women with Ambition, many members have been successful with negotiating promotions and pay rises, and even securing new positions in new companies.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? I have been a lawyer for 10 years, and I believe the critical thinking and analytical skills I gained during this training have helped with my community work. Leading Liberty Gaels Camogie Club and Women with Ambition is like running two small businesses, and I need to be highly organized, and have the ability to think strategically and problem solve -- all of which are paramount skills for my job as a lawyer too. Further, to succeed at my job and my community work, I must clearly communicate my visions, but very importantly, I must be willing to listen to the needs of those around me, be that of clients or community members -- for without whom, there would be no Liberty Gaels Camogie or Women with Ambition



communities.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: Despite my very small stature, on most days I can eat as much as any large man -- especially if it involves Jaffa Cakes, ice-cream, or Nutella!

Joining Morgan Stanley investment bank as Executive Director of Antitrust & Privacy Law this month, Jane was a Senior Associate of international law firm, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, specializing in Antitrust Law. Jane studied Law with French Law in University College Dublin, a Masters of Law at Cambridge University in England, and is a currently studying for an Executive MBA. Before moving to New York and after completing the New York Bar, Jane worked in Brussels, Belgium, first at the European Commission, then at international law firm, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, qualifying as a Solicitor of England & Wales.

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Katie Curran

Place of birth: Boston, Massachusetts.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? I recognized that there was a need to teach Irish history and culture to young people. Many young Americans are of Irish descent but they have not learned much about Ireland. I became especially concerned as previous generations of Irish immigrants have passed away, and I did not want their stories to be forgotten. My goal is to make our history come alive and inspire the next generation to be actively involved. In addition, I wanted to volunteer in my community to honor my hardworking Irish family who made great sacrifices to provide me with the wonderful opportunities I have today.

My Irish relatives only received an education until they were 14 years old. They arrived to the US with barely any money in their pockets but they had big dreams. Now, I am living my family's wildest dream. I am earning master's and doctoral degrees from two of the best universities in the world: Oxford and Harvard. I believe the story of the Irish is not just one of surviving, but of thriving. Thus, I want to pay it forward to young people and help the next generation thrive. Everyone deserves a chance, no matter where they come from.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? I have led cultural, history, leadership, and volunteerism classes through my service project, ProjectNextGeneration.com. I collaborated with the John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum to teach free leadership classes and Irish-American

history. In these workshops, I taught students about our first Irish Catholic president: John F. Kennedy.

My work has brought about positive change by inspiring the next generation of young people to become involved in their communities. After taking my classes,



my students have started their own volunteer projects, applied to university, run for student government positions, and won elections. In addition, my students

have gained a greater understanding of Irish-American history that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. My students celebrate and live the legacy of the brave Irish who came before us.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? It is very rewarding to bring my perspective as a student while I teach other students. I enjoy teaching classes as a young person, because I can relate to my students in unique ways. It means a lot that I can serve as a role model for other young people and inspire them to reach for their goals. Not only do my students learn from me, but I learn from them. I love interacting with others from many different backgrounds. I enjoy what I do so much and I plan to volunteer and teach Irish history for the rest of my life.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I have traveled to over 30 countries. I love immersing myself in new cultures and gaining new perspectives. Wherever I go, I enjoy building friendships between Ireland, the United States, and the world.

Katie Curran is passionate about promoting Irish culture around the globe. Her family currently lives in County Kerry, Ireland and she also has roots in Galway, Bantry, and Armagh. Katie is an incoming Juris Doctor candidate at Harvard Law School. She is earning her master's degree at the University of Oxford in England. She graduated with honors from Columbia University in New York City in 2020. She enjoys teaching young people Irish-American history and encouraging them to be leaders. Katie is honored to be named an Irish Community Champion.

Michael Hogan

Place of birth: Newport, RI.

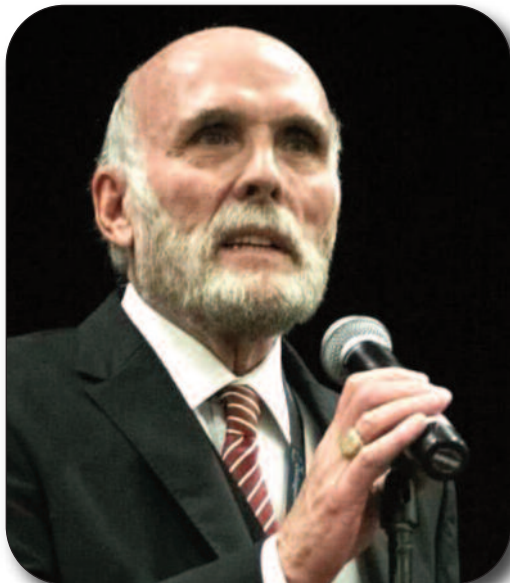
What motivated you to get involved in your community? The COVID lockdown caused a massive disruption in education. Without in-person classes students were deprived of the kind of enrichment opportunities that were common in the past. Teachers struggled just to provide standard lessons. I tried to solve this problem by providing free Zoom classes and podcasts covering everything from Irish culture and history to global warming, from transactional feminism to sustainable economies, from global conflicts to personal anxieties.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? The feedback I received from teachers and students assured me that this was indeed a timely addition that was much appreciated. Moreover, sharing on topics not generally covered in the school curricula, freed the students to share their thoughts, anxieties, and personal experiences.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? As a historian/storyteller, and as a retired teacher, I had several advantages which helped in this process. I understood the students' frustrations and the number of avenues that were closed off to them by remote

learning, but I also knew how to create entertaining asides and anecdotes would not only put them at ease but help them focus on a larger world including that of the past which might at times illuminate the present.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: For the better part of



two decades, I was a consultant for the US State Department's Office of Overseas Schools. I have traveled to more than 30 countries visiting schools where American dependents overseas received their education. This gave me valuable insights not only to local students but to the community of young people who were struggling with similar issues around the globe.

Michael Hogan is a historian, teacher, and international consultant. He is also the author of twenty-six books, including a best-selling history of the Irish battalion in Mexico (The Irish Soldiers of Mexico) which formed the basis for an MGM movie starring Tom Berenger, and for two award-winning documentaries. His most recent work, Women of the Irish Rising, is popular with young women of all nationalities. Hogan has worked as an educator more than 40 years and is a long-time consultant to the US State Department's Office of Overseas Schools.

Liz Prendergast

Place of birth: Manhattan, New York.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? After my first few years back in NY after having moved to Galway at 6 years old, I had lost a bit of a connection with Irish Culture. When COVID hit, I rejoined football & after meeting some of the best people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing I really wanted to get stuck in with my community again.

Being on the Manhattan Gaels Board, the NY Ladies County Board, Scor Board & raising money for the Kevin Bell Fund on a yearly basis has unlocked an even deeper appreciation for the Irish Community here in New York, it is unmatched.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? It has certainly brought a positive change to my life - as everyone knows, COVID was a really tough time for everyone and especially immigrants away from their families & their homes. Being able to get out & meet all new people has had an amazing impact on me personally & I hope some people have had a positive impact from meeting me.

My work with the Kevin Bell Fund has had an important impact, I can't use the word positive in such tragic circumstances but I feel like no matter

what, KBRT will always need funding and recognition.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Absolutely, I work in an Irish owned construction company in Manhattan and about 90% of my coworkers are Irish, which is unbelievably comforting & makes work feel like a home away from home.



As everyone knows, the Irish Community in NY always get behind their own and whenever I needed advice or sponsorship for something I was involved in from any of my coworkers, they always provided that & more without question.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I cannot

think of anything at the moment LOL.

I was born in Einstein Hospital, Manhattan, NY on October 1995 to James Prendergast (Mayo) and Ellen Wiseman (New York). My parents met in Woodlawn in the 80s and had myself & my 2 youngers brothers before decided to move to Ballinaderreen, Co. Galway in 2002. I studied Event Management in GMIT, Galway & then moved back to NY in 2017. I have been working as Project Coordinator for J. T. Magen since 2018 and I am also in school for Integrative Nutrition. My hobbies include Gaelic football & yoga.



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Mark Connell

Place of birth: Poughkeepsie, New York.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? While teaching at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY, I slowly began to venture out into the local community. I witnessed a level of poverty that I never realized existed in this country. Conversations were begun with friends and colleagues about possible remedies to the high crime, drug trade, and gangs that riddled the streets, with an allure for young people who were otherwise without positive alternatives. Together we imagined a school that would break the cycle of poverty through education.

We seized on the Nativity model of schools, a successful urban intervention program that many cities in the U.S. had already adopted. This comprehensive program offers a 10 hour a day, six day a week positive alternative to low opportunity kids. There is a 7 week summer program, private high school placement with tuition assistance, and support for college access. Our children have earned a 97% high school graduation rate, well above the local 30%



rate. In addition to a highly successful academic program, the school also offers the sport of rowing in which nearly all the kids participate. Our rowing program is a part of the overall transformation that takes place daily on our premises.

How do you think your community work

has brought about positive change?

First generation learners need extra support and guidance to attain college access. Our families embrace the ideal that a college degree can transform a child, a family, and their future.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Yes. As a priest

I have been able to engage many socially minded believers to embrace a mission that truly inspires and transforms.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: People would be surprised to know that I used to be a good competitive swimmer.

Father Mark Connell is Executive Director of San Miguel Program. He also serves as Director of the Graduate Success Program and head coach of the San Miguel Rowing program.

Upon ordination in 1986, Father Mark was assigned as parochial vicar at Holy Family Church in New Rochelle for two and a half years, after which time Cardinal John O'Connor asked him to join the faculty at John F. Kennedy High School in Somers. Simultaneously, Fr. Mark became a weekend assistant at the Church of St. John and St. Mary in Chappaqua where he remained for 27 years. In 1998, Fr. Mark became chaplain

and the director of campus ministry at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh where he was also an adjunct professor in philosophy and theology, specializing in the Jewish/ Catholic dialogue. After living in Newburgh for six years, Fr. Mark envisioned a meaningful educational option for the children of Newburgh.

That dream became a reality when San Miguel Academy opened its doors in 2006. Today, San Miguel Program is pioneering new strategies for low-income urban learners while creating post-primary school options for under-served boys and girls, with 100% entering 9th grade on time and more than 70% attending private day or boarding school. Of high school alumni, 97% graduate on time and 90% opt in for higher education. Over 250 families have benefited from a San Miguel education with more families being added each year. Education equality and breaking the cycle of poverty through education are at the forefront of everything Fr. Mark does for San Miguel Program.

Father Mark was born in Poughkeepsie, New York. He attended Poughkeepsie High School and later entered Cathedral College. Father Mark has earned a Masters of Divinity, a Master of Arts in Theology, and a Doctor of Theology from Drew University. He lives in Newburgh with his two dogs, Brady and K.T.

John Handy

Place of birth: Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? I became an Irish Citizen in 2013 and began learning Irish. It was wonderful to be part of a small group of Irish Americans learning Irish and especially encouraging and motivating to participate in Irish language immersion events with Daltaí na Gaeilge based in New Jersey. As my circle of Irish language learners and speakers was expanding and my motivation was growing, I was overwhelmed with the thought that I could be instrumental in attracting others to the Irish language and teach them. The Irish can save and grow their language simply by wanting to learn it and interacting with others who speak it in an effort to incorporate the language into their lives.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change?

Absolutely, My number of classes and students is growing every year. I have students all over the U.S., in Canada, in Ireland and in Australia. I have given out scholarships for 5 years bringing Irish learners to study Irish in Ireland. We have a growing presence at Irish Festivals giving more Irish culture to Irish Americans who are excited to see that the Irish language is alive and growing.

Has your job or profession helped in

your community work? I was fortunate to have a 30 year career in the Pharmaceutical Industry in various roles that gave me the skills and determination needed to pursue my goals of learning, promoting and teaching Irish. An effort like creating a business to promote and teach the Irish language requires determination, idea generation, networking, learning, goal setting, financing, and customer service among many other skills all of which I picked up in one way or another throughout my career.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: Probably the most influential thing that led me to promoting and teaching Irish is the fact that I was exposed to learning Greek for 25 years prior to ever learning a word of Irish. I have been living as part of a bilingual family, Greek and English, for over 30 years now and it is that experience and my efforts to understand and speak Greek that enlightened me that Irish Americans could be bilingual in Irish and English if they only made the effort.

John Handy (University of Arizona, 1988) founded Irish Language Learners, LLC in February 2013 after studying the Irish language for one year. He launched the Facebook page called "Irish Language Learners" to support those learning the



Irish language across the United States, in Ireland and globally wherever the Irish Diaspora or others interested in Irish culture can be found.

Handy met his wife of 31 years, Estelle, a Chi Omega, through inter-fraternal events hosted by his Delta undergraduate chapter.

Handy's wife, Estelle, shares his passion and assists him with Irish Language Learners' administrative

aspects. They have traveled to Ireland every year for the past five years, specifically to promote the study of the Irish language. Unfortunately, their 2020 travel plans to Ireland were canceled due to COVID-19.

After graduating from the University of Arizona with a B.S./B.A in accounting and finance, Handy was hired through a temp agency to work for a major pharmaceutical company. Within the first year, he found a permanent position with the company and had a wonderful career there for 30 years.

The financial accounting work that Handy was performing was transferred to Costa Rica as part of a global hub strategy for shared business services and he left his job at the pharmaceutical company in February 2020. Irish Language Learners is now his full-time primary focus.

Handy enjoys walking and bicycling in his spare time. For 21 years in a row, he helped raise money for multiple sclerosis research and services through the annual M.S. City to Shore Ride in New Jersey. He has also participated in marathons and half-marathons.

Handy and his wife have performed music in a local church choir for many years and they enjoy playing Irish music with friends.

<https://www.delts.org/language-enthusiast-helps-others-learn>

Mike Carroll

Place of birth: New York.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? My first serious effort was during the cease fire during negotiations that culminated in the Good Friday Agreement. I joined other dedicated individuals and organizations with the goal of maintaining US engagement with the peace process.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? As President of the Council for American Irish Affairs I have had the good fortune to organize US political and community

leaders delegations to Dublin and Northern Ireland. This led to an intern exchange program where American students worked at Dail Erin and Irish students in DC and the New York City Council.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Yes absolutely, I work at O'Dwyer & Bernstein, LLP. The influence and pristine reputations of Paul O'Dwyer, Frank Durkan and Brian O'Dwyer in our community cannot be exaggerated. When their names are mentioned in New York or Ireland you have the attention of your audience.

Something people would be surprised

to know about me: I am a licensed aircraft mechanic.

Married to Ellen McLaughlin Carroll, father to Jimmy, Sara and Michael J Carroll. Raised by Irish parents, John and Anne Carroll who instilled a strong appreciation in their six children for their Irish culture and heritage. A lawyer at O'Dwyer & Bernstein since 1999. Former Chairman of the New York State Trial Lawyers Labor Law Committee. Former Brehon Law Society, Northern Ireland Political Liaison. President. Council for American Irish Relations, Inc.



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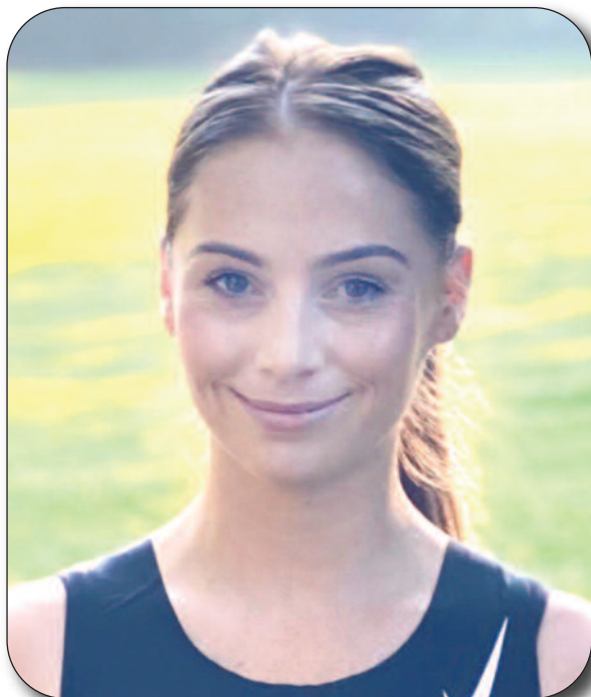
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Sarah Cosgrave

Place of birth: Chicago.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? Aishling's death shook me. I couldn't stop thinking about her, her family and the horror of what happened to her. We just wanted a way for people to come together to pay our respects and honor her life.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? I think something that started off as what we thought would just be a small group of people spiraled bigger than we could have ever envisioned. I think it showed something really special about the Irish Community and how we come together in times of need to support each other. It has lead to some very important conversations and light being shed on the risks women face every day just by going about their daily lives.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Yes but mostly in areas outside of the Run for Ashling. I work as a Pediatric Physical Therapist and recently was able to set up a scholarship program which is funded by NYU for two children with disabilities to receive Hippotherapy services weekly in Prospect Park. A co-worker and I have also just started a Healthy Living program where we help two children with weight concerns over the course of six weeks and educate them on the importance of regular exercise and healthy diet, provide exercise classes, teach them about mindfulness and help them to create healthy habits and make some positive changes.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I'm really bad at replying to emails and texts.

Sarah lives in Manhattan and works as a Pediatric Physical Therapist at NYU Langone. She loves running, especially in Central Park with her dog Ziggy!



Amy Brett

Place of birth: Mayo.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? I have been extremely lucky with the connections I have made within the Irish community, whether it be finding an apartment or a job- or even my hairdresser!- so I wanted to give back in some way.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? Ashling's death was a tragic story but I think it made people sit up and realize something needs to change and fast. And we raised a massive amount of money for Women's Aid, which will go towards women and their safety.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? I currently work as an Operations and Events company for 150Bond - certainly the organizational skills I have developed within this has helped me over the years in the different things we have ran and done for charity.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I have a twin sister who lives in Sydney - so yes there is two of me :D.

Born and raised in Mayo until I left for UCD to study Business and Law in 2011, I moved to NYC in 2015 and I'm still here, just doing one more year..

A huge lover of sports, particularly GAA, I helped set up ODR ladies 4 years ago and still play and help run it now, with over 80 girls on board. I have met many Irish in my years here and am lucky to know so many good and kind souls.



Emer Quinlan

Place of birth: Limerick.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? My father would have been my biggest motivator. Growing up he was so involved in our local community both historically and the youth population. When my son started playing Gaelic football with Shannon Gaels GAA who were a very young club and in need of volunteers I decided to use my skills to help get the club off the ground.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? I hope that it has. In the 10 plus years I have been involved with Shannon Gaels we have seen the club grow tri-fold with over 300 children players along with 75 young men and women. We are set up as a not for profit 501(c)3 and through a lot of fundraising we just completed a state of the art full Gaelic football field at Frank Golden Park, College Point Queens with NYC Parks which cost 5.7 million that will serve the Irish and local communities of Queens.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Having a financial background I was able to work through the intricates of first getting the Shannon Gaels GAA set up as a not for profit and then able to work with the City of New York to make our dream of having our own playing fields in Queens a reality.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I have never played Gaelic football in my life!

I was born in Limerick and have 5 sisters and one brother. I was the only one to emigrate and came to NYC in 1985 and became very involved within the Irish community. My husband is Colin Mooney and we have 2 children Aidan and Gemma. I am very involved with all aspects of GAA here in New York and serve as the secretary for the LGFA NY ladies board as well as the treasurer for Shannon Gaels GAA. Most Sundays you will find me in Gaelic Park or Frank Golden Park!



Keith Breen

Place of birth: Tipperary, Ireland.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? When I was younger I feel like I missed a lot of opportunities to take part in community activities. So I guess I feel lucky and blessed to be able to get involved with such a great community here in San Antonio.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? I like to think that I have assisted in bringing some of the Irish groups closer together from being involved each group.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Yes, definitely. I am a service plumber here in San Antonio. It is a job that has allowed me the freedom and

opportunity to help in a number of ways. Whether it be as simple as using a work truck to help somebody move furniture or running an errand between calls to more hands on and carrying out plumbing repairs for members of our community.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I'm afraid of heights.

Born in Tipperary, Ireland, I attended school locally in Thurles, the home of the GAA. After school I completed a plumbing apprenticeship with my father before moving to Australia. I met my wife in Hobart, Tasmania. We got married in Sydney in 2013. We and moved to San Antonio, Texas. Her hometown. Where we've been happily settled for 7 years. We have Lily 8 and James 7.



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Emer Quinlan Mooney**
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Catherine Nolan

Place of birth: New York.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? The example of my father, Philip Nolan - who was a shop steward at the phone company and an active parishioner of St. Aloysius Church - who loved talking politics at the dinner table.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? I hope that my advocacy for neighborhood voices as Chair of the Labor and Education committees made a positive difference in the lives of our community members and their families. While chairing Education we worked to reduce class sizes, achieve universal pre-k, improve high school graduation rates, and were successful in obtaining the funding, through the Smart Schools Bond Act, to allow NYC to finally remove temporary classroom units - trailers which served as classrooms - from our community schools.

While on Labor we got to focus on occupational safety and health, and worker education and retraining, and securing funding for supportive programs, including the funding to open the first occupational safety and health clinic in Queens. Later on, when Paid Family Leave became law, that was in support of our community, and all the families in New York.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Being an Assemblymember in New York, representing the community at the smallest unit of government in our big and diverse state, is very grounding in the reality of listening to people's complaints, concerns, and ideas; identifying projects to work on in public transit, schools, and libraries; supporting responsible development as the communities turn from ageing and empty industrial manufacturing areas to ones filled with a college educated workforce - doing community work is integral to being an Assemblymember.

Something people would be surprised



to know about me: I love to garden. I recently listened to a symposium webinar from Ireland about St. Brigid and the Irish

expertise in herb gardening - perhaps I get it from my heritage.

Catherine Nolan represents New York's 37th Assembly District, which includes the Sunnyside, Ridgewood, Long Island City, Queensbridge, Ravenswood, Astoria, Woodside, Maspeth, Dutch Kills and Blissville neighborhoods. She was first elected to the Assembly in 1984.

A resident of Ridgewood for most of her life, Cathy Nolan is a graduate of St. Aloysius R.C. School and Grover Cleveland High School. Ms. Nolan graduated from New York University cum laude with a B.A. degree in Political Science. She has served as Chair of several Assembly committees including Education, Labor, and Banks, the Real Property Taxation Committee, the NYS Assembly Commission on State-Federal Relations, and is a proud past Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus.

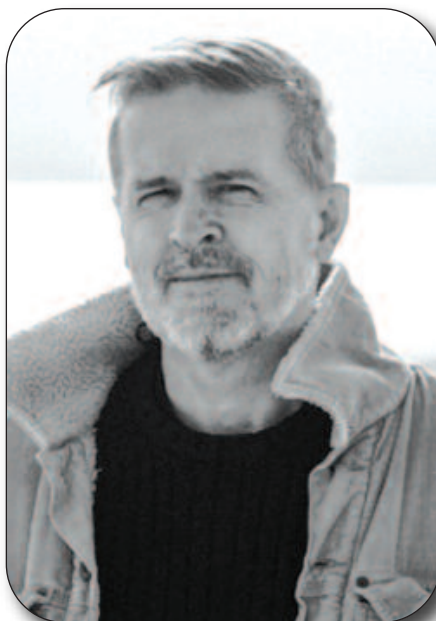
She and her husband, Gerard Marsicano, are the proud parents of Nicholas, a graduate of Aviation High School and SUNY.

Colin Broderick

Place of birth: Birmingham England.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? I spent many years lost in the fog of addiction and alcoholism. When I got sober almost fifteen years ago I had a strong desire to live up to my full potential as a writer and a functioning member of my community.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? In my movie Emerald City I made every attempt to engage everyday Irish immigrants in the telling of our own story. Many of the actors had never acted before. The musicians from the soundtrack were performers directly from the New York Irish community. We had the Irish footballers in The Bronx, a



waitress from Queens, construction workers in Manhattan.

The movie screened to glowing reviews in theaters from all over America. It is still available for free On YouTube and has been viewed almost 130,000 times. For me the greatest reward has been hearing from Irish construction workers, bartenders, and caregivers who reach out after seeing the movie, that they too have been writing, or acting, singing, and that Emerald City has given them hope in their dreams.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Over the past fifteen years I have published two memoirs, a novel, and a collection of essays. I have also written and directed two feature movies, Emerald City, and A Bend in the River. This entire body of work is my attempt to explore and

portray the Irish immigrant experience. In all my work I have made a special attempt to give voice, and opportunity to those in the community I felt were not being fully represented in the arts. If we don't make some attempt to give voice to the most insecure and less privileged among us, then we deny ourselves the full richness of our humanity.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I am happiest at home with my wife and three young children.

Colin Broderick, originally from County Tyrone, moved to New York in 1988. He has published four books and written and directed two feature movies.

You can find information and links to all his books, movies, and blog at www.colinbroderick.com

Brian Lang

Place of birth: Windsor Terrace Brooklyn.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? Mary Whelan and former Senator Marty Golden of Catholic Charities of Brooklyn Queens reached out to me to see if I was able to help them with their food pantry operation. They explained the amount of people needing assistance was overwhelming and they needed all the help I could provide. After the meeting I went to Sr Vice President David Ferguson of E-J Roadway and explained what the ask was and without hesitation he said "Brian, tell them we are all in". With the blessing from President Tony Mann we formed a plan.

From procuring food from upstate farms, to having 14 members of E-J Roadway's administration staff Local Union #3 handle the logistics of handing out food to thousands of hungry parishioners from parishes all over Brooklyn Queens. We got involved on a large scale. I'm amazed how selfless everyone was, they put their own health at risk to make sure people would not go hungry. From our first food pantry event at St Michael's in Sunset park every one of our group members said in unison "we need to go back, we need to do more". For the next two years every Friday we assisted in handing out over a million meals. It was an honor for Dave and I along with E-J's administration staff to work alongside Msgr Alfred LoPinto and his tireless staff at Catholic Charities Brooklyn Queens.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? What was really inspiring was the amount of calls I would receive from friends who

wanted to help. So many people and groups started showing up to lend a hand. My friends from Breezy Point and Windsor Terrace would show up to help. The



Xaverian ladies Volleyball team ,the Farrell's Sports Club of Brooklyn showed up. It was really contagious. Everyone was amazed about how much worked it took to put a food pantry together. They were also amazed how many people needed food assistance.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? The members of Local Union # 3 and E-J Electric Company are constantly involved in charitable events. From toy collections, Bike Rides for charity, coat drive's for veterans, Procuring Turkeys for Thanksgiving there is always a great cause being helped. Dave Ferguson made the observation that we had so many of our coworkers married to nurses including myself and asked what can we do to help them? So we created Hero's for Hero's and sent sandwiches to over worked nurses and medical staff across the city. It's with that spirit and generosity that anything is possible.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I need two Marathons to complete all the world majors. I have run NYC, Berlin, Boston, and Chicago. I need London and Tokyo.

I am married to Tracy Lang a Nurse and have two daughters Rory a freshman nursing student at Siena College and Carly a Junior at Sacred Heart Academy in Long Island. I am a Superintendent for E-J Electric Company in the Roadway and Outdoor specialty Division. I am a proud member of Local Union # 3 for over 30 years and held positions of Apprentice, Journeyman, Foreman, General Foreman and Superintendent. I hold a degree from the Harry Van Arsdale school of Labor Studies.



***Congratulations
to our hard working
Secretary Emer
and to Amy and Liz
for their promotion of
Ladies Gaelic Football
in New York.***

***Also to Niamh, Jane and
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**The American Irish Legislators
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congratulate our colleague
and friend**

Cathy Nolan

**on her Lifetime of
Public Service Award**

**and all the other Irish Echo
Community Champions of 2022**

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of New York State*

Colleen D. Egan

What motivated you to get involved in your community? I grew up in a community of immigrants, including my Dad who was from Sligo and he grew up in an orphanage in Galway, so "belonging" and a sense of community meant a great deal to us. From going to union halls with my Dad as a kid, to the Girl Scouts and witnessing the work that the women around me were doing I began to understand the impact that one person or one organization could be as a catalyst for social good and change and it inspired me to do even more as I grew up. After being an R.N. early in my career, to becoming a tech leader and again witnessing all of the work that needed to be done toward equity in health, education, science and technology, etc. I am now in a position to not only help my City of Chicago, but the innovation economy of the state of Illinois. My motivation is participating in as much impact work as I can now to leave a better more equitable world behind not only for my grandkids, but all of our children- the future innovators, leaders, entrepreneurs and impact thinkers.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? Every organization I now lead, volunteer for or serve has a mission of making an impact, across numerous sectors for historically ignored, historically marginalized historically underestimated and underserved communities. Impact missions with hopeful, positive, dedicated people hopefully brings positive change in ways both big and small, but change for the good none the less.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? I have lived a very full, diverse, and rewarding life, by saying YES to opportunities that have challenged me.



From a nurse, to an entrepreneur, COO, CEO and a lot of boards, councils and volunteering in-between - I have learned so much about people, resiliency, empathy, institutions of inequity, policy, and about myself and how I participate in the world and how I can impact it. The

collective experience of our work or professions can't be separated from our community work... All of it is connected, just as ALL of us as humans are connected. The totality of my professional experience has led me to being the CEO of the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition where I get to focus on every Illinoisan having access in the knowledge economy, the innovation economy and creating better lives for themselves, their families, their companies, and their communities. Our mission of IDEA to IMPACT is done through Innovation, Data, Education, and Advocacy and I get to do it all through an equity lens.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I played in a few bands and for a time and was songwriting in Nashville. My team of two other women published under our own label, Ms. Music - of course we did.

Colleen D. Egan, President & CEO of the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition and has led numerous technology companies. She's a founder of The Women In Entrepreneurship Institute at DePaul University, serves multiple organizations including Chicago Tech Academy, Chicago:Blend, GET Cities, Chicago Innovation Women's Mentoring Co-Op and U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly's LGBTQ task force.

Colleen speaks regularly on entrepreneurship, DEI, women's and LGBTQ issues and has received the 2018 ITA Prominent Woman in Tech award, 2018's Connected World Woman of IoT award, and Crain's Chicago Business Notable LGBTQ Executive in 2018, 2019 and 2021.

She's married to her wife, Syndy and has three children, three grandchildren, and two dogs!

Cathy Kenny Schramm

Place of birth: Queens, NY.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? I've always felt that you can't get anything without out first putting something in. My parents and grandmother set a good example. As a businesswoman, my grandmother was active in numerous professional organizations that supported her business or her customers. Through those associations she made numerous friends and grew lasting relationships with her customers which sustained her business and made her work more enjoyable.

My mother was also involved in the community, collecting funds for the March of Dimes, being a Girl Scout Troup leader, Treasurer of the PTA and member of board of the summer theater program in which all of the children in my family participated. As an at home mother this gave her the company of other adults and quality time with her children. My father joined the Coast Guard Reserves after WWII and remained a member for over 30 years. My brother is active in his church and a Boy Scout leader, setting the example for his children.

Joining and participating with a variety of organizations is a great way to meet new people. At ConEd, the Law Department works somewhat autonomously, it can be difficult to meet people in other departments, especially meeting those that work in the field. And in any larger organization, it helps to know people in other sections of the Company for when you have a question or need expertise outside of your field. The Emerald Society of ConEd has been a great way to network and make friends throughout the Company.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? Much of my community involvement has revolved around

music and pet adoption. Music is truly important in our lives, it can stimulate change or calm the soul, it can provide a moment of happiness and/or peace creating a better and happier community and make a neighborhood a better and safer place for all.. As a song leader in the church, singing in the choir or organizing musical performances, I have always found that people were appreciative of the work and the energy. In that moment, things felt better.

Pets provide unconditional love and can change the atmosphere in a home. Pet adoption groups are very

important in communities, for the safety of the people and the pets, helping individuals and families to find the love and comfort that comes from having a pet and providing homes for animals to keep them safe, warm & fed.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? In my job, I've been fortunate to assist with a number of Pro-Bono cases. I've worked with a number of Transgender individuals, helping them properly complete complex name change forms for the court. This is important to me because I have a Transgender sibling and I know that it can be a struggle to get your sex and name changed and to then follow up licenses, insurance, etc. I also was gratified to assist recently in getting a victim of domestic abuse her green card, so that she can live safely and provide a home safe and happy home for herself and her children. Having worked in the legal profession has also been helpful in my participation as a member of the Board of my Coop. A strong Board can protect your investment and make you Coop a better place to live.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I have a large collection of tools both manual, electric and cordless and watch numerous home improvement shows while dreaming of buying and renovating a home.

Currently Cathy is a Legal Assistant at ConEd, and previously worked in several law firms. At ConEd, she is a member of the ConEd Emerald Society, CapABLE, the Law Department Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council and the ConEd CLE Committee. She is also a member of her Coop Board.

Cathy has a BM in Music Education majoring in cello. Performing on stage in plays, musicals and sketch comedy, in the orchestra and working on Stage Crew. She sings weekly in Astoria, NY at Most Precious Blood Church in the choir and is one of several Song Leaders.



We congratulate all our Award Winners

Patrick Buckley

Place of birth: Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? Growing up in Ireland, neighbors supported neighbors. When we saw what someone needed, we figured out, as a family, how we could provide for them. If a neighbor needed milk, eggs, bread - or any food - my mother was sure to have fed them. Those who traveled the country never left our home hungry, nor did their horses! And if some weeks all we could do is provide some fun, that's what we did. We had weekly sessions and an open door for people to come dance, sing and have tea with us. We were known as the home to provide joy and laughter.

I carried this way of being over to my life in America. I got to know my neighbors. My wife, daughters and I figured out what we could do to provide support and joy for them. This carried over to a larger community as our connections grew through the church, Irish organizations (such as The Kerry Association), and through creating the charity HOPE, which stands for Helping Other People. And we are blessed, too. With all our contributions we have always been organically rewarded and given back to with gratitude, love, appreciation and many smiles.

Before HOPE, with The Kerry Association's support, we raised funds for many local people in need. One great event was for a family that tragically lost their husband and father. The funds collected through The Kerry Association's golf outing provided an opportunity for the children of this family to be well

educated and go to college with college fees paid for in full. Another fund raiser was held for a young man that broke his back, along with many more.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? Through my reaching out to others to support families in need and for causes in our community we brought hope, peace and comfort to others while also providing purpose and the joy of contribution to many. Also, many contributors were grateful to connect and form lifelong friendships with like-minded people. Through providing music and dance at many of our events, it also has brought in a lot of fun and connection to Ireland, our heritage and to each other. I believe it is what keeps us young and happy!

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Many of my union brothers (along with fellow Kerry men) would listen to my thoughts and brainstorm with me about how to help those living in impoverished countries. From those informal, yet deeply meaningful conversations, HOPE, which stands for Helping Other People, came to fruition. Some union brothers and a very generous foreman donated to HOPE charity, believing strongly in what a difference



directly to the people and causes. That not only do you not take a penny from the charity, you also pay out of pocket for services and expenses to help support the organization. Remember when there wasn't enough money collected to finance that full scholarship for a young man in Costa Rica to complete his engineering degree? Dad, you funded most of his tuition so that all his years were paid for in full. Out of your trust and giving to him; he now gives back to his own community." This brings so much joy to my heart to know that I made this possible.

My name is Patrick Buckley. My passions include carpentry, Irish set dancing and being of service. All three connect me to God, my body and heart.

I grew up in Killarney, Ireland with my parents and 13 siblings. Our family's love of giving, dance and community are the core of who I am.

When I moved to New York, I fell in love with one of the most beautiful women, Bridget O'Sullivan. We married and had three gorgeous girls. After Bridget's passing, I found my next love, my stunning fiancée, Attracta, who shares my passions for charity, dancing and travel.

their contribution would make in the world.

Something people would be surprised to know about me I asked my daughter, Yvonne Buckley, to help answer this question for me. She said, "Dad, no one would believe that one hundred percent of the donations contributed to HOPE go

Tim Murphy

Place of birth: Jackson MS.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? My work with the Irish community began several years ago. Saint Patrick's Day was around the corner and I wanted a proper and dignified way to celebrate my Irish heritage. So I created a one hour photographic show of my best Irish photographic images and narrated it with location info and shooting anecdotes. Presented at civic centers, senior centers and churches. Was a big hit! So I kept it up with books and exhibits featuring the beauty of Ireland.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? Without a doubt, I have brought Ireland to new eyes through my photography. With tens of thousands of likes, loves, shares and comments, many on social media have fallen in love with Ireland. Some, but by no means all, of my Irish photography book buyers are Irish. Thousands saw Eire splendor at my two Irish photography exhibits at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale and the Mayo Clinic Hospital in Phoenix. And last January, I conducted a hour long Zoom call entitled "Three Summers in Ireland" for the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Phoenix. The attendance was 3X their normal Zoom call participation!

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? I call my life today my "Act II" as my business career is long behind me. I devote my time to photography, a lot of it Irish image work. Photography provides me with a

platform to express myself and communicate the beauty of the world...especially Ireland!

Something people would be surprised to know about me: My great-great uncle, Patrick Murphy, aka the Irish

Giant, was the tallest man in the world when he died in 1862 at 8'1". I have twice visited his grave in Rostrevor, Co Down.

Tim Murphy graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire where he was recently honored with a Lifetime Excellence Award. Murphy spent the majority of his business career with American Express. As testament to his contribution as a Sales Leader, Tim received American Express' highest level of recognition: Induction into their Worldwide Hall of Fame.

After retirement from the corporate world, Tim was struck with a rare neurological disorder that affected his balance. Murphy took his wife's suggestion and returned to an old hobby of photography. As he says, "I traded in my golf clubs and bike for a camera and a cane".

Fast forward several years and Tim's involvement in photography has flourished. His recent accomplishments include donating artwork/raising funds for twelve different charities and foundations, publishing seven photographic books, delivering multiple photography lectures, teaching photography classes, being featured in multiple publications, having his photography used by businesses in Arizona and Ireland, sold-out photography shows and Irish photography exhibits at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale and Mayo Clinic Hospital in Phoenix.

Tim and his wife, Debbie, enjoy life in Scottsdale, Arizona and when the weather gets hot, in Ireland. You may view his artwork at www.timhmurphy.com



Bernadette Miriam Clancy

Place of birth: Dublin Ireland.

What motivated you to get involved in your community? Through my work as a business consultant I mentored hundreds of start-ups as part of my work. Among them, the ones that always fell through the cracks were those in the arts and crafts sector. My motivation came from their stories which were one of constant struggle because they lacked a voice and experience in areas such as public relations, digital marketing, general business skills such as strategizing for growth and negotiation skills.

They did not necessarily want or need to learn all these skills, they needed to be able to get on with their work as crafts people and have someone with expertise do this work on their behalf. I believe when people strive to be self-sustainable they should be rewarded. I decided to help these people not only to be seen in their local community but throughout the island of Ireland, Europe and the US by putting the spot light on them, their communities and counties through features in magazines, online publications and newspapers and across social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube interviews and arts events via Zoom to a live audience.

Our work is only made possible through the support given to us by the Irish Echo Newspaper and our channel partners – Cliff Carlson, Editor, Irish American News. John Richards, founder

of Irish American Business Network. Paddy McCarthy, Editor, Irish Examiner USA. Oisín ó Ruacháinn, Editor, Florida Gale. James McDonogh, Editor, Irish Arts and Entertainment. Erin Rado, Editor, Celtic Nations Magazine and founder of Celtic Rock Radio.

We are currently preparing to launch our new website and new service which will cater not only for crafts people in Ireland but Celtic crafts people from around the world. We are also looking forward to working with disabled artists who we are encouraging to join our service. We will also continue to promote Ireland as a tourist destination globally.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change?

Service users feedback say their work has gained much more exposure nationally and internationally. They valued the opportunity to get their work and stories featured in publications in Ireland and the US.

They said more opportunities arose for them to get into exhibitions for the first time and their participation in live arts events seen worldwide promoted their work where many made sales abroad for the first time. They all said how our service freed up their time to get on with their work. They said being part of this service gave them confidence and boosted their self-esteem and made them feel proud and valued for what they do.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? My hands-on expertise since 2015 as the founder of

Solutions Consultancy Ireland, and my role in business commercialization, innovation and design thinking, digital marketing and public relations has been the powerhouse behind my work. SCL is a consultancy dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs and start-ups in becoming impactful ethical business leaders.

Something people would be surprised

to know about me: Not many people know that I left school at age 14 and worked as an apprentice hairdresser to start with but I didn't get the opportunity to qualify. I often thought of returning to this career but there are no apprenticeships for older people in Ireland that I am aware of, maybe this is something I could work on in the future as a way of allowing older people retrain with others their age. I returned to education in my 30s and remained in the learning loop until today.

Another thing people may not know about me is it took me many years to have confidence in my ability to be an entrepreneur and I set up my first company at age 49, but it's never too late to start a new chapter. I truly believe in being aware of my mental health and using mindfulness and meditation as a way of remaining mentally healthy is a huge part of my life.

I was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1963 the twelfth of thirteen children. I have three adult children. I returned to education in my 30s and passed my leaving certificate. I went on to study accountancy but it



wasn't for me. I then achieved a Post Graduate Certificate in University College Dublin in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise and since then I have studied online in some of the best colleges around the world.

Everything I learn I apply to my own work and to those I mentor. My career has been a varied one, I worked as administrator for Clonmel Chamber of Commerce, business development manager in waste management, international property investments and the leisure sector to name but a few. I love family life, meeting new people, working and exploring new opportunities.

Aine Duggan

Place of birth: County Cork, Ireland

What motivated you to get involved in your community? I imagine much of my motivation stems from parents, who taught me the importance of equity and economic justice and taking care of people, simply by the way they lived. I often witnessed my mother silently sitting by the bed of someone who was sick or dying. And even though my father often worked double and triple shifts to take care of the family, he was also a labor leader and involved in various community causes. I would sit at the kitchen table, doing homework, watching him work on mailings, etc., amused that he had his own "homework", and intrigued when he would explain what he was working on.

My own entrée into community work was volunteering with the Irish Refugee Council while a student at UCD. It gave me a window into the trauma of poverty and the fear and vulnerability experienced as people try to find their footing on a rung of the ladder, as well as a realization of how impossible it is for anyone to thrive if they don't have a safe place to call home.

When I moved to New York City at the end of 1995, I was struck by the number of people living on the street. I had never experienced the kind of snow and cold that blanketed my first few months of being here, and it chilled me to be walking by people sleeping on the East Village streets near where I then lived. And even as I took any job available to get started, I was conscious that I was being given chances, without the required experience, and that my foreign college credentials were being accepted, when that is not the experience of many others trying to make their way here. On the strength of having focused my college thesis on HIV, I volunteered at a HIV/AIDS housing organization and went on to find a job at a supportive housing organization, and from there stepped deeper into the world of community service and advocacy, eventually holding leadership roles at various hunger, homeless and gender rights organizations in the city.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? In the most direct way, the provision of food, job training or rental assistance or various other programs that I have worked with colleagues to build and manage have often brought

about immediate relief and change for the families and individuals with whom we've worked. Similarly, I've had the benefit of being involved with local and national community groups and colleagues in efforts to change public policy such that people received more government support to afford their homes and provide for their families.

An important change for me is the way the broader public sees and engages with an issue. This process begins with sharing client stories in a way that allows people to take a step around the corner from their everyday viewpoint and see the issue from a different angle. For example, at The Partnership, our work to shed light on how homelessness mostly impacts families, primarily women and children suffering the effects of domestic violence and lack of affordable housing, allows people to see why an upstream intervention, like prevention, can actually work to solve the issue. Once more people see what a social problem is really about,



the more people and experts there are to identify creative ways to create change.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? I feel quite fortunate in that my work is the platform for my community work. That said, my experience has taught me that no one profession or sector, alone, can solve the types of community problems with which our society is grappling today.

So whether it is the individual donor that works in the finance sector or the lawyer of a private firm that donates pro bono time, the government agency worker who goes above and beyond to untie the red tape holding up a family's benefits, the school teacher or spiritual leader who is first to notice and address some irregularity in a child or family's activities (which can often be the first sign of an economic hardship or pending eviction), or the journalist who takes the time to dive beneath the surface and explain the complexities of an issue... it takes all professions and sectors fitting together like a jigsaw puzzle to create and maintain strong and safe communities.

Something people would be surprised to know about

me: When not working, I'm often to be found running for miles or strolling through Brooklyn neighborhoods with a pocket full of diced carrots, uttering what might sound like gibberish. Long distance running is my favorite chill time activity. The carrots are the preferred treat of my 16-month old Boxer-Pit mix, whose name is Fiosrach (because she is).... and who follows direction, at least when it suits her, as Gaeilge. I admit I am often amused listening to friends sputter their way through "suigh síos" and other commands... aside from Fiosrach, Braxton (my friends' 7-year-old), is the only A student.

With 25+ years in non-profit management, Áine Duggan is the President & CEO of The Partnership to End Homelessness, where she leads the organization's work to end homelessness by preventing it.

Previously, she served in leadership roles for housing, hunger, gender equality and LGBTQIA+ rights organizations, including as CEO of Re:Gender (which she merged with the International Center for Research on Women), and a VP for Food Bank For New York City.

A University College Dublin graduate, Áine has also been an Adjunct Professor at Hunter College and has served on several boards including as Co-Chair of OutRight Action International.



Congratulations Pádraig

from Glucksman Ireland House NYU!

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Congratulations to Jane McCooley



*Thank you for building our community,
always leading by example,
and having the biggest heart.
Love, your blades at
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CONGRATULATIONS

Dad

Irish Echo's 2022
Irish Community Champion
Award Honoree
Patrick Buckley

Thank you, Dad, for all you do for us and for
the Irish Community. Your commitment to
volunteerism is inspirational to us.

Love, Your daughters Patrice & Yvonne
& Your grandchildren

Cathrena, Conor, Ciaran, Annabelle, Dominic & Michelle



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For over a decade, the New York-New Belfast conference has brought together leaders from both sides of the Atlantic to build bridges of commerce, community and culture. As the world emerges from the Covid storm, we are proud to rejuvenate this transatlantic partnership with an in-person celebration of the ties that bind the peoples of these two great cities.

Venue: New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019

Tickets available from Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-york-new-belfast-tickets-321665238387>

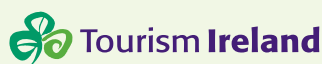
For more information contact:

Email: a.dickinson@aisling-events.com



Thursday, June 23 Noon - 2:30pm

TITANIC PARTNER



PHILANTHROPIC PARTNER



IRISH AMERICAN
PARTNERSHIP



Echo 2022 Community Champion Awards

Community Champions Hailed And Honored

Champions of the Irish American community were honored on Friday evening, June 10 at a gathering in Rosie O'Grady's Manhattan Manor. Honorees traveled from as far away as San Clemente, California, Chicago and Philadelphia, as well as from around the Tristate area for what was the seventh annual Community Champions gathering. Photos by Nuala Purcell.



Honoree Aine Duggan and Peter Byrnes.



NY Rose of Tralee Cathrena Collins, Patrice Buckley, President of the NY Kerry Assoc., Honoree Patrick Buckley and Attracta Lyndon.



Michael McGuinness with honoree Jane McCooley and her mother Roisin McCooley.



Honoree Cathy Nolan celebrating the night with family and friends.



Emerald Isle Immigration Center Executive Director, Siobhan Dennehy presents the Champion of Civil Rights in Northern Ireland Award to Michael Carroll.



Rob Walsh presents the Community Champion award to Jane McCooley.



Liz Prendergast receiving her award from Rob Walsh.



Patrick Buckley founder of the HOPE Charity accepts his award from Siobhan Dennehy.



Rob Walsh presents the Community Partnership Ambassador award to Nick McKeon.



John Handy who founded the Irish Language Learners, LLC receives his award from NYS Assemblymember Michael Cusick.



Aine Duggan, President and CEO of the Partnership to End Homelessness accepts her Community Champion award from Michael Cusick.



Honoree Nick McKeon with his family and friends.

Echo 2022 Community Champion Awards



Honoree Cathy Schramm celebrates the evening with friends Suzanne Jakubiak, John Ryan, Brianne Conlon, Greg Sullivan, Nina Senatore, Amy Rempel, Daniel Radke, Carole Kaszar, Elaine Winifred and James O'Leary.



Honoree Colin Broderick receives his award from NYS Assembly Member Michael Cusick.



Catherine Kenny Schramm accepts her Community Champion award from Sean O'hAodha.



Emer Quinlan with her husband Colin Mooney and their son Aidan.



Honoree Mike Carroll with his wife Ellen



Deputy Consul General Sean O'hAodha presents an award to Seamus Keane, founder of Clann Health.



Honoree Colleen Egan sharing the night with her wife Syndy Ziegenfuss and daughter Sheila Egan.



Deputy Consul General of Ireland Sean O' hAodha presents the Voices of Valor Awards to Sarah Cosgrove, Amy Brett and Niamh Reilly.



Siobhan Dennehy presents an award to John Richards of IABN who traveled from San Clemente, CA.



Emer Quinlan accepts her award from Siobhan Dennehy.



Colleen Egan from Chicago accepts her Community Champion award from Rob Walsh.



NYS Assembly Member Michael Cusick presents the Lifetime of Public Service award to retiring NYS Assembly Member Cathy Nolan.