



2007 Chairman's Committee, (center) President of Ireland Mary McAleese, Loretta Tynan and Paul Newman. Photo by: James

**AMERICAN IRELAND FUND RAISES RECORD \$4.15 MILLION AT
32nd ANNUAL NEW YORK GALA
President of Ireland, Mary McAleese and CEO of AIG,
Martin Sullivan Honored
Actor Paul Newman Accepts \$1 Million Donation for
Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ireland**

New York, May 4, 2007 - 1,500 of Irish America's most influential business and community leaders gathered last evening at the American Ireland Fund's 32nd Annual New York Gala to honor the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, and President and CEO of AIG, Martin Sullivan, and to award \$1 million to Paul Newman for Barretstown, the Irish branch of his Hole-in-the-Wall Gang Camps. The gala raised a record \$4.15 million for important causes in Ireland, including two key projects that are part of the Fund's "Hope through Youth" program:

A \$1 million donation from the AIF and AIG was awarded to Barretstown, the Irish branch of the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, which provides care and hope for children with cancer and other life threatening illnesses. The gift, which was accepted by actor and philanthropist Paul Newman, will establish the "Barretstown and Beyond" program. This will extend Barretstown's services across Ireland and Europe and double the number of children reached by Barretstown by 2010.

A significant award was made also to Rowallane Integrated College, in Northern Ireland, which will enable the construction of a new integrated high school where Protestant and Catholic children will be educated together. The Fund is a long standing supporter of the movement for integrated education as a means of ending inter-generational sectarianism and inter-community division in Northern Ireland. Other education-oriented initiatives supported by the Fund include the pending launch of Sesame Street programming customized and produced for Northern Ireland children, which will be aired by the BBC.

"The outpouring of support this year exceeded all of our expectations and makes this event the largest and most successful in the Fund's three decade history," said Kieran McLoughlin, President of The American Ireland Fund. "We are thankful for the community's continued generosity and are honored to recognize President McAleese, Martin Sullivan and, of course, to welcome Paul Newman. Our aim is to support Ireland's youth and help create a new island for a new generation. These two projects are excellent examples of how we hope to achieve this.

At the event, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Chairman of the American Ireland Fund, presented the Humanitarian Award to Her Excellency, Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, for her dedication to engendering reconciliation between Northern Ireland's two communities. Previous recipients of the award include Daniel & Patricia Rooney, of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, and Joan Ganz Cooney of the Sesame Street Workshop.

In addition, the Leslie C. Quick Jr. Leadership Award to Martin Sullivan, President and CEO of American International Group, Inc. (AIG), for his long association with and great affection for Ireland. The award was presented by the Dinner Co-Chairs. Previous recipients of Leadership Award include Christopher M. "Kip" Condon, AXA Financial, Inc, John Duffy, Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc., Thomas O'Neill, Sandler O'Neill & Partners LP, Philip Purcell formerly of Morgan Stanley and Bob McCann, Merrill Lynch, Inc.

Martin Sullivan, President and CEO of AIG stated, "It has been an honor to be involved with an organization that truly has the ability to make such an impact on the future of Ireland's youth. The American Ireland Fund's patrons are the driving force behind the success of this organization and we thank them for making this year our most successful event to date. I am especially proud that we at AIG have been able to help the Fund with its donation to Barretstown, as this well-deserving organization provides children with hope and comfort when needed most."

The honorary chairman of the 2007 American Ireland Fund dinner is Robert McCann, President, Global Private Client, Merrill Lynch Inc. The 2007 dinner co-chairs are Joseph S. Berry, Jr., Principal of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc.; Michael P. Higgins, Managing Director and Head of Real Estate Finance at CIBC World Markets; Declan Kelly, President & CEO of FD Business Communications; Bart A. Grenier, Managing Director and Global Head of Specialty Fixed Income, Deutsche Asset Management; Michael R. George, Director of Deutsche Bank; and Ciarán T. O'Kelly, Managing Director and Head of Equity Capital Markets at Banc of America Securities LLC.

About The Ireland Funds: The Ireland Funds is the leading worldwide network of people of Irish ancestry and friends of Ireland dedicated to raising funds to support programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development for the island of Ireland. With operations in 11 countries, the Ireland Funds have created a unique global network of people with an interest in Ireland and have to date raised over \$300 million for more than 1,200 non-profit organizations in Ireland.

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