The COUNTY MONAGHAN fund
AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR IRELAND

FUND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S AGM REPORT 25/2/2016

INTRODUCTION

A Time for consolidation

Ladies and Gentlemen.

You are all very welcome to this year's AGM. I know that you are all very busy people so I wish to thank you for taking the time, from your busy schedule, to be with us here this evening.

I wish to offer our sympathy to committee members Robert and Maurice Moffett on the recent death of their mother and to any other committee member who had a bereavement since our last AGM.

While our whole financial world has been turned upside down over the past few years I believe the downturn proves that the idea of investing the money in our fund when times were good is now to our benefit, as thankfully we have still some money coming in to support our County projects. If we were trying to raise this money now it would be very difficult indeed. **Since we started in 2004 the amount of grants we have paid out comes to the Grand Total of €131,661**.

Grant Application Name	Date Approved	Amount
Monaghan Wellness Centre	14/12/2012	€1,400.00
County Monaghan Community Network	18/11/2009	€1,000.00
DCU Educational Trust	09/11/2009	€6,000.00
McElroy Awards and Signage	28/04/2009	€450.00
Teach Na nDaoine	28/04/2009	€103.28
McElroy Awards and Signage	06/03/2008	€105.00
Pearse Brothers Development	22/08/2007	€1,030.00
Ballinode Hall Committee	23/04/2007	€500.00
Ballybay Community Creche	23/04/2007	€500.00

Castleblayney Community Childcare Ltd.	23/04/2007	€500.00
Rockcorry ICA	23/04/2007	€500.00
Teach Na nDaoine	23/04/2007	€1,500.00
Carrick CPR	23/04/2007	€1,500.00
Pearse Brothers Development	23/04/2007	€1,500.00
Pearse Brothers Development	10/01/2007	€270.00
Alzheimer Society of Ireland	26/04/2006	€2,000.00
Errigal Truagh Special Needs Parents and Friends Ltd.	13/04/2006	€1,750.00
Monaghan Education Centre	14/07/2015	€9,000.00
DCU Educational Trust	06/01/2015	€6,000.00
Junior Achievment Ireland	06/01/2015	€8,000.00
Equal Ireland	04/11/2014	€500.00
Monaghan Education Centre	02/07/2014	€9,000.00
Equal Ireland	02/04/2014	€500.00
Carrick CPR	02/04/2014	€200.00
DCU Educational Trust	16/12/2013	€6,000.00
Ballybay Heritage Society	20/08/2013	€300.00
Clogher Historical Society/ Cumann Seanchais Chlochair	05/07/2013	€5,000.00
Monaghan Education Centre	12/02/2013	€600.00
Teach Na nDaoine	28/05/2012	€500.00
County Monaghan Secondary Schools Art Competition	28/05/2012	€800.00
Carrickmacross Lions Club	16/05/2012	€500.00
DCU Educational Trust	08/02/2012	€6,000.00
Carrick CPR	21/07/2011	€5,450.00
DCU Educational Trust	17/02/2011	€6,000.00
County Monaghan Community Network	28/01/2009	€3,000.00
DCU Educational Trust	06/01/2009	€6,000.00
Carrick CPR	09/12/2008	€6,203.50
County Monaghan Enterprise Board	22/01/2007	€5,000.00
3rd Monaghan Scout Troop (S.I)	27/05/2005	€1,500.00
		€106,661.78

We have now achieved many of our major goals.

1) We have helped to get **Enterprise Studies** into all 2nd Level Schools in the County and we are encouraging creativity by presenting the County **Monaghan Fund Trophy for Innovation each year.** Many thanks to Martin McVicar and Maurice Moffett who acted as judges on our behalf for this competition.

2) We have achieved a county wide network of **defibrillator teams** by training over 40 Trainers who in turn have trained over 1,000 responders and I have checked with Michael McMahon about the **number of lives saved by the teams and there are four that he is sure of**. One of them was a daughter of one of the responders trained by the Carrick CPR Group. The child would have choked only for the intervention of the mother.

• Defibrilator project a proven life saver

County Monaghan Fund Chairman says missing link now in place

The group that completed the defibrillator training at Teach na nDaoine last Saturday with Michael Treanor, chairman, Francie McCarron and Seamus McDermott, County Monaghan Fund. ©Rory Geary/The Northern Standard

Since 2009 the County Monaghan Fund has supported a project to provide a pool of first aid instructors for every community in the county. These instructors have the necessary skills to train others within their community in the use of defibrillators, CPR and basic life saving skills.

The Funds ViceChairman, Mr Michael Treanor, was pleased to witness the training of the latest group of instructors in Monaghan town last Saturday. He commented that, "this provides the missing link in the provision of a network of first aid instructors for the entire county". Previously the Fund had supported the training of instructors for the mid and south Monaghan regions. Mr Treanor went on to state that, "it is only when you see what has happened to hospital services within Co Monaghan and look at the current situation unfolding in Co Roscommon, that you come to appreciate the true value of this project."

Many communities have purchased defibrillators and trained people in their use. However, they often do not realise that those trained need to update their skills on a regular basis and that this can be costly and requires continual fund raising. Very few funders would be willing or able to finance such a cost."

With the help of Mr Michael McMahon of the Carrickmacross CPR group, the County Monaghan Fund was able to provide a long term solution to this problem for communities within Co Monaghan. In 2009 the Fund purchased 3 sets of CPR training equipment. The equipment is housed at locations in north, mid and south Monaghan and provided free of charge for training.

Saturday last marked a major milestone for the project with the instructors for the north Monaghan area receiving their training. It ensured every area in the county had an instructor in its ranks and brought the total number of trained instructors within Co Monaghan to 41. To date the instructors have trained almost 1,000 people in life saving skills and 4 lives have been saved.

The County Monaghan Fund Development Manager, Mr Seamus McDermott, said, the defibrillator project showed the benefit an endowment fund can bring to a county. "Our donors have built a fund that generates an income every year. As a result we can afford to train new instructors for the defibrillator project as often as is necessary." He added, " new donors are always welcome as the greater the sum on endowment, the more income it generates ensuring an even broader range of projects can be assisted."

The current County Monaghan Fund committee are: Cathal McCarthy (Chair), Michael Treanor, Francis McCarron, Martin McVicar, Frank Cosgrove, Des Sheridan, Robert Moffett, Kieran Finlay, Paddy Gollogly, Julie Gilhooley, Siobhan McCormick, Maurice Moffett, Padraig Watters, Robert Wilson and Seamus McDermott Fund Development Manager. The range of projects the committee supports are listed on www.countymonaghanfund.com

3) We have 3 county Monaghan students who have now completed the **DCU Access Student Support Programme** and we have now paid for the third year of supporting a new group of 3 Monaghan Students. We have paid a total of €42,000 to DCU for this project to-date. DCU appreciate our financial support of €6,000 per year.

4) We have made significant progress in building our brand name and aims and mission by being involved in the above projects and in particular in the production of the DVD and our involvement in the Gathering Project. Because of the DVD 500 people have got a copy of our donors leaflet and our wills leaflet into their hands which we would never have achieved otherwise. We know that we got one donation of €300 euro in this way but we don't know what outcome some of these leaflets will have in the future. Being involved in the gathering project has brought our organization centre stage and into the knowledge of many organizations throughout the county who had a very vague notion about us prior to this. For example we made contact with the current Australian Ambassador by being involved in this project. **One of the people from Canada that came to our gathering event in 2013 returned last year with a group of 8 relations and hired Brian Rice's bus for a touring holiday.**

Second Visit of Australian Ambassador

Easter Monday 21st April 2014

Dr Ruth Adler, Australian Ambassador (With Sunglasses) to her left son Jesse, daughter Amelia and Husband Conrad. To her right her County Monaghan Cousins and members of the Meehan family. Scott's Hill in background.

County Monaghan Fund backs Reading Recovery programme.

"The ability to read and write is a fundamental requirement for all children leaving Primary School. In today's world of computers, smart phones and social media, an illiterate young person is virtually unemployable and is excluded socially from their peers. That is why the County Monaghan Fund is providing €28,000 to assist the continued delivery of the Reading Recovery programme to all schools in county Monaghan".

17th July 2014

County Monaghan Fund backs Reading Recovery programme.

At the presentation of the cheque from the County Monaghan Fund for the Reading Recovery programme, were (L-R) Seamus McDermott, County Monaghan Fund, Sr Elizabeth, Monaghan Education Centre, Michael Treanor, chairman, County Monaghan Fund, Jimmy McGeough, director, Monaghan Education Centre and Roy Mallon, chairman, Monaghan Education Centre. ©Rory Geary/The Northern Standard

"The ability to read is the foundation on which education is built. No child should be allowed to leave primary school without this essential skill. To succeed in life, reading is vital and we need to ensure children struggling to read are given the support they require. That is why the County Monaghan Fund is providing €14,000 to assist the continued delivery of the Reading Recovery programme to all schools in county Monaghan".

So said the chair of the County Monaghan Fund, Michael Treanor, as he presented a cheque to the Director of Monaghan Education Centre, Jimmy McGeough, last week. He stated that the purpose of the County Monaghan Fund was to promote projects that provided long term benefits for Monaghan people and added, " what better long term benefit can you provide than to ensure all our children have the ability to read?".

'Reading Recovery' is an innovative programme that originated in Australia and was piloted in Ireland by Monaghan Education Centre. It targets children aged between 5 and 7 years of age who are falling behind in their reading ability. The programme provides 20 hours of one to one teaching supports for each student. By the end of this time the students are reading up to or beyond the average for their age and class. Issues like dyslexia are no obstacle. To date the programme has had a 97% success rate for those involved.

However, recent changes to government policy mean that the scheme is only supported by the state in schools that are deemed to be disadvantaged by the Department of Education. These schools are known as DEIS schools and very few of the primary schools in Co Monaghan fall into this category. This means that children who need Reading Recovery in many schools around the county are not able to access the Programme.

County Monaghan Fund manager, Mr Seamus McDermott, says he is puzzled by this decision. "Ensuring all children leave school with good reading ability has huge benefits for society. The government seems not to appreciate that the disadvantage lies with the child who can't read, not their school or their community. What's more, this disadvantage will stay with them for the rest of their life."

Jimmy McGeough, Director of Monaghan Education Centre, stated that the money will be used to train a group of up to 12 teachers and they in turn will benefit close to 100 children in the academic school year 2014/2015. These teachers will continue to deliver the programme to approximately 100 children in subsequent years.

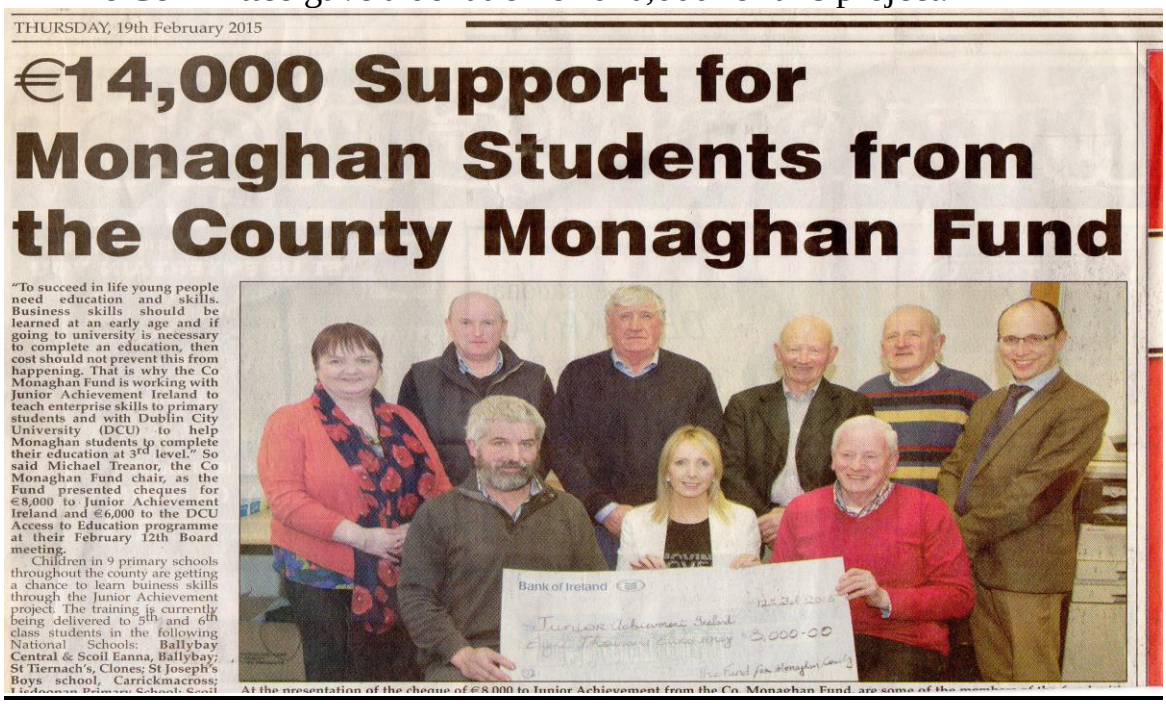
The County Monaghan Fund was established in 2004 and to-date has raised an endowment of €400,000. The income generated by this endowment is used to support projects that have long term benefits for county Monaghan and Monaghan people everywhere. The Fund is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Anyone wishing to support the work of the County Monaghan Fund should check out www.countymonaghanfund.com or contact Seamus McDermott on 087 2050365; email seammcd@eircom.net

Last year there were nine teachers trained in Reading Recovery who in turn brought 68 children from being non-readers/writers to class average level and these teachers are working with a new group of children this year. This year another group of seven teachers are being trained and it is hoped that they will bring a further 40/50 children to their class average.

PRIMARY LEVEL SCHOOL JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT PROJECT

Below is the list of 19 schools that have participated in the Junior Achievement Primary Enterprise Programme last year and this year. Ballybay Central NS, Scoil Eanna Ballybay, St.Tiarnach's NS Clones. St. Joseph's BNS, Carrickmacross, Lisdoonan Primary School and Scoil Na gCailini, Castleblaney. Model School, Monaghan, St. Mary's BNS Monaghan and St. Louis GNS, Monaghan Scoil Naomh Mhuire Clontibret, St. Daigh's N.S., Inniskeen, Scoil Cholmcille, Blackstaff, Latton N.S., Naomh Oliver Plunkett N.S. Loch Moran Castleblayney, Scoil Mhuire Rockcorry, Rockcorry N.S., St. Dympna's N.S. Tydavnet, St. Joseph's N.S. Knockatallon, St. Patrick's N.S., Clara.

The Committee gave a donation of €16,000 for this project.



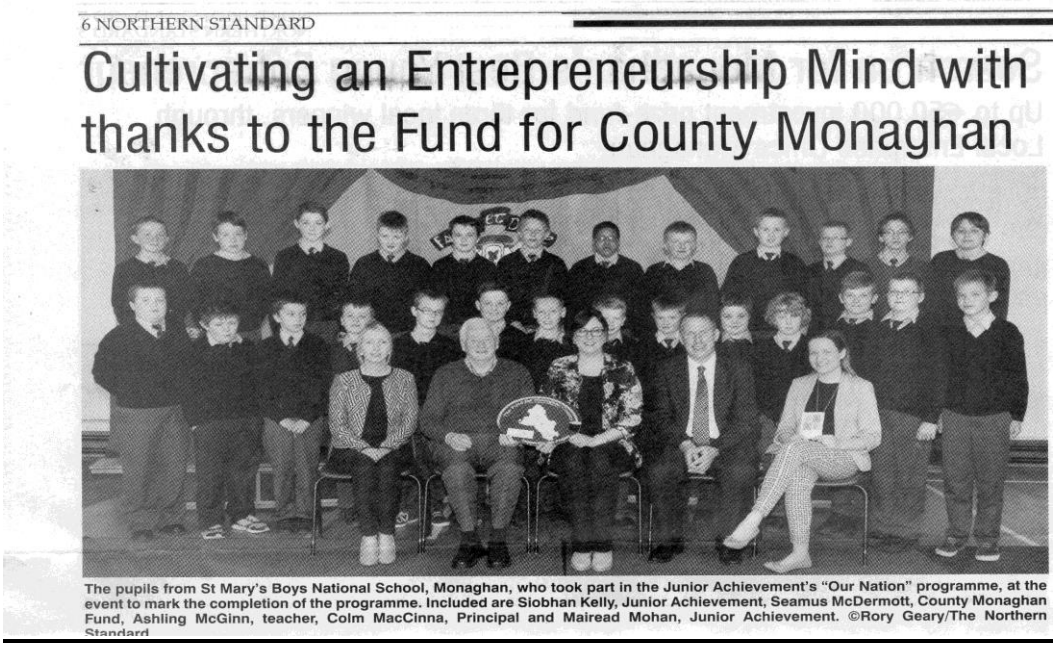
THURSDAY, 19th February 2015

€14,000 Support for Monaghan Students from the County Monaghan Fund

"To succeed in life young people need education and skills. Business skills should be learned at an early age and if going to university is necessary to complete an education, then cost should not prevent this from happening. That is why the Co Monaghan Fund is working with Junior Achievement Ireland to teach enterprise skills to primary students and with Dublin City University (DCU) to help Monaghan students to complete their education at 3rd level." So said Michael Treanor, the Co Monaghan Fund chair, as the Fund presented cheques for €8,000 to Junior Achievement Ireland and €6,000 to the DCU Access to Education programme at their February 12th Board meeting.

Children in 9 primary schools throughout the county are getting a chance to learn buiness skills through the Junior Achievement project. The training is currently being delivered to 5th and 6th class students in the following National Schools: **Ballybay Central & Scoil Eanna, Ballybay; St Tiernach's, Clones; St Joseph's Boys school, Carrickmacross;**

At the presentation of the cheque of €8,000 to Junior Achievement from the Co. Monaghan Fund, are some of the members of the



6 NORTHERN STANDARD

Cultivating an Entrepreneurship Mind with thanks to the Fund for County Monaghan

The pupils from St Mary's Boys National School, Monaghan, who took part in the Junior Achievement's "Our Nation" programme, at the event to mark the completion of the programme. Included are Siobhan Kelly, Junior Achievement, Seamus McDermott, County Monaghan Fund, Ashling McGinn, teacher, Colm MacCinna, Principal and Mairead Mohan, Junior Achievement. ©Rory Geary/The Northern Standard

Wills Document The wills document has been distributed to all Solicitors and Accountants in the county. We had an article printed in The Northern Standard for “make a will week” titled “Make sure you have the last word”.

I want to thank Breda McGuigan and Claire Cunningham, from Aura Web Design, for designing, hosting and keeping our website up-to-date and setting up PayPal for us. Claire Cunningham informed me recently that this will be the last year that they will give us this service.

I wish to thank our Chairperson Michael Treanor, Secretary Francis McCarron, Treasured Frank Cosgrove and all the Committee members, the Donors, The Community Foundation for Ireland, Monaghan County Council and all the people who helped in the work of The County Monaghan Fund since our last AGM. I want to thank The Northern Standard and for their coverage over the past year. I also want to thank Francis and the staff of Monaghan LES for the use of this building for our meetings.

Thank you

Séamus McDermott

Fund Development Manager.