

RTÉ  
**TOY  
SHOW  
APPEAL**



**Changing Children's  
Lives for Good.**



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**Inspired by children, we work to bring the magic of *The Late Late Toy Show* to every child in Ireland. By funding essential support, health, well-being, play and creativity, we aim to change children's lives for good.**

**The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal raises funds to be shared with charities across the island who work with children from infancy to teenagers in the following ways:**



### **Ensuring basic needs**

Providing holistic and practical supports for children such as food, shelter and warmth who are at risk;

Enhanced educational support where needed.



### **Improving health and wellbeing**

Promoting mental health and resilience;

Increasing quality of life for children with disabilities and serious health conditions.



### **Reducing inequality through play, creativity and personal development**

Supporting creative activities which enhance personal and emotional development, resilience and wellness;

Increasing access to play and recreation experiences for disadvantaged or vulnerable children and young people.

***The Late Late Toy Show*  
on 27 November 2020 was  
the most watched television  
programme in Ireland ever.**



**1.7 million people**

**watched the programme across the weekend**



**The programme was watched by viewers in**

**138 countries**

**This show launched the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal  
to help children's charities across the island.**



**Audiences donated a total of**

**€6,839,045**

**to the appeal.**

**It is estimated that over 600,000 children and family  
members are benefitting from 55 projects across Ireland  
during 2021 and into the future, thanks to the funds raised  
by the appeal.**



**2020 was a year that kept us apart, but there can be no doubt that on 27 November, the country came together for a shared experience. *The Late Late Toy Show* was watched by over 1.7 million viewers, and it was watched by viewers in 138 countries on RTÉ Player.**

*The Late Late Show* is exceptional by any national broadcasting standards, both in terms of its longevity, its uniquely Irish focus, and that it is a programme that offers us moments of escapism, joy and challenging conversations. *The Late Late Toy Show* is also a national treasure; an evening where all generations unite, and the country celebrates some incredible and inspirational children.

RTÉ, as Ireland's national public service broadcaster is proud to serve the country in playing a positive and valuable role in Irish life and society. For us, the creation of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, is a natural extension of our purpose. We have been proud to work in partnership with The Community Foundation for Ireland, who have offered invaluable guidance in terms of philanthropic expertise, and we are very grateful to them for the role that they have played in terms of independent assessment of the grants, and the disbursement of the funds raised to 55 fantastic organisations who are improving the lives of children in all kinds of ways, right around the country.

I would like to honour all of the children on the show that night who inspired and uplifted us all, and to acknowledge the dedication and talent of *The Late Late Show* team who produced such a memorable show, under particularly difficult circumstances.

But the ultimate tribute must be to our audience, who responded with such huge generosity, and have helped to change the lives of over 600,000 children and family members in communities all across Ireland.

We very much look forward to developing further this wonderful venture and hope that it will benefit many more children and families in the years ahead.

**Dee Forbes**  
Director General, RTÉ

# **National shared moments with lasting impacts.**

# The Community Foundation for Ireland



**Now over 21 years in existence, The Community Foundation for Ireland works with individuals, families, companies and other trusts and foundations to support a diverse range of not for profit organisations. Since 2000 The Community Foundation for Ireland has awarded over €75 million in grants. The Community Foundation for Ireland is a registered charity, (Charity Regulator Number: 20044886) and is committed to the highest standards of trust and governance.**

The Community Foundation for Ireland partnership with the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal is one of the highlights of our year. The coupling of the excitement and energy generated by a staple of the Irish television calendar with an appeal which reflects our mission of equality for all in thriving communities has truly ignited the public imagination.

No-one could have predicted that the generosity of *The Late Late Show* viewers would translate into donations in excess of €6.8 million. Yet this incredible total it is only part of the story.

Using our existing network of 5,000 partner organisations formed over 21-years we were able to work with the team at RTÉ to firstly identify areas of greatest need and then how best to meet that need. The pandemic has shone a light on the increasing inequality in our society and the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal is helping to support children facing additional challenges. The resilience and courage of children and young people across Ireland is incredible and we are glad to play our part in translating the outpouring of compassion and generosity into meaningful and long-term support for children across Ireland.

At The Community Foundation we are privileged to see the positive impact for over 600,000 children and family members as well as their wider community members who will benefit from the 55 projects viewers are supporting. Children from infancy to 18-years old who have overcome adversity are benefiting with grant investments made across three strands.

## **Ensuring Basic Needs**

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal was able to respond to some of the biggest and most difficult challenges facing children on both parts of the island. Children who have experienced violence at home, been forced to flee their homes because of war and conflict, who are living in emergency accommodation, and children whose families struggle to provide basic necessities are all being supported by ground-breaking projects.

## **Improving Wellbeing**

The increased importance of health and wellbeing, both physical and mental, is reflected under this theme. A number of projects are improving access to health and wellbeing supports including programmes working with Transitions Year students and peer support groups for LGBTI+ young people. A new learning hub for children with dyslexia is being developed. There are projects too improving the young lives of children whose families are impacted by cancer or autism.

## **Reducing Inequality through Creativity**

The Community Foundation for Ireland believe that arts and creativity can be powerful, energetic tools to advance accessibility and equality. This strand attracted applications from an art and creativity sector clearly yearning to bounce back from Covid-19. A South Dublin Arts Based Educational and Socialisation project is breaking down the barriers facing children living in direct provision. An artistic hub will be developed by one of our partners to bring colour and creativity to seriously ill children living in three counties in the West. The National Concert Hall now has a creative lab which champions young composers from under-represented groups.

## **Conclusion**

Children's voices have always been at the very core of *The Late Late Toy Show*. Establishing the appeal was not only ambitious but courageous by introducing a new dimension to a cherished Irish institution. The viewers response speaks for itself. At a time of year when all our thoughts turn to family, they have looked outside their own homes to show love and solidarity with children throughout Ireland.

### **Denise Charlton,**

Chief Executive of The Community Foundation for Ireland

**“At The Community Foundation we are privileged to see the positive impact for over 600,000 children and family members as well as their wider community.”**

## The Impacts Achieved by the Monies Raised

In advance of the programme a commitment had been made that 50% of the monies raised in 2020 would be shared among three leading children's charities, with the remaining balance being made available as grants by Community Foundation for Ireland following an open grant round.

The three charity partners in 2020 were:

**Barnardos** work throughout the country to deliver services and work with families, communities, and partners to transform the lives of vulnerable children who are affected by adverse childhood experiences. Because childhood lasts a lifetime.

Grant amount →

€1,504,491.68

**Children's Health Foundation** – in 2019 CMRF Crumlin and Temple Street Foundation, came together to become one foundation supporting all Children's Health Ireland (CHI) sites to ensure every sick child has the very best chance. Children's Health Foundation is committed to supporting the little patients and families who attend Children's Health Ireland hospitals and urgent care centres in Temple Street, Crumlin, Connolly and Tallaght hospitals.

Grant amount →

€1,504,491.68

**Children's Books Ireland** exists to inspire a love of reading in children and young people and has a simple vision: every child a reader. Children's Books Ireland champions every child's right to excellent books and live literature events, informs adults who influence children's reading and supports artists who make that goal possible.

Grant amount →

€302,690.00

## Statement from Suzanne Connolly, CEO Barnardos



Barnardos mission is to deliver services and work with families, communities, and our partners to transform the lives of vulnerable children who are affected by adverse childhood experiences. Barnardos has been providing practical and emotional supports to children and parents for almost 60 years in Ireland. This work takes place in Barnardos centres, in families' own homes, through the school environment, and within communities throughout the country. **Each year we work with over 18,000 children and their families.**

Through our work in communities across Ireland, Barnardos has seen first-hand the devastating impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on vulnerable children and their families. This has included an increased incidence of domestic violence and the exacerbation of issues such as addiction and poor mental health. These situations were compounded by job losses and the closure of schools, the latter meaning that children had no respite or place of safety for a prolonged period. Since the onset of the crisis, Barnardos has remained connected with the families we work with.

We have had to reimagine how we provide support by using a blended approach to service delivery through the incorporation of digital tools.

Addressing basic needs, such as providing food parcels and other essentials, gave our staff an opportunity on a regular, continual basis, and at a safe distance, to view and interact with children and parents. This contact has been especially important where there are pre-existing child welfare concerns, or where new concerns have arisen. Our services have collaborated with other agencies to provide support to the vulnerable families they were working with. We have received positive feedback from communities that we were one of the few services visibly still at work, out visiting families and providing on-the-ground frontline support.

At Barnardos, we feel privileged to be one of the chosen charities to benefit from this extraordinary act of public generosity. To honour the trust placed in us by the Irish public, we are undertaking the following work between 2021 and 2023 to ensure this funding has the greatest impact on vulnerable children and families now and into the future.

- We are employing a Wellbeing Coordinator and five Wellbeing Workers to develop a new and innovative approach to community wellbeing in response to the collective trauma experienced by the COVID-19 pandemic in areas of North and South Dublin, Tipperary and Westmeath.
- We are increasing the number of children and families who receive practical and emotional support from our frontline Family Support and Bereavement Services. To do this, we are employing eight new Family Support Project Workers in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Offaly and Waterford and two new Bereavement Project Workers in our Bereavement Service in Dublin and Cork, this will help reduce the amount of time children and families are waiting for our services.
- We are creating therapeutic spaces in Barnardos' centres across Ireland to ensure that our physical environments are warm, welcoming and engaging spaces designed to support trauma informed practice.
- We are investing in research and innovation to develop programmes to support vulnerable families experiencing adverse childhood experiences in the areas of acrimonious separation and parental mental health.

On behalf of the children and families we work with, our sincere thanks to everyone who donated to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal.

**Suzanne Connolly**  
CEO Barnardos

**“Each year we work  
with over 18,000 children  
and their families.”**



# Statement from **Denise Fitzgerald,** **Children's Health Foundation**



On behalf of Children's Health Foundation, as well as the patients, families and staff in Children's Health Ireland (CHI), I am delighted to have this opportunity to share the profound impact that the incredible funds raised during the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal are having on sick children in CHI hospitals and urgent care centres.

Here in Children's Health Foundation, we exist to support the urgent and life-saving work that happens in CHI hospitals and urgent care centres every minute of every day – from funding vital, life-saving equipment and providing essential patient and parental supports, to making ground-breaking, paediatric research possible.

We were so humbled to see the phenomenal response of the people of Ireland to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal in 2020 and are immensely grateful for the support given – support that is having a real, long-term and positive impact for young patients and their families.

We believe in the profound power of research to change young lives for the better by finding new treatments and cures. That is why funds from this appeal are being invested in a range of seed-funding projects, to enable researchers to make advancements that will improve outcomes for sick children. Supporting at this early stage is an essential step in providing an evidence base for improved medicines and treatments that will help children for years to come.

When worried families arrive at CHI hospitals and urgent care centres with their sick child, it is critical that frontline teams have the very best equipment and systems to hand to enable the best possible care. That's why we have invested these vital funds in a range of state-of-the-art equipment for treatment and training, like central monitoring stations, clinical examination chairs, anaesthetic equipment and specialist microscopes and so much more.

We are committed to supporting the holistic care of children during their time in hospital, which can be an unfamiliar and even frightening experience. Creating a warm, welcoming and home-from-home environment is so important for patients and their families. We need to treat the child and not just the illness. That is why funds have been invested in a whole range of supports like playroom toys, books and puzzles, rewards, birthday presents, sensory toys, to name just a few, all of which will help create joy and special moments for children at the most difficult of times.

Supporting new services that improve and transform hospital experiences for children is crucial and we're delighted that a number of exciting new projects have been selected to benefit from this vital funding. For patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder, a new tailored phlebotomy service has been created that will transform children's experience of having blood tests and a new music therapy initiative for children undergoing dental treatment has also been made possible. As you can imagine, these initiatives are incredibly important to reduce stress and improve hospital experiences.

These projects and initiatives are just a sample of the incredible work and difference that the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal funds are making right across CHI and urgent care centres. They will quite simply, changing lives for the better by improving experiences, bringing smiles and laughter to sick children, equipping the hospitals and paving the way for new treatments and cures. This is only possible because of the kindness and generosity of every single person who donated to the appeal. Our heartfelt thank you to everyone who has made this important work possible.

**Denise Fitzgerald**  
Chief Executive,  
Children's Health Foundation

## Statement from Elaina Ryan, CEO Children's Books Ireland



Children's Books Ireland is a charity which will celebrate its 25th birthday in 2022. We champion every child's right to discover and develop a love of reading. Evidence shows that reading for pleasure has a positive impact on the learning experience and wellbeing of children and young adults, and that having an author or illustrator visit at school builds confidence and encourages creative energy and experimentation. In the absence of government funding, we have been donating excellent books to schools since 2014, unlocking the myriad benefits and pleasures of reading for children and young people all over Ireland.

With the generous funding received from the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, Children's Books Ireland will work closely with four DEIS primary schools over a three-year period to embed a long-lasting culture of reading in their school communities. Each of these 'Every Child a Reader: Reading Communities' will receive over 1,000 excellent, varied and contemporary books, benefitting over 1,200 children. Each school is paired with a Champion of Reading, an experienced author or illustrator whose role is to make reading fun and spark the children's imaginations. Teaching staff are receiving training and resource packs to help them encourage students' reading in fresh, creative ways.

The schools and champions are:

- **Scoil na Croise Naofa**, Mahon, Cork, championed by author E.R. Murray;
- **St. Brendan's NS**, Kilmeena, Mayo, championed by illustrator Kim Sharkey;
- **Scoil Chroí Íosa**, Newcastle, Galway, championed by author Sarah Moore Fitzgerald;
- **St. Joseph's NS**, Dundalk, Louth, championed by illustrator Tarsila Krüse.

A launch celebration marked the start of the project in each school, and each has received a starter library of 225 books. Each school has established a student advisory group to select the remaining books and to ensure students' ideas are central to the project. Large proportions of students in these communities experience disadvantage, and the excitement about their new libraries is already palpable. One student insisted that she couldn't read, but when her school's Champion of Reading shared a wordless picture book with her, she built enough confidence to go on and read a picture book she was familiar with to the whole class, using the pictures as prompts. For some, it may be the first time their school has had inclusive books featuring characters that look like them or come from a similar background, and for others the books will be a way to explore other identities and develop empathy but walking in someone else's shoes.

The ultimate impact we want to achieve from this project is that we will inspire and enable more children to become readers for life, overcoming barriers to access and breaking cycles of family literacy challenges, while also increasing teacher knowledge, confidence and enthusiasm in relation to reading for pleasure.

Children's Books Ireland would like to sincerely thank *The Late Late Toy Show* viewers, RTÉ and The Community Foundation for Ireland for making all of this possible.

**Elaina Ryan,**  
CEO Children's Books Ireland



# Open Round Grant Beneficiaries







## Addressing Essential Needs

Grants within this category of funding are intended to ensure that more children are safe, warm, fed and properly supported in addressing educational needs. Through practical support the aim is to improve the living conditions, life experiences and outcomes for children who may be at risk of some form of deprivation and increasing educational access for vulnerable children.

### SAFE Ireland National Social Change Agency

Since March 2020, Safe Ireland has been documenting the significant increase in the number of survivors looking for support to escape controlling, abusive homes in lockdown. Children and young people are the invisible victims in this shadow pandemic of Domestic Violence. This funding will set up the Children's Resilience Fund to help address the immediate, basic and critical needs of children directly. It will ensure that food, heat, safety supports and other basic needs are met. It is anticipated that the project will benefit 100 children escaping domestic violence.

Grant amount

→ €55,000

**"I was living in lockdown for years before Covid. Bringing the two kids to school and weekly grocery shopping were my only freedoms. When Covid came, they too ended. The kids were off school, he was working from home, and then he took over doing the weekly shopping. Our home was a prison and our lives were a nightmare. When restrictions lifted we fled to a refuge – no money, no documents, just the summer clothes we were wearing. The local Domestic Violence Service was just fantastic. They sorted the kids with warm clothes, shoes and jammies. They got me a new SIM Card for my phone, provided welfare advice, accompanied me to Court, and arranged counselling for the children. Our journey is only beginning, but the supports we got through the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal helped us take the first steps. They probably saved our lives."**  
*Louise (41)\**

### Crosscare

The demand for food support in Ireland is increasing since the Pandemic. Food banks alone are not the solution to food poverty, as many who are using them are in chronic financial and social situations. With this funding Crosscare will provide emergency food support and wrap around services to address the routes into food poverty. This approach to eliminating childhood hunger and poverty addresses immediate needs by providing food while supporting families to overcome structural causes of poverty (e.g. housing, social welfare, labour) through information, advocacy and support. It is anticipated that the project will benefit 600 children and their families.

Grant amount

→ €82,715

**"Thanks to the Late Late Show Funding this year we have been able to employ a full time support person working directly with families and children to help them move out of food poverty in the long term, by helping them source nutritious food, plan and budget for shopping and get any extra support they need. "**

### Depaul

Depaul will create a Child Support Worker (CSW) role in their homeless services to specifically support children. A first-of-its-kind position in Depaul Ireland, the CSW will work with children in their residential services as well as accepting referrals from our community and outreach services, ensuring basic needs are met. The project will also involve the provision of support packs including personal hygiene products, healthy snacks and toys for children experiencing deprivation and disadvantage. It is anticipated that the project will benefit 450 children aged 0-4 years old who are in emergency homeless accommodation.

Grant amount

→ €51,700

# Addressing Essential Needs

Continued

## **Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre**

The New Beginnings programme will ensure that the basic needs of refugee children arriving in Ireland under family reunification and children of families who are transitioning from Direct Provision are met. Nasc will work with emergency accommodation services to ensure basic re-settlement needs are met. They will also provide refugee and asylum seeker children with household items and assist with moving costs, food, setting up utilities, schools enrolment, books and uniforms, childcare, and healthcare. It is anticipated that the project will benefit 80 child refugees and asylum seekers aged 5-12 years old who are in Direct Provision.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€40,000**

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## **Galway Traveller Movement**

The Educate to Empower programme will work with Traveller children and young people from the Craughwell site, Gort Bridge group housing scheme and Gort town, as they have been identified as high priority for intervention.

The project is the first of its kind for the county and it will use a peer led model promoting culture and identity that will nurture the children and young people's health, wellbeing, and creativity to encourage children to remain in education. It is anticipated that the project will benefit 50 school aged Traveller children.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€82,000**

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## **Respond**

Families in Respond's Refugee Resettlement Programme (RRP), have fled the ongoing Syrian civil war, with little or no means of support other than the basics provided by the Irish Government. In many cases expectant single mothers have fled abusive relationships and as such are extremely isolated and have minimal financial means to provide the basics for their children. With this funding Respond will provide parents of new-born children with new-born baby hampers that will consist of essential items for their new-born child. It is anticipated that the project will benefit 26 families in need.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€31,578.82**

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# Improving Wellbeing

## Health And Wellbeing

Ill health is difficult at any point in life, but it can have significant and long term impacts in childhood in terms of educational outcomes and emotional wellbeing. We are also all aware that Covid has created additional challenges in terms of mental health and social isolation. Funding in this category is for organisations who work with children and young people to improve the quality of life of children who are dealing with a disability or serious health condition, and those who help children improve mental health and resilience.

### Family Carers Ireland

My Life Now is a new project for Young Carers aiming to work directly with 150 Young Carers to make a positive impact on their physical and mental wellbeing, educational achievement and caring routine. Evidence has overwhelmingly demonstrated that as a direct consequence of their caring role, the wellbeing of the majority of Young Carers is at risk. Many young carers do not have access to respite from their caring roles - the burden of care is significant. With this funding, Family Carers Ireland will provide counselling support, access to IT equipment, grants and respite breaks. It is anticipated that 150 young carers will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€90,897**

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### Sonass Domestic Violence Charity

Sonass Domestic Violence Charity aim to enhance their Children's service by developing a Recovery Programme for children and young people who have been victims of domestic abuse. This innovative programme will address the wellbeing, psychological and mental health needs of children and young people, and will encourage engagement in physical and mental wellbeing activities. The seven areas of support will be: physical health, where you live, being safe, relationships, feelings and behaviour, friends, and confidence and self-esteem. It is anticipated that 600 children aged 5-12 who have faced domestic abuse will be supported through this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€75,000**

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### Dyslexia Association of Ireland

The Online Learning Hub aims to develop a free online inclusive learning hub for students with dyslexia and other literacy difficulties. With support from parents/guardians, young people will be able to access online learning resources to develop their literacy and learning skills, and support their wellbeing with content on self-esteem, resilience, and self-understanding. This free online hub will provide a structured learning framework for literacy development based on the science of reading. It will support children and young people to develop their phonological skills, reading fluency, vocabulary development, and comprehension. It is anticipated that 20,000 children and young people with dyslexia will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€100,000**

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### Exchange House Ireland National Traveller Service

This grant will be used for the development of a pilot project to co-produce the design of a model for a Youth Mental Health Service for young members of the Traveller community. The project will be underpinned by community development principles and best practice guidance for mental health service delivery. This innovative pilot aims to create a culturally appropriate and accepted model for a Traveller Youth Mental Health Service which can then be proposed to health and social inclusion funders. Through extensive consultation with Traveller youths, parents and organisations the project design, delivery and evaluation will be guided by Traveller community involvement. It is anticipated that the project will benefit 100 Traveller young people who have mental health issues.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€100,000**

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# Improving Wellbeing

## Health And Wellbeing

Continued

### Early Learning Initiative, National College of Ireland

The aim of The Parenting 365 Pilot Programme is to develop and pilot a supportive programme for 1-4 year olds at risk of developing disabilities that can be replicated by home visiting programmes in disadvantaged communities around Ireland. This will be through providing disadvantaged children with creative and safe play spaces to explore their abilities; empowering caregivers/parents with limited education and/or English language skills; offering disadvantaged families facing the challenge of disability the chance to connect and support; and conducting a research study of this intervention on the child's development and parental capacity building. It is anticipated that the project will benefit 266 children aged 0-4 years who are at risk of developing learning difficulties.

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**Grant amount**

→ €100,000

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### AsIAm

Bridge Forward Together is an evidence-based programme that will support children and young people with autism to develop emotional regulation and self-regulation, self-esteem, confidence and community participation. Participants will join in a 6-part workshop with peers, based in their local community and delivered by a facilitator from an education or therapeutic background. The workshops will take a strengths-based approach to support young people to better understand themselves and communicate their needs, develop coping strategies and re-connect with learning and the local community following COVID-19. It is anticipated that 200 children with autism aged 5-12 will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €100,000

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### ARC Cancer Support Centres (ARC)

This grant will be used to enable ARC introduce a new Family Support Service to support children/young people where a parent has a cancer diagnosis, children/adolescents with cancer (severe illnesses) and siblings i.e. child/teen where a brother/sister has cancer. This funding will allow ARC to provide psycho-social support for all family members. These include: one to one counselling, couples counselling, teen counselling, play therapy for children with cancer, sibling therapy, monthly talks and workshops for families, bereavement counselling, and the adaptation of a room specifically for play therapy with resources. It is anticipated that 500 children and young people facing trauma and grief because of cancer will be supported through this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €75,000

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**"I would have felt so alone without the supports of ARC. I wouldn't have known where to turn for help. I received the cancer diagnosis, but it impacted my whole family, so I feel that we are all on the journey of recovery together. The staff and volunteers are so experienced, and I can't thank them enough for all their kindness and understanding."**

**Sarah O'Neill**

### Meath Springboard Family Support Services

The grant awarded will be used to fund a project which will provide a timely, affordable, and accessible counselling support service to children with mild to moderate mental health issues (MHI), aimed specifically at children from under privileged backgrounds who would normally be unable to avail of counselling due to cost. Meath Springboard Family Support Services will ensure that the children who suffered food and educational poverty during Covid 19 are supported to psychologically recover from Covid-19 and return to as full and positive a childhood experience as possible. It is anticipated that 364 children aged 5-12 with mental health difficulties will be supported through this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €68,000

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# Improving Wellbeing

## Health And Wellbeing

Continued

### One Family

This grant will be used to fund essential research to develop and disseminate guidance on how to support young children and toddlers in separated families in the most age-appropriate way. Pregnancy and the first year of a baby's life is the most common point of separation for parents and many parents need assistance during the separation process; particularly when this intersects with pregnancy. With this funding, One Family will work with these parents and their babies through specialist counselling and parenting services to encourage parents and courts to make decisions that are in the best interests of both the parents and the child. It is anticipated that the project will benefit 5,000 children aged 0-4 years old whose parents are going through a separation.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€55,317.80**

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### Citywise Education

The Citywise Youth in Action Programme seeks to empower young people from underserved areas by working with marginalised individuals to through a programme of community development workshops which lead to social action. This project seeks to develop positive attitudes such as increased self-worth, self-efficacy, confidence and agency. It seeks to increase overall wellbeing by empowering young people with new skills in the area of community development and working with them to deliver their own social impact through action projects in the local area which participants will initiate and lead. It is anticipated that 100 young people will benefit through this personal development programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€63,250**

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**“In Citywise Youth in Action I enjoy working with my friends so that we can help and motivate others to have more involvement in tackling problems within our area.”**

### Soar Foundation

Soar creates and delivers authentic and innovative character-building programmes underpinned by key wellbeing indicators, such as Awareness, Connection, Resilience, Self-sufficiency, and Purpose. These programmes will help young people to increase their self-awareness, understand their emotional reality, identify positive coping strategies, and as a result grow in confidence. Soar believes teenagers personal and character development should be central to their teenage development. With this funding, Soar will expand their team of highly skilled facilitators to ensure that they reach their aim of working with all transition year students in Ireland annually by 2025. It is anticipated that 100,000 young people will benefit from this programme over the next 5 years.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€100,000**

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**“Remarkable. All the emotions I had suppressed were all of a sudden in the open air and I no longer felt as alone as I thought I was.”**

## BeLonG To Youth Services

BeLonG To's project is to establish a weekly group-based therapy service for LGBTI+ young people whose mental health is poor. The service will complement their youth work programmes and provide a step-up and step-down service from the crisis counselling service they operate in partnership with Pieta. This project will create a new support system, which aims to reduce the number of LGBTI+ young people who escalate to crisis point and reduce the number of LGBTI+ youth who have completed their 10 crisis sessions with Pieta who rebound back to crisis point within a matter of weeks or months. It is anticipated that 52 LGBTI+ young people will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €38,584

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## COPE Galway

The grant received will enable our Helping Kids First project to address an identified gap in support services for homeless children in Galway, where children's development needs are not being adequately met. This grant will resource a Child Support Outreach Worker, qualified in early childhood development, who will work with some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised children and teenagers in COPE Galway's homeless service. Teenagers living in homeless accommodation face unique challenges, particularly with their mental health and this project will also provide targeted support for these teenagers. It is anticipated that 200 children and young people in emergency homeless accommodation will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €44,000

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## Limerick Youth Service

The BEWELL Rural Youth Mental Health Project will enable the development of a rural outreach mental health support for young people aged 14–18 years in County Limerick. The focus of this project is on delivering youth mental health and well-being supports using youthwork methodologies and approaches and in so doing strengthening the social, physical and mental health resilience of young people residing in rural areas. The outreach support will focus on; raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing with young people, building confidence and resilience for some young people, young people developing and delivering products and services (Youth led peer approach). It is anticipated that 200 young people aged 12-18 facing mental health difficulties will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €83,500

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## National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI)

With this funding, NCBI will develop and rollout of the RISE Programme: Resilience, Integration and Exercise; Self-Advocacy; Engagement – a new national suite of structured interventions to support wellbeing development for children and teens who are blind. When a child has a vision impairment, alternate structured strategies for learning and education are required to support on-time development and education. The RISE Programme aspires to work in conjunction with education supports to address the gap and focus on mental health and wellness for both children and their families, supporting the development health and wellbeing, alongside education, into adulthood. It is anticipated that 250 young people who are blind will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €100,000

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**“I love NCBI because they have great teachers, you learn new skills but you don't just learn new skills, you really have fun with it and you make friends. I have actually made a best friend at the NCBI camps.”**  
*A child's testimonial*



# Improving Wellbeing

## Health And Wellbeing

Continued

### **A Lust For Life**

Gone Past Talking will be an educational programme to create a generation of engaged activists through a series of workshops and a connected intergenerational mentoring programme. Through the programme, young people will create a better, fairer and more just world by tackling a range of intersectional, intergenerational social challenges in their community. Getting young people involved in tackling social challenges in their communities and world has proven to have profoundly positive impacts on their mental and emotional wellbeing, creating a positive sense of community, purpose, connection and identity. It is anticipated that 50 young people with mental health difficulties will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€30,000**

### **Tacú Ballinrobe Family Resource Centre**

This project will support vulnerable young people and disadvantaged young people whose mental health in particular has been negatively impacted by COVID 19. A Link Worker will be employed for a year to run a Pilot Project "HEROES" to support vulnerable young people who have struggled through COVID to pick up the pieces and to reach out and reach in. It is envisaged that as a result of the Pilot Project we will have an evidence-based programme of early intervention and prevention for young people. This programme will prevent young people from going into long-term mental health services. It is anticipated that 50 young people aged 12-18 will benefit from this programme, improving their resilience and mental health.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€25,000**

### **Involve**

The Reconnecting by Disconnecting project will improve the mental health and physical wellbeing of young people from the Travelling Community from 6 youth projects across Ireland. By leaving their homes and communities in Meath, Ballina, Letterkenny, Loughrea, Salthill and Ballinasloe and participating in a 5-day camping trip in an outdoor adventure centre they will leave behind all the worries and feelings of isolation they may have felt in the past 12 months due to the pandemic and any other issues they may have. They will participate in mental and physical health workshops and activities that will allow them to discuss and express how they are feeling and build resilience. It is anticipated that 120 Traveller young people aged 12-18 will benefit from these camping trips.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€27,410**

### **Acquired Brain Injury Ireland**

The On With Life Paediatric project is designed specifically for children who have acquired a brain injury. A brain injury is sudden, disruptive, life-changing, and terrifying for both a child and their parent. Every brain injury is unique and different with most leading to physical, cognitive, sensory, or intellectual challenges. More severe injuries can have a combination of these challenges. Supports for children with an acquired brain injury are currently limited. This project will establish a national support network that will improve the wellbeing of children with an acquired brain injury through peer support, education and information. It is anticipated that 50 children and young people aged 5-18 with acquired brain injuries will benefit from this project.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€95,140**

# Reducing Inequality Through Play And Creativity

## Graffiti Theatre Company

The Be Your Own Hero project is an empowering three-strand programme focusing on schools in DEIS areas of Cork City. In 16 schools across the city, children will participate in drama workshops in schools, empowering children to use their voices and input in the creation of a new piece of theatre; participate in creative writing workshops and receive a printed copy of their original story; and experience a new and accessible live piece of theatre for young audiences, inspired by the Be Your own Hero theme. It is anticipated that 800 children aged 5-12 from disadvantaged areas will be involved in this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €85,000

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## Irish Wheelchair Association

The Creative Youth for Disability programme is a curriculum-based education programme alongside online and face-to-face outreach for teachers, children and parents delivered through schools. It will engage young people through creativity and play on issues of inequality for People with Disabilities. The programme will address these issues by: Enabling the creative potential of Children and Youth; Pioneering and enabling creative outreach activity storytelling, play, games, drama, poetry, writing, art and music; and by delivering a new Schools Education and Outreach Programme to inform learners about the perceptions of disability and issues for people with disabilities such as, injustice, accessibility, discrimination, equality using a human rights lens and through the experience of people with disabilities. It is anticipated that 12,000 children and young people who use wheelchairs will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €100,000

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**"Our program will educate schools and school children to be more inclusive, and bring that with them as they grow, changing the overall experience of a new generation of children with disabilities."**

## Music Generation Cork City

Building on experience gained through working in partnership with community-based music groups, MGCC will initiate a year-long research and development project to engage in a coordinated research action plan, to build our capacity to address barriers to access to creative music-making and self-expression and to augment our partnerships with groups that work with marginalised youth. This project will develop and implement action research projects with young people with autism, Travellers and Roma and migrants to identify and eliminate barriers to participation in Music Generation's programmes. It is anticipated that 60 children and young people from marginalised backgrounds will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €97,800

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## Rua Red, South Dublin Arts Centre

The aim of the Anseo project is to decrease educational disadvantage and social isolation of asylum seeker and refugee children through an arts-based learning and socialisation project. Rua Red will design, develop and deliver a series of workshops and events for young participants that will focus on building confidence, creativity and developing their language skills. This project seeks to address some of the disproportionate effects of Covid-19 on the social integration of asylum seeker and refugee children in Ireland. The groups will come together in the culmination of the project for Summer School in July 2022. This will be an opportunity to celebrate and showcase their creative achievements. It is anticipated that 72 young refugees and asylum seekers aged 12-18 will benefit from this programme.

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**Grant amount**

→ €30,000

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## Helium Arts

All children deserve a good childhood, but those living with health conditions face many challenges, such as social isolation and loneliness, poor self-esteem, and lack of agency and often feel like their lives are defined by their condition. The Helium Arts Creative Health Hub WEST (Galway, Mayo & Roscommon) will apply an "arts on referral" model connected to Galway University Hospital, to deliver a programme close to children's homes and in their communities. During sessions, professional artists facilitate activities which supports each child to develop the Habits of Inquisitiveness, Collaboration, Imagination, Discipline, & Persistence while supporting the development of wellbeing. It is anticipated that 900 children aged 5-12 with life-long illnesses will be impacted by this project.

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Grant amount

→ €94,000

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**"We are delighted to be one of the projects to receive funding from the inaugural RTÉ Toy Show Appeal. This support will allow us to continue our mission of empowering children living with long-term health conditions through the arts. Thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful initiative."**

## Donegal Rape Crisis Centre

The Creative ReCOVERY project aims to meet the need for Donegal based therapeutic support for young people under the age of 14 who are survivors of sexual violence. Unfortunately Donegal has very high numbers of children and young people affected by sexual violence but many children have to wait until aged 14 to access services. With this funding the Donegal Rape Crisis Centre will appoint a creative arts therapist to work with young people from age 12 and up in Letterkenny. This project would be a pilot, the first of its kind in the North west and will serve as a good starting point to demonstrate the need for and the effectiveness of a project such as this. It is anticipated that 30 young people aged 12-14 who are survivors of sexual violence will be supported through this project.

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Grant amount

→ €55,000

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## First Fortnight

Children's homeless experiences can lead to developmental challenges and a lifetime of inequality without intervention. Creative therapies have proven to be a successful approach for child development including reduced social, emotional and behavioural problems and improved communication and interpersonal skills. Intervening now can reduce inequality experienced from having a long-term impact. This funding will enable the roll out of The Creative Therapies Outreach Programme in Dublin 7 to support young people facing homelessness using a panel of creative therapists to offer creative therapies to children and young people aged 3-18 including art, music, drama and play therapy modalities. It is anticipated that 128 young people who are in homeless emergency accommodation will benefit from the programme.

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Grant amount

→ €61,240

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**"The generous support of the *Late Late Toy Show* viewers not only allowed us to keep our doors open and keep the lights on, it has made it possible for us to launch our CACTus outreach service to meet the needs of children and adolescents where they are."  
*María Fleming, CEO First Fortnight.***

# Reducing Inequality Through Play And Creativity

Continued

## Meath Womens Refuge and Support Services

The Where I'm At project's primary objective is to create a welcoming and safe space for children coming into refuge so that they have the opportunity to engage with creative and cultural activities so that they can enhance their personal development. With this funding, Meath Women's Refuge and Support Services will employ a play resource worker for children in crisis refuge accommodation. Play and Creativity will be the main medium and methodology of engagement as research shows for children under 12 non-verbal play is the main means of communication for children. It is anticipated that 160 children aged 5-12 who are fleeing domestic violence will be supported through this project.

Grant amount

→ €54,903.78

## National Concert Hall

The Creative Lab programme is a new initiative that will champion young composers (age 12-18) from underrepresented groups. This includes young composers who are Black, Asian, a member of the Traveller Community or other ethnic minorities. Through the programme, the young composers will gain access to a 9-month programme of one-on-one tuition, mentorship, professional development, performance opportunities, and high-quality recordings of their work, culminating in a premiere performance of their new composition in Spring 2022 at Ireland's foremost contemporary music festival, New Music Dublin. It is anticipated that 10 young composers from marginalised backgrounds will be empowered through this programme.

Grant amount

→ €30,000

**"The National Concert Hall is committed to fostering diversity in music, and through our many Learning and Participation programmes supporting young people in their musical development. Creative Lab gives us a unique opportunity work with ten talented young people selected for this programme to unlock their true potential as composers with the support of our presenting partners and expert guidance of the Artistic Directors Amanda and Emma."  
Nigel Flegg, Head of Learning and Participation,  
National Concert Hall.**

## GOSHH Ireland

GOSHH Creative Support project aims to deliver professional creative/psychotherapy supports for LGBT+ young people as well as allowing youth group members to express themselves creatively through art projects to coincide with Limerick Pride 2021. With this funding GOSHH will employ two LGBTI+ Youth Workers to support the young people through creative therapy. This will address a range of issues and concerns including confidence and self-esteem, gender identity, sexual orientation trauma, bereavement and loss, depression, stress, anxiety, addiction and relationship difficulties. It is anticipated that 2576 LGBT+ young people will be supported through this programme.

Grant amount

→ €25,000

## Baboró International Arts Festival for Children

The Wild Patterns project will ensure that children and young people with intellectual and physical disabilities, some of whom have severe long-term life-threatening conditions, become engaged in the process of creating, participating in and enjoying multi-disciplinary arts to bring about meaningful change. With this funding, this organisation will co-create a project in collaboration with children with intellectual and physical disabilities, and their educators in four new schools in Co. Galway. The project will provide high quality engagement for the children and their educators in the planning, exploration, making, preparation and evaluation of the work. It is anticipated that 350-400 children with disabilities will benefit through this programme.

Grant amount

→ €66,205.50

## **Anne Sullivan Foundation**

The Deafblind Literacy project will create more individualised books for deafblind children by adding tactile and sensory materials, picture support, simplified content, more visible font with enlarged size, and pairing Braille to text to make them more accessible. Most typical children have hundreds of choices available to them at home, school and the local library, but a child who is deafblind may only have 2 books to choose from. Through this project, the Anne Sullivan Foundation intends to break down these barriers by supplying adapted books to all children who are deafblind in order to enhance their learning, communication, literacy and overall personal development. It is anticipated that 50 children who are deafblind will be impacted by this project.

**Grant amount**

→ €50,000

## **Kids' Own Publishing Partnership**

The Our Lives, Our Voices project is a children's publishing initiative that puts the voices of children from Traveller and Roma communities at the centre of the creative representation of their identities. This project will be developed and facilitated in close collaboration with the Irish Traveller Movement, and the Yellow Flag Programme (managed by the ITM): a programme that supports schools to become more inclusive, celebrate diversity and challenge racism. With this funding, Kids' Own Publishing will: Create a child-authored, non-fiction book by Traveller and Roma children; create a classroom resource to accompany the books; and measure the impact of the project on participants. It is anticipated that 250-300 Traveller and Roma children will be impacted by this project.

**Grant amount**

→ €55,000

## **Portlaoise Community & Family Resource Centre**

The Stepping Stones to Resilience Initiative, is a suite of programmes for children 0 to 18 years. The initiative is delivered through a stepping stone design based on age/ ability, supporting personal development and building resilience through creative engagement and learning. This funding will enable art and play therapy sessions for children and young people, music, dance and art for babies 0-4 years old and children aged 5-12 and run other creative programmes to develop life skills and resilience. It is anticipated that 315 disadvantaged children and young people will be impacted by this project.

**Grant amount**

→ €30,718

## **Teach Tearmainn**

The Empowering Children in Refuge through Art, Education & Creativity project is focused on reducing the inequality experienced by children and young people who have been affected by domestic violence and abuse. This project will provide the children and young people who are staying at the Teach Tearmainn Refuge with access to a dedicated Project Worker who will deliver a range of creative and educational activities to them which will increase their access to Art, Music, and Education, which will in mitigate against the disadvantage they have experienced in their day-to-day lives. It is anticipated that 100 children fleeing domestic violence will benefit from this project.

**Grant amount**

→ €32,600

## **Drogheda Youth Development / Boomerang Youth Service & Cafe**

This grant will foster the development of the Studio Sounds project is to use music as a vehicle to engage young people in a journey of self-discovery and development. Covering various elements of music strands and merging it with the core elements of youthwork, it will offer young people the support of both music direction and advancement and also offer personal and one-to-one support from their youth worker. Music has the ability to be the language of our emotions and it can assist young people in voicing their feelings, passions and fears. With this funding, the organisation will run sessions allowing a young person to experience various elements and genres of music, improve their self-confidence and improve skills. It is anticipated that 40 young people aged 12-18 will benefit from this programme.

**Grant amount**

→ €65,000

# Open Round Grant Funding for Northern Ireland





## Addressing Essential Needs

### Kinship Care Northern Ireland

The Kinship Care Helping Hand Project will enable Kinship Care to provide essential items (clothing, footwear, school uniforms, beds, bedding etc.) for children in Kinship Care, via a small grants programme. Needs will be identified by Kinship Care staff. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal funding will cover approximately 150 small grants. NB - the recipients will not receive cash, support will be via suppliers where Kinship Care has an account and/or vouchers.

**Grant amount**

→ €40,607

## Improving Wellbeing

Health And Wellbeing

### Extern Northern Ireland

Extern will convert two outdated chalets at Roscor Youth Village in Co. Fermanagh into a modern five-bedroom facility with disabled access. It will provide enhanced emergency respite facilities for young people from across Northern Ireland. Extern has already secured £98k for the capital works and will use this funding to purchase furniture and equipment, alongside fitting out a sensory room and creating a sensory garden space.

**Grant amount**

→ €46,200

### incredABLE

The incredABLEy active project will facilitate 150 activity afternoons for groups of 10 young people with learning disabilities and/or autism. It aims to provide respite for carers/ parents as well as helping the children and young people become more physically active and self-confident. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal funding will primarily be used to cover project delivery staff costs.

**Grant amount**

→ €25,000

### Lifestart Foundation Ltd

Through the Lifestart SMILE BABY Project, the Lifestart Foundation will provide 48 support programmes with 384 families across Northern Ireland. These programmes will comprise discussions on child development concepts, interspersed with parent/child play activities, alongside demonstrations on baby massage, baby yoga and baby reflexology. Participation will be via referrals from health and social care staff. The RTÉ Toy Show grant will cover project delivery, staff input and programme costs.

**Grant amount**

→ €66,857

### Mae Murray Foundation

The All-ability Online Participation project will allow the Mae Murray Foundation to provide a range of virtual activities for children and young people with disabilities and medical conditions. These will include drama and music sessions, arts and crafts workshops and emotional resilience sessions. It is particularly focused on children and young people who are unable or nervous about resuming social contact due to ongoing Coronavirus risks. The RTÉ Toy Show grant will cover input from project delivery staff and packs for participants.

**Grant amount**

→ €25,000

## **Nexus NI**

The Believe and Beyond project will allow Nexus NI to provide counselling support to young people aged 8-18 years who are victims of sexual abuse. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grant will cover sessional counselling costs. It is based on providing 18 counselling sessions to 46 young people.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€49,680**

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## **Northern Ireland Newlin**

The I am Me project will enable NI Newpin to provide a range of therapeutic and creative support programmes for children and young people. The aim is to address issues around anxiety, mental ill health and behavioural problems. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grant will allow NI Newpin to bring in specialist facilitators to run a broad range of sessions ranging from child psychotherapy to mindfulness to dance.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€25,000**

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## **Omagh Women's Aid**

The Steps to Safety project will enable Omagh Women's Aid to bring in a part time Domestic Violence Children & Young People's Worker at their refuge to provide a safe and supportive one-to-one and shared learning environment for children and young people. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grant will cover input from the worker along with IT equipment and activities for the young people.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€22,485**

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## **Royal Mencap Society Belfast**

The FIVE project (Friendship, Independence, Vitality, Empowerment) will allow Mencap to provide support to young people aged 13-18 years with learning disabilities/additional needs. The aim is to build the skills and resilience needed to support good mental health and wellbeing, and to develop a strong foundation for the transition to adulthood. RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grant will support six 15-week programmes, combining individual mentoring with group activities.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€50,000**

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## **St Peter's Immaculate Youth Centre**

The H.E.A.L. project (Health-Emotions-Affirmation-Learn) will allow St Peter's Immaculate Youth Centre to provide mental health and emotional wellbeing support to young people in the Lower Falls/Divis area of West Belfast. The aim is help address self-destructive behaviours and self-harm. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grant will support complementary therapy sessions, mental health focused residentials and counselling.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€37,920**

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## **Versus Arthritis**

The Preparing for Transition project will allow Versus Arthritis to improve the wellbeing of young people aged 14-18 years with arthritis. The aim is to provide new opportunities for the young people to improve their physical & mental health, whilst preparing them for adulthood. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grant will cover project delivery staff input and workshop costs.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€25,021**

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# Reducing Inequality Through Play And Creativity

## Kilcooley Women's Centre

The JIGSAW project in the Kilcooley Women's Centre in Bangor will provide play development/ sensory play sessions for children, alongside parental support activities. The aim is to support vulnerable children who reside in challenging, troubled or chaotic households through creative play focused activities to help build resilience and develop independence. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grant will be used to cover input from play development specialists and purchase equipment.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€30,769**

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## Sticky Fingers Arts

The Chapter Two project will allow Sticky Fingers Arts to enhance facilities at their Imaginarium Arts & Story Centre in Newry. The aim is to create a tranquil sensory space where children can be engaged on a one-to-one basis. The focus will be on supporting children with special educational needs and/or those who are struggling to deal with bereavement, family breakdowns and so on. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grant will cover artist/facilitator/therapist input, alongside the design and fit out of a sensory room.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€50,000**

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## The NOW Group

The Positive about Play project will allow the NOW Group to provide support to 30 families with children who are perceived to be at high risk due to the lack of parenting input within their families due to disability. It is particularly focused on families where a parent has a learning disability and/or autism. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grant will cover delivery staff input, equipment and programme costs.

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**Grant amount**

→ **€42,461**

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# Financial Statement

## RTÉ Toy Show Appeal 2020

Euros

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Total funds received from donations	<b>€6,839,045.14</b>
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### Republic of Ireland

Grant to Barnardos	€1,504,491.68
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Grant to Children's Hospital Foundation	€1,504,491.68
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Grant to Children's Books Ireland	€302,690.00
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Open Round grant recipients (41 organisations)	€2,646,559.90
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### Northern Ireland

Open Round grant recipients (14 organisations)	€628,719.60
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<b>Sub-total Grant-making</b>	<b>€6,586,952.86</b>
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### Costs and expenses

Grant-making programme and administration costs (ROI & NI)	€142,694.63
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Fees for online transactions	€87,110.16
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<b>Sub-total costs</b>	<b>€229,804.79</b>
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<b>Balance available</b>	<b>€22,785.83</b>
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This statement was prepared by The Community Foundation for Ireland (Charities Regulator Number: 20044886). We are committed to attaining the highest standards of corporate governance and our Annual Report and audited accounts are available at [www.communityfoundation.ie](http://www.communityfoundation.ie) and presented in accordance with SORP standards.







 **ABTRAN**  
This is Service

**RTÉ would like to acknowledge with thanks ABTRAN who generously provided all professional call-centre services at no charge to the appeal.**

**RTÉ**

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