

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

**RTE
TOY
SHOW
APPEAL**



Community
Foundation
Ireland



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Section 1

RTÉ Toy Show Appeal







RTÉ

RTÉ (Raidió Teilifís Éireann) is Ireland's national public service media organisation, serving audiences across television, radio, online, and digital platforms. Established in 1926 with the launch of radio services and expanding to television in 1961, RTÉ is one of the oldest continuously operating public service media organisations in the world. As an independent source of stories, news, information and entertainment, it reflects the diversity of Irish life and provides trusted content that enriches the daily lives of people at home and abroad.

RTÉ is guided by its values of courage, accountability, and respect. As part of its commitment to enriching Irish life, it plays a vital role in supporting Irish society—not just through its media services, but also through initiatives and experiences that promote inclusion, community engagement, and social impact.

One of its most powerful expressions of this commitment is the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, which channels the goodwill of *The Late Late Toy Show* into tangible support for children and families across Ireland. Delivered in partnership with Community Foundation Ireland, the Appeal reflects RTÉ's purpose to serve all of Ireland's people and create experiences that make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Community Foundation Ireland

Community Foundation Ireland is a registered charity (RCN: 20044886) and leading philanthropic hub working to achieve equality for all in thriving communities. Established in 2000, it connects donors—individuals, families, corporates and trusts—with over 5,000 community and voluntary partners across Ireland. Its mission is to deliver strategic, long-term social change by funding initiatives that tackle inequality, support inclusion, and empower generations.

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal exists as a Donor Advised Fund, held in trust by Community Foundation Ireland who also play a central role as the delivery partner, managing the independent application process, expert assessment and distribution of funds raised through the Appeal. The Foundation ensures that donations are strategically invested in projects that support children's health, education, and well-being, with a strong focus on inclusion and impact.

RTÉ Toy Show Appeal

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal originated from the magic and generosity of *The Late Late Toy Show*, Ireland's most beloved television event. Inspired by the selfless generosity of the late Saoirse Ruane, the Appeal was launched in 2020, and from the outset, has channelled the spirit of the show—joy, wonder, and community—into a powerful force for good, raising funds to support children and families across Ireland who need it most.

In just a few short years, the Appeal has transformed lives nationwide. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of viewers, over €26 million has been raised, enabling grants to hundreds of local and national charities in every county across the island of Ireland. These organisations work tirelessly to improve the well-being of children, offering vital services in health, education, inclusion, and emotional support. From funding sensory rooms and therapy services to providing warm meals, safe spaces, and creative opportunities, the Appeal ensures that every child—regardless of circumstance—has the chance to thrive.

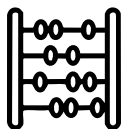
The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal is a testimony to the incredible generosity of the people of Ireland. It celebrates the joy of giving, compassionate communities, and the potential of children. As the Toy Show continues to delight audiences year after year, the Appeal stands as its heart: a legacy of love, laughter, and lasting impact.



Mission Statement of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal

“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.”

Five Years of RTÉ Toy Show Appeal Giving



Working in partnership with registered charity Community Foundation Ireland (RCN: 20044886) via an open application and formal assessment process, funds raised have been distributed to ensure that they achieve the greatest impacts possible. This report illustrates the distinctive role that the Fund has played in supporting an array of projects that have enhanced the lives of children and families over the past five years.

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal is now the largest single source of philanthropic funding to the Children and Youth sector with over €26 million raised since 2020. This is just a snapshot of the many, many ways donations have helped.

National Impact at a Glance

€26M+ raised



**All 32 counties
have benefitted**

The Appeal's impact has built a nationwide network of care, ensuring no community is left behind in supporting vulnerable children.



**500+ charities
supported**

Community, local and national level grants, from local grants of €4K to large scale transformative grants of over €1.5M to national charities Barnardos and Children's Health Foundation.



**1M+ children
and families
supported
annually**

Every grant touched real lives—providing healthcare, education, and essential support to children and families when they needed it most.



**96.7% cost
efficiency**

The Appeal's commitment to cost efficiency means every euro donated works as hard as possible for children's welfare.



**€7.2M in
additional funds
leveraged in
addition to
Appeal funding**

Over and above the direct grants, the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has helped raise the profile of children's charities and led to significant additional funding for the sector.



**100+ pilot
projects
supported over
5 years**

Pilot funding helps organisations build evidence, refine approaches, and demonstrate impact, often unlocking further investment or scaling opportunities.



RTÉ, Director General, Kevin Bakhurst



As we mark the fifth year of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, it feels right to pause and reflect on what has been achieved.

Five years ago, inspired by the courage and kindness of young Saoirse Ruane, we launched an appeal that has since grown beyond anything we could have imagined. What began as a single moment has evolved into something sustained and significant—over €26 million raised, and more than a million children and families supported annually across every county on this island.

The story of the Appeal is, at its heart, the story of people at their best. In times of personal challenge—through a global pandemic, through cost-of-living pressures, through uncertainty—our viewers have consistently chosen to give. They have transformed their Friday night tradition of watching *The Late Late Toy Show* into something deeper: an act of community and care.

This year alone, the generosity of the Irish public has provided support to children facing homelessness, those living with disability, young people processing trauma, and families struggling to put food on the table. The grants have funded everything from specialist therapy services to creative arts programmes, from essential medical equipment to spaces where kids can simply be kids—playing, creating, and imagining their futures.

Behind the statistics are children whose circumstances have improved. Families who have received support when they needed it most. Communities made stronger. That is the measure of what has been achieved.

We remain deeply grateful to Community Foundation Ireland for their partnership and expertise in ensuring every euro raised achieves maximum impact. Their rigorous assessment process and understanding of the challenges facing children across the island of Ireland have been essential to the Appeal's success.

To the hundreds of charities delivering these vital services, whose dedication and professionalism give effect to what people hope for when they donate, and to our donation partners who enable this scale of donation—thank you. I would also like to extend my thanks to the many colleagues across RTÉ who make this possible; it is a fantastic example of teamwork, collaboration and public service.

Looking ahead, we are fully committed that the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal will continue to grow and reach even more children who need support, and that this tradition will endure. To every person who has donated—whether €5 or €500, once or every year—thank you. Those contributions have made a real and lasting difference.

Kevin Bakhurst
Director-General, RTÉ

Community Foundation Ireland, Chief Executive, Denise Charlton



At Community Foundation Ireland, we have spent 25 years connecting generous donors with the communities and causes that need support most. Our role is to ensure that philanthropy delivers real, lasting change.

When the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal launched in 2020, we were honoured to be selected as partners on this journey. It was a moment when the nation opened its heart to support Ireland's most vulnerable children, and we embraced the responsibility—and privilege—of transforming that extraordinary generosity into meaningful, strategic action.

This is work we know well. With deep connections to 5,000 voluntary, community and charitable organisations across Ireland, we understand where need is greatest and which approaches deliver genuine impact. For the Appeal, we brought this knowledge to bear—designing grant programmes, vetting applications, and ensuring every euro raised reached children and families who needed it most.

What sets this work apart is our commitment to listening. We consult leading children's rights experts, we engage with frontline organisations, and most importantly, we hear directly from the communities we serve. This ensures we don't just address immediate needs—we identify and respond to emerging challenges, from the cost-of-living crisis to supporting newly arrived refugee children.

Over five years, the numbers tell an important story: over one million children and their families supported annually, more than €26 million raised, over 650 different projects funded across every county. But behind these figures is something more profound - pioneering mental health interventions, children from minority groups accessing education, families lifted out of poverty, and the transformative power of creativity and play reaching those who need it most.

To witness this impact is a privilege we never take for granted. To the viewers, donors, and supporters who have made this possible—on behalf of Community Foundation Ireland and our partner organisations—thank you. Your generosity has changed lives.

Denise Charlton

CEO, Community Foundation Ireland



Section 2

Reflecting Five Years of Giving



Reflecting Five Years of Giving

As five years of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal are marked, what follows looks at what was funded, who was reached, and what partners report about the difference it has made. From the outset, RTÉ has worked in partnership with Community Foundation Ireland to take a strategic, philanthropic approach to distributing funds raised through the Appeal. Through research, consultation with children's rights experts, and ongoing dialogue with frontline organisations, three priority focus themes, detailed below, were identified as positively impacting children's lives.

The overall approach has been to be as inclusive as possible of different types of services and charities; addressing a diverse range of needs and children, and across a geographic spread. The grants are awarded at three levels—Community (€4K-€25K), Impact (€15K+), and Transformative (€95K+). In all instances, the potential to help children in the most meaningful way possible is given absolute priority.

Grant Making Themes

The three themes of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal are—**Addressing Essential Needs, Health & Wellbeing, and Creativity & Play**—they form the strategic framework through which funding decisions are made. Each theme addresses a distinct but interconnected aspect of childhood wellbeing. Together, they ensure that support reaches children in a complete way: meeting basic necessities that allow children to thrive, providing the physical and mental health services they need to heal and grow, and creating opportunities for joy, expression, and development through creative engagement. This approach recognises that children facing challenges often need support across multiple areas of their lives.

Addressing Essential Needs



Relevant SDGs:



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. Supports under this theme address poverty, food insecurity, and family hardship. Funded initiatives include:

- Food and nutrition programmes
- Emergency accommodation and family services
- Children accessing legal rights and advocacy services
- Cost-of-living assistance
- Educational materials to reduce learning barriers

5 Years in Numbers

**Republic of
Ireland:
160 grants,
totalling €6.8M***

**Northern
Ireland:
13 grants,
totalling £376K**

**Average
beneficiaries
annually:
137,000**

* Net of 2 returned grants in this strand totalling €93,000



Health & Wellbeing



Relevant SDGs:



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. This is the largest funding category, supporting physical and mental health, trauma recovery, and inclusion. Examples include:

- Specialist therapy for children with disabilities
- Mental health counselling
- Services for children affected by violence or bereavement
- Medical equipment and homecare support

5 Years in Numbers

Republic of Ireland:
274 grants,
totalling €11.1M

Northern Ireland:
40 grants,
totalling £1.2M

Average beneficiaries annually:
810,000*

* This higher figure reflects the nature of health services, which often support children multiple times over extended periods of care, as well as services reaching entire families and communities around a child's health journey.



Creativity & Play



Relevant SDGs:



Creativity and play are essential to supporting children's development of cognitive and social behaviours. This funding aims to enhance personal and emotional development, resilience and wellness for disadvantaged children through creative programmes and activities which help personal development and enhance inclusion. Funding in this area promotes inclusive learning and development through:

- Arts, music, and drama programmes
- Accessible playgrounds and sensory spaces
- Creative therapies in hospitals and schools
- After-school and cultural programmes

5 Years in Numbers

Republic of Ireland:
144 grants,
totalling €5.5M

Northern Ireland:
22 grants,
totalling £443K

Average beneficiaries annually:
193,000



Contributing to Global Goals

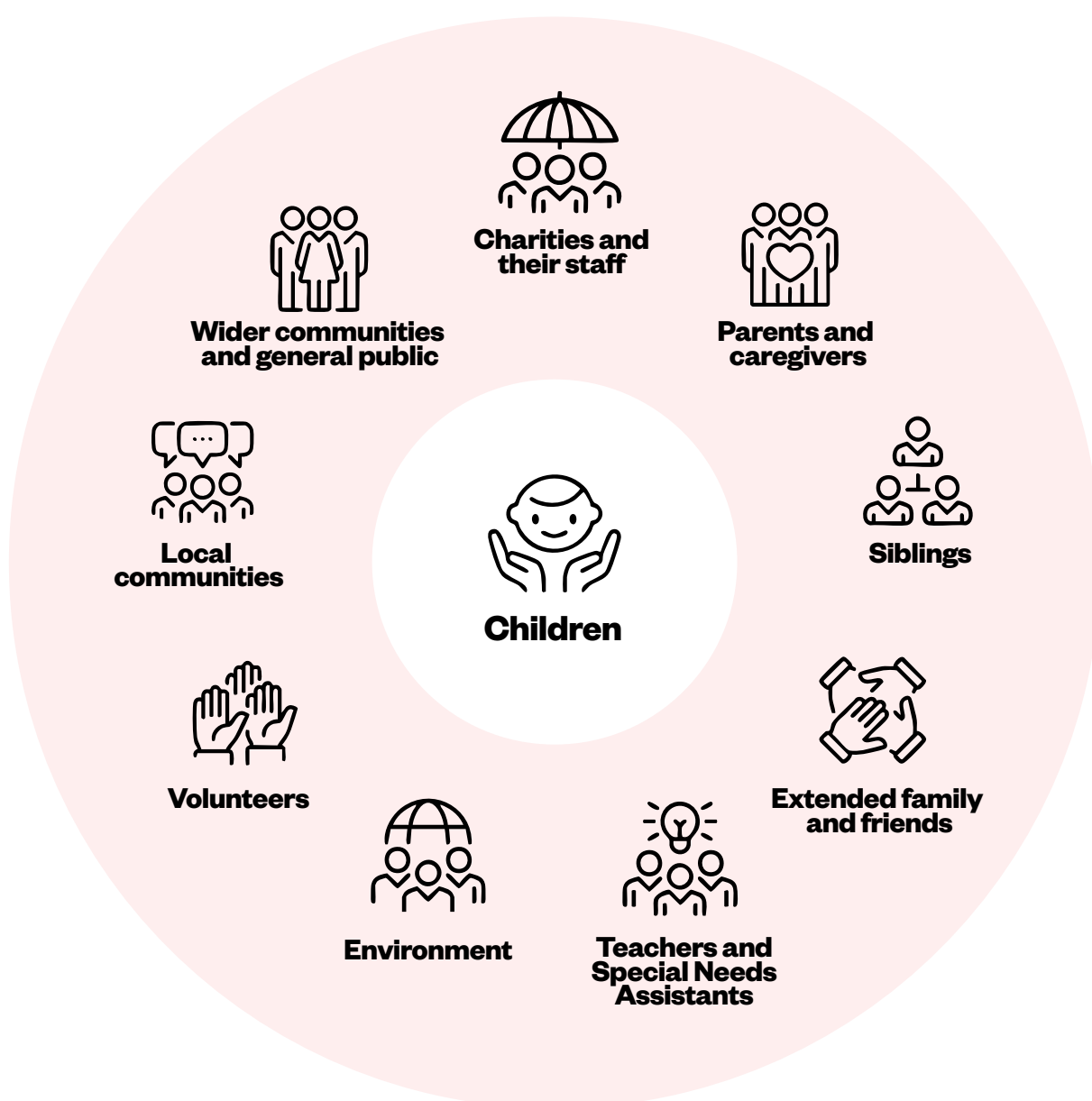
The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, delivered in partnership with Community Foundation Ireland, directly contributes to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By funding projects that support children's health, education, equality, and well-being, the Appeal advances several of the 17 SDGs—particularly those focused on reducing poverty, improving access to services, and fostering inclusive communities. It is a powerful example of local generosity driving global progress.

The Wider Impact of Support

Over the past five years, the Appeal has directly supported more than 1 million children and family members each year. The impact extends far beyond the immediate beneficiaries—reaching parents, siblings, communities, and the wider charity sector itself.

When a child receives support, the benefits ripple outward. A therapy session helps not just the child but eases the burden on parents and caregivers. An accessible playground becomes a gathering place for communities. A mental health programme in a school creates awareness among teachers. This means that every euro invested creates ripples of positive change.

Helped over 1M+ children & family members each year



Strengthening the Children's Charity Sector

While individual children and families benefit directly, the Appeal's impact extends to the charity sector itself.

Children's charities provide vital services that support the most vulnerable children. A strong, resilient, informed, and well-connected sector ensures the best quality of programmes and greatest potential for impact. Over and above financial supports, through its strategic programme of engagement, the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has assisted the sector in the following ways:

Consistent Funding

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has injected €5.2M, on average, into the children's charity sector every year.

This includes support for new and innovative projects that may struggle to find funding elsewhere.



Public Awareness and Engagement

Not only has the Appeal had a significant impact on the number and quality of services charities provide, but it has also increased awareness of children's charities, encouraging more people to access their services.



Supporting Innovation

The Appeal has supported **more than 100 pilot projects** over five years, where children's charities have tested out their new ideas and proved their success, before going on to secure additional funding.



Skills Enhancement and Collaboration

The investment into the sector has provided opportunities for staff to upskill and for organisations to collaborate more, allowing them to share best practice.

Leveraging Additional Investment

The Appeal has generated €7.2M in additional leveraged funding to the sector.

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has strengthened the brand of many local charities and provided a 'seal of approval' to other funders, enabling beneficiary organisations to successfully secure further investment.

"This funding has been crucial in allowing us to approach our local Tusla agency and to showcase our work with them. This has led to a very good relationship, allowing us secure additional funding and increasing the impact we have had with more young people."

Venture Out Wilderness Project



Five Years of Transformative Impact

Transformative grants are designed not just to provide services, but to fundamentally change how Ireland supports its most vulnerable children. These are not just about funding services—they are about changing systems, shifting mindsets, and opening new possibilities for children and families across Ireland.

The grants range in size from €95K to €1.5M+ and were awarded to projects tackling some of the most complex challenges facing children today—from domestic abuse and mental health to disability inclusion and palliative care. In some cases, transformative grants leverage additional donor funding to further maximise impact. This collaborative funding model, which pools resources from the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal with other philanthropic donors, represents a key strength of the Appeal’s collaborative approach.

These stories show what is possible when we invest in bold ideas and trust communities to lead the way.

Five Years of Investment	16 grants awarded across 5 years	€5.46M granted across 5 years
Issue Areas Funded	€1.8M Mental Health Issues	€1.5M Physical Health Issues
€903K Education & Training	€440K Community Development	€370K Promotion of Arts, Culture, and Heritage
€225K Social Inclusion	€95K Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence	€120K Poverty

The details of the transformative grants which follow cover the RTÉ Toy Show Appeals 2020-2023, while the transformative grants for the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal 2024 are covered in detail in Section 3 of this report.

Barnardos Awarded €1.5M

Wellbeing Programmes for disadvantaged children and families

Barnardos works with children and families from disadvantaged communities struggling with intergenerational problems of poverty, low educational attainment, unemployment, substance abuse, violence, and crime.

The Community Wellbeing Programme was successfully piloted in five locations across Dublin, Tipperary, and Westmeath, reaching 2,618 people. The Children's Bereavement Service supported more than 400 children with complex needs and traumatic bereavement, alongside 400 parents. The funding enabled Barnardos to transform 44 centres into trauma-informed therapeutic spaces, including indoor and outdoor areas. These spaces significantly improved children's and parents' sense of wellbeing and their ability to engage in therapeutic work.

Children's Health Foundation Awarded €1.5M

Research, vital equipment, and patient & family support initiatives

As a result of this transformative funding, 300,000 children are benefitting. The medical research is contributing to better treatments, cures, and prevention of illnesses affecting children. The state-of-the-art medical equipment has helped to diagnose, treat and monitor sick children. With the Transformative Grant, the Children's Health Foundation supported families with transportation, food, and other necessities while their child is receiving treatment recognising that a family's wellbeing directly impacts a child's recovery.

Children's Books Ireland Awarded €303K

Every Child a Reader programme

This three-year book-gifting and reading for joy programme worked with four schools to make reading part of the fabric of school life. More than 1,300 children benefitted from the funding. The results were striking: 63% of children surveyed reported that reading makes them feel happy, while 91% of teachers said their students are reading more and that a culture of reading has developed in their school. The programme's success led Children's Books Ireland to secure an additional €381K in 2024 and 2025 to expand this work to more schools.

Exchange House Travellers Service Awarded €440K

(€300K from the 2021 Appeal and €140K from the 2024 Appeal)

Targeted supports for Traveller children in education

Exchange House Ireland National Travellers Service is a leading provider of front line and support services to some of the most marginalised members of the community.

This transformative grant funded research with Traveller mothers to identify barriers their children face in primary and secondary education. As a result, support services provided by local agencies are now much more effective. Schools, principals, teachers—especially Home School Community Liaison officers and School Completion programmes—are more aware of the main barriers experienced by Traveller children in Limerick city. This increased awareness is positively impacting practices and improving educational outcomes for Traveller children.

Parents Plus Awarded €300K

Scaling parenting programmes with Family Resource Centres

This funding scaled up Parents Plus Programmes by partnering with Family Resource Centres across the Mid-West, including ADHD support and 'Parenting When Separated' courses. Almost 5,000 parents and children have benefitted as families become better connected and better able to problem-solve as a unit. The impact extended beyond direct services: the visibility and proven outcomes from this work led Parents Plus to secure a significant ongoing funding agreement with the HSE, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Spraoi agus Spórt Awarded €300K

Development of a purpose-built Child and Family Hub in Inishowen

Spraoi agus Spórt provides affordable and inclusive activities meeting the needs of the Inishowen peninsula, including parent and toddler groups, after-school and holiday activities, youth clubs, a creative makers hub and digital lab. The purpose-built Child and Family Hub is enabling Spraoi to expand space and programmes for families across this rural peninsula. The development continues to progress, and Spraoi remains a vital space for creativity, connection, and fun in one of Ireland's most remote areas.

Baboró Galway International Children's Festival Awarded €370K

(€250K from the 2021 Appeal and €120K from the 2023 Appeal)

Arts access for children with additional needs

As Ireland's flagship arts festival for children and young people, Baboró used this transformative support to extend programming into new territory—ensuring children with additional needs can participate in the shared joy, wonder and transformative power of the arts. Alongside making the festival programme available to special schools, the grant supported artists working with children with additional needs, building practitioner capacity across the sector so more children can benefit from the arts.

Crosscare Awarded €120K

Development of its Foodbank Plus model.

Crosscare supports families facing poverty through food and homeless services, counselling, education, training, and youth services. This grant enabled Crosscare to evolve from a responsive Foodbank to a holistic wraparound service for individuals and families. The funding supported research and planning for a new Social Supermarket approach, drawing on models from Britain and Northern Ireland. The Appeal's profile has helped Crosscare attract additional investment to implement this expanded model.

The CARI Foundation Awarded €120K

Trauma-informed therapeutic support for adolescents who have experienced sexual abuse.

Sexual abuse of children is an issue that CARI (Children at Risk Ireland) addresses every day. CARI currently has a long waiting list of children and young people for therapeutic intervention. But it is essential for young people to receive support to help them heal. The Toy Show grant has enabled it to expand the provision for teen and parent/carer support groups in Leinster and Munster ensuring young survivors can access healing support sooner. The visibility given by the Toy Show Appeal has been regarded as invaluable, raising the profile of the organisation with statutory agencies and other organisations.

Community Law & Mediation Awarded €120K

(Awarded €85K from the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal and €35K from a CFI donor)

Pilot Ireland's first Children's Legal Centre.

CLM provides free legal, mediation and education services to anyone unable to access them due to economic, social, or other disadvantage. This grant piloted dedicated free legal advice clinics for children and young people in care, in aftercare or with care experience. Almost 200 young people have benefitted from the clinics. Having a dedicated children's service allows concentrated effort and enables young people to feed directly into service design, ensuring the support truly meets their needs.

Offaly Traveller Movement Awarded €120K

(Awarded €40K from the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal and €80K from a CFI donor)

The Travelling to Well-Being Mental Health Service.

The Offaly Traveller Movement (OTM) is a Traveller-led community development organisation which has been working on the provision of mental health services for Travellers in Offaly since 2013. OTM's Mental Health Service is an essential service, given that statistics suggest that rates of suicide amongst members of the Traveller community is six times higher than that in the settled population in Ireland. The service is a peer-run mental health service that is culturally appropriate and accessible to the whole community. As a result of the Transformative Grant, OTM has expanded their service to Laois, and 68 Travellers have received mental health support. Through this work Offaly Traveller Movement is challenging the stigma around seeking help.



A Snapshot of Lives Changed

Over five years, the organisations we have funded have reported a wide range of outcomes for the children and families they serve. What follows is not an exhaustive list—but rather a snapshot of the kinds of changes happening on the ground. These examples come from grantee reports, case studies, and conversations with the organisations doing the work. They give us a window into what's possible when children get the support they need.

Addressing Essential Needs



- Funding of more than **€600K** went to establishing and sustaining 11 food banks, which help support on average **13,000** children and their families annually.
- A pilot project with Hygiene Hub, developed through funding from the Appeal, is now providing hygiene kits to **30,000** people who would otherwise go without.
- In the past four years, Ireland has welcomed 80,000 refugees from Ukraine, RTÉ Toy Show Appeal funding has contributed to efforts to help them settle into their new communities. **2,600** children from Ukraine and their Irish counterparts benefitted from afterschool clubs, counselling, summer camps and creative programmes through grant funding.
- Funding of **€1.6M** in the Republic of Ireland and **£65K** in Northern Ireland went towards 57 projects supporting educational need; from the provision of school materials to programmes to prevent early school leaving, reaching an average of **30,000 children each year**.

Addressing Essential Needs Impact in Their Own Words...

"I remember the first day I went to the community pantry, and I felt so embarrassed... The staff were so friendly and helpful... I would not be able to manage without this support. I now attend English classes in the centre also and I have made new friends."

Service User, Claremorris Family Resource Centre

"Rurally based families and children received high quality nonperishable food and school supplies enabling them to meet essential needs. Those currently availing of our food bank products were able to continue to do so, receiving food and school supplies and holistic family supports."

Volunteer, Hospital Family Resource Centre





Illness, disability, and bereavement can happen at any age, but for children, these experiences can be especially disorientating and traumatic. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal recognises that timely, compassionate, and child-centred support is essential to help children navigate these challenges. By funding a wide range of therapeutic, medical, and emotional wellbeing services, the Appeal ensures that children and their families are not alone during some of the most difficult times in their lives.

- The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has provided **€5.5M in the Republic of Ireland and £450K in Northern Ireland** to charities supporting children facing cancer, acquired brain injury, chronic conditions, and others.
- **€6.5M** in the Republic of Ireland and **£775K** in Northern Ireland has been granted to provide mental health supports, ensuring that children and young people can access the therapeutic supports they need.
- As one of a number of projects funded, Children in Hospital Ireland are **providing play therapy to 60 children who are in hospital long term** thanks to RTÉ Toy Show Appeal funding. These sessions, and countless others like them, offer more than just distraction—they provide emotional support, reduce anxiety, and help children process their experiences through play. Volunteers are trained to engage children in meaningful, child-led activities that bring comfort and joy during extended hospital stays, **while also offering respite and reassurance to families**.
- **More than 700 children and parents** have received bereavement counselling through Barnardos, thanks to grant funding from the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal. Barnardos' bereavement supports can help children understand, grieve, and begin to heal.

Impact Story Enable Ireland Assistive Technology Awarded €40K

Enable Ireland's Assistive Technology (AT) Loan Library project, supported by the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, addressed a critical gap in access to communication and literacy support devices for children with disabilities.

Children with physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities often rely on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) to communicate and learn. However, high costs, long waiting times, and lack of trial opportunities create significant barriers to access.

The Enable Ireland AT Loan Library allows children and families to trial assistive devices before committing to purchase or applying for funding—ensuring each child receives the most appropriate technology for their needs. As a result, 800 children and young people across Ireland now have access to communication tools that foster independence, self-confidence, and educational participation.

This project is one example among many the Appeal has funded in the past five years, which exemplifies how targeted, innovative impact funding removes barriers and creates lasting change.

Improving Wellbeing Impact in Their Own Words...

“Before joining the programme, Emily was frustrated because she couldn't communicate or keep up with her peers. Now, she's a completely different child. She even made her first friend at the group sessions. This programme hasn't just helped Emily; it has changed our whole family's life.”

Parent, Down Syndrome Centre

“I just think you're providing a great service to families who are going through such a journey. It's fantastic that we can get the advice and support that will help our children flourish as who they really are. I just want my child to be happy in his own skin.”

Parent, Belong to Youth Services



- The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has provided more than €5M to children's charities which champion creative and play-based programmes since 2020. These programmes span arts, music, drama, storytelling, and inclusive play spaces—and are a vital part of how children develop. Creative expression also helps to improve mental health, resilience, confidence, and emotional regulation.
- **As a result of Toy Show Appeal funding, 190,000** children and young people with disabilities, chronic illnesses and those facing financial barriers had access to the arts, music, drama, storytelling and writing programmes.

Impact Story Circusful Projects Awarded £70K

Circusful works to bring the wonder and colour of circus to children and young people, particularly those who, due to disadvantage, have not been able to access its physical, emotional, and social benefits.

Using RTÉ Toy Show Appeal funding, Circusful provided circus skills workshops for 430 children and young people across Northern Ireland, including those from rural areas, with learning disabilities, and with care experience. The organisation partnered with special schools and community and voluntary groups to increase reach into underserved communities.

The impact was significant, young people in rural areas participated in the arts and circus for the first time. Learning disabled young people made new connections with peers and gained newfound confidence in their own bodies. Participants reported improved self-esteem and confidence, better physical and mental wellbeing, new friendships, and the resilience to persist when faced with challenges. The programme also built capacity among trainers in working with children with different needs.

Creativity & Play Impact in Their Own Words...

"I couldn't believe how much they got out of it and the change in the children afterwards. OT, PE, personal development, confidence were just some of the benefits they got...we can't wait for next week!"

Special School teacher, speaking about Circusful's workshops

"I loved being part of this singing group in my school. It made me happy for my friends to sing in my language and for me to learn more English through singing. I know my mum was happy to see me singing together with my new friends."

Adam, 8, from Nigeria, Sing Ireland

"The project gave my son a wonderful safe, fun, creative environment to develop his social skills, build his confidence, be creative and interact safely with other young people."

Parent, National Association for Youth Drama

"Play therapy was good. I liked having someone to play chess with and talk to. She helped me to be comfortable with myself and showed me that it's okay to be me."

Service User, Athy Family Resource Centre

Section 3

How Grants Are Changing Lives In 2025



How Grants Are Changing Lives In 2025

2025 At A Glance

(Grants distributed in 2025 come from funds raised from the 2024 Appeal.)

Building on the success of the previous years, in 2025, the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal 2024 funding supported all-island initiatives working with children facing poverty, illness, disability, discrimination, and crisis. The details below show how the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal funds helped to provide food security, mental health support, educational opportunity, and hope.

All Island View

169 grants reaching 1M+ children across Ireland

	Grants
Addressing Essential Needs	49
Health & Wellbeing	87
Creativity & Play	29

There were 4 transformative grants distributed in 2025 totalling €515,000.

ROI Breakdown

149 grants totalling €4.54M

	Grants	Awarded
Addressing Essential Needs	43	€ 1,256,400.00
Health & Wellbeing	79	€2,131,600.00
Creativity & Play	23	€641,900.00

NI Breakdown

20 grants totalling £327K

	Grants	Awarded
Addressing Essential Needs	6	£84,884.00
Health & Wellbeing	8	£128,913.00
Creativity & Play	6	£113,432.56

Transformative Grants Awarded in 2025

Women's Aid The 'Too Into You' Project Awarded €95K

Four organisations received €515,000 in transformative funding in 2025—investments designed to create systemic change for Ireland's most vulnerable children. The funding contributed to tackling some of the most complex challenges facing children today—from domestic abuse and mental health to disability inclusion and palliative care. These grants demonstrate what becomes possible when we resource bold, community-led solutions.

Why This Grant Is Transformative

This grant tackles intimate partner abuse early—before harmful patterns take hold. By equipping young people and the professionals who support them, it creates a ripple effect that can shift how Ireland responds to abuse among young people.

The Toy Show Appeal funding will enable the 'Too Into You' project expand to reach young people most at risk, especially those from marginalised communities often missed by mainstream prevention efforts.

The Critical Need

This project fills a gap in youth education and support. It helps young people recognise abuse, talk about it, and act—while promoting cultural change through a gender equality lens.

What the Grant Will Enable

- Developing an accredited, practice-based training module and toolkit for youth workers, teachers, and others working with young people.
- Creating a video series featuring young people from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that young people from ethnic minority, LGBTQI+, and disabled communities see their experiences reflected and have access to relevant support.
- Recruiting a Diverse Voices Engagement Lead to deliver workshops with young people from marginalised communities.
- Radically increasing understanding of gender inequality, healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, and equipping young people to seek support, set boundaries, and support their peers.

The Impact

This project will help break the cycle of intimate partner abuse before it starts—creating safer relationships for the next generation. By reaching marginalised young people often excluded from prevention work, and training the adults who support them, it can build towards a national movement, where young people can recognise abuse, speak up and foster a culture rooted in equality and respect.



“Women's Aid has 50 years' experience supporting women subjected to domestic abuse. It is a high priority for us to accelerate progress to ensure that future generations do not suffer at the hands of their intimate partners. This is achieved through a combination of primary prevention to support healthy relationships, and secondary prevention for support where harm has already been done.

This generous grant will support our unique Too Into You project to expand to reach more marginalised communities of young people with tools to identify and navigate abuse while also enabling us to empower educators and youth leaders with the best practice to support young people to thrive.”

Sarah Benson, CEO, Women's Aid



Saoirse

The Saoirse Ruane Transformative Grant

The Saoirse Ruane Transformative Grant has been newly created to honour Saoirse's memory and the profound impact she had on so many. Through this grant, her legacy of courage and generosity continues to support families in need.

Jack and Jill Children's Foundation The Age Extension to Seven Years Project Awarded €140K



Why This Grant Is Transformative

Jack and Jill supported 539 families in 2024, but care used to stop at age six—leaving families without support during a vulnerable time. Named in honour of Saoirse Ruane, this grant transforms what is possible for families caring for children with complex medical needs at home by extending the age criteria from six to seven years. Beyond the 65 families directly supported, the grant strengthens Jack and Jill's "Community of Care" model, where trained nurses create a ripple effect that improves care standards nationwide. This demonstrates how strategic expansion of a proven service can deliver both immediate family relief and long-term systemic improvement.

The Critical Need

Jack and Jill support children with complex medical needs, including end-of-life care regardless of diagnosis. In 2024, the charity supported 539 families, delivering over 129,000 hours of care. However, families previously faced an abrupt cut-off at age six—a critical time when children still require intensive support, but formal services may not yet be in place. This gap left families without the "lifeline" they had come to depend on.

What the Grant Will Enable

In June 2025, as a direct result of The Saoirse Ruane Transformative Grant, Jack and Jill extended its age criteria to include children up to seven years old. As of September 2025, this extension became a permanent part of the service enabling:

- **Continuity of care:** 65 families now receive up to 20 extra hours of care per month, preventing disruption during a vulnerable stage.
- **15,600 additional hours:** Between June 2025 and June 2026, approximately 15,600 hours of additional care will be delivered.
- **Empowered family care:** Trusted relationships between nurses and families enable parents to confidently manage complex medical care at home, including medication administration, suctioning, and tube feeding.
- **Ripple effect:** Jack and Jill's core nursing team trains local community nurses and supports family self-care programmes, improving care standards across Ireland.

The Impact

Parents describe Jack and Jill's service as a "lifeline" or "gift of time." The extension to age seven meets growing demand and provides stability when families need it most. The community-driven "Community of Care" model—where local support and generosity ensure children receive vital care at home—reflects the heart of Jack and Jill's mission: keeping the child and family at the centre of everything. This transformative funding ensures expert, compassionate care continues to reach families across Ireland.

"The Saoirse Ruane Transformative Grant is indeed transformative—a literal game-changer for 65 Jack and Jill families in communities across Ireland. This grant will unlock approximately 15,600 hours of additional care between June 2025 and June 2026, enabling us to extend our service up to seven years of age. I have been heartened by messages of appreciation from parent carers who have shared stories of the meaningful difference this extra year of support from Jack and Jill will make for their family. On behalf of Jack and Jill, our Board and our wonderful families, a huge thank you to Roseanna, Ollie and Community Foundation Ireland for nominating Jack and Jill for this truly fantastic opportunity."

Deirdre Walsh, CEO, Jack and Jill Children's Foundation

Exchange House Ireland National Travellers Service The 'Thriving Together' Project Awarded €140K

Why This Grant Is Transformative

This grant addresses a mental health crisis at its core by placing the Traveller community at the heart of both service design and delivery. Rather than imposing external solutions, it builds on the community's inherent strengths—resilience, close family ties, and cultural identity—to create sustainable change. By developing a peer-led workforce and establishing culturally safe care pathways, this initiative creates both immediate impact and long-term systemic transformation in how Ireland responds to mental health and suicide prevention in Traveller communities.

The Critical Need

In March 2025, Exchange House Ireland published findings from the RTÉ Toy Show-funded Traveller Youth Mental Health Co-Production Report, revealing a critical mental health crisis among young Travellers. The community faces high suicide rates, systemic discrimination, and poor access to culturally appropriate services—challenges compounded by exclusion in education and employment, and deep-rooted social pressures.

What the Grant Will Enable

Thriving Together is structured around three key pillars: Help-Seeking, Confidence Building, and Hope for the Future. The programme is grounded in cultural competence and co-production. The first phase includes:

- **Building peer capacity:** Recruiting a Project Coordinator, Clinical Lead, and six Peer Mental Health Facilitators who will deliver trauma-informed, tailored mental health support across three regions in Ireland.
- **Crisis intervention training:** Providing training for both young people and parents to reduce stigma, build resilience, and establish sustainable support networks.
- **Securing long-term sustainability:** The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal funding has enabled successful advocacy with HSE National Mental Health Services, resulting in a co-funding model that secures full funding for two years, with potential for multi-annual funding.

The Impact

For Traveller families, this means earlier access to trusted, community-based mental health support and improved pathways to care. On a systemic level, the programme builds infrastructure that bridges gaps between Traveller communities and mainstream health services, advancing national goals of equity and inclusion. Through its national steering group, co-production methods, and peer workforce development, the initiative creates lasting change that will benefit future generations.



"This funding from the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal and Community Foundation Ireland isn't just supporting a programme, it's enabling a new way of responding to mental health and suicide prevention in Traveller communities. By resourcing community leadership, peer support, and culturally safe care, we are creating lasting change for young Travellers and their families."

Kerry Cuskelly, CEO, Exchange House Ireland National Travellers Service

The Crann Centre The Social Capital Programme Awarded €140K

Why This Grant Is Transformative

This grant helps children with disabilities and their families access the play and recreation services that are essential for wellbeing. Crann's model proves that family-focused care improves lives and saves money. The two-year funding provides the Crann Centre with the confidence and the stability needed to scale an evidence-based model that other organisations can learn from and replicate.

The Critical Need

Children with neuro-physical disabilities and their families often miss out on play, leisure, and social activities essential for development and wellbeing. Inadequate infrastructure—inaccessible playgrounds, bathrooms, and parking—excludes these children from engaging with peers, experiencing nature, and enjoying family time.

What the Grant Will Enable

- **Sustain and expand proven success:** Demand has grown significantly, from 1,800 attendances in 2023 to 2,800 in 2024. The funding secures staffing and enables long-term planning to meet this rising need.
- **Deepen and broaden reach:** Scale both in depth (more frequent activities) and breadth (reaching more children), with engagement from specialist facilitators in arts, ecology, and adaptive movement.
- **Build the evidence base:** Partnership with University College Cork (UCC) for impact measurement and Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluation demonstrates that every €1 spent yields €3.68 in value for families.

The Impact

Crann's work enables children and families to participate in enriching activities together, improving health, wellbeing, and social inclusion. Beyond individual families, it drives a systemic shift in how disability services are designed, proving that integrated, family-focused approaches deliver better outcomes at lower costs—creating a blueprint for change across the sector.



“This transformative grant from The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal elevates the Crann Centre's capacity to deliver a unique programme which is having a real impact for children and families living with neuro-physical disabilities. With the funding being for a 2-year period it gives us the confidence to plan for a longer timeframe. Being the only regional charity selected for the Transformative Funding by such prestigious organisations as RTÉ and Community Foundation Ireland is a huge boost for our profile, awareness, and confidence. We have only been offering services for 6 years; we are delighted to be scaling and excited for how much more we can do for children and families living with neuro-physical disabilities.”

Padraig Mallon, CEO, The Crann Centre



How Children Were Supported in 2025

As in previous years, RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grants were awarded in both Impact (€25K+) and Community (€4K+) levels and across the Appeal's three strategic priorities. Grants awarded in 2025 come from the funds raised as part of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal 2024.

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.

Impact Grants

Charity		Grant Amount
COPE Galway Co. Galway RCN:20011314	Supporting its project of nature as respite: providing opportunities for children and families in emergency accommodation to bond and enjoy the natural environment.	€25,500
Nasc the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre Co. Waterford RCN:20043612	Funding for Its New Beginnings project which provides social work-led support to reunited refugee families, helping them overcome barriers and access essential services.	€40,000
Depaul Ireland All Counties RCN:20048938	Funding to continue its Child Support Worker project through embedded support delivered across two residential services, and the provision of enhanced interventions and activities.	€40,000
Clare Haven Services Ltd. Co. Clare RCN:20033538	Funding to support a project for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse and coercive control.	€22,400
Childhood Development Initiative Co. Dublin RCN: 20065577	Funding will enhance CDI's book gifting programme with peer support, expert-led training, and resources for parents, including those with additional needs, ensuring they gain the skills, knowledge, and networks to navigate challenges.	€40,000
St. Laurence O'Toole Catholic Social Care CLG (Crosscare) Co. Dublin RCN: 20169084	Funding to support its Crosscare food poverty project, which is about communicating a respectful, long-term solution for people in difficulty.	€39,000
Irish Heart Foundation All Counties RCN:20008376	Funding to support health literacy in DEIS Schools, breaking the cycles of poverty by improving well-being and health outcomes for children in disadvantaged areas.	€40,000
Community Law & Mediation Co. Dublin RCN: 20011437	Funding to support its children and young people's law service to meet the needs and realise change for marginalised groups.	€40,000
Kerry Community Youth Service Co. Kerry RCN:20014292	Funding to scale up its family time centre which provides a nurturing and supportive environment for children in care or from separated families.	€40,000
Citywise Education Co. Dublin RCN:20066130	Funding to support its leadership programme which is designed to empower young people in disadvantaged communities and to co-design and establish a new leadership certification system.	€40,000
City of Dublin YMCA (Trust) Co. Dublin RCN:20060817	Support for its alternative suspension initiative to help students realise better educational outcomes by giving them the opportunity to transform their time away from school into a positive experience.	€40,000
Focus Ireland All Counties RCN:20015107	Funding to support its Aylward Green childcare facility which provides childcare to Aylward Green residents.	€35,000

Charity		Grant Amount
St. Canice's Community Action Ltd (Fr McGrath FRC) Co. Kilkenny RCN:20051617	Funding to support a school completion and education support programme for young people aged 11–16.	€40,000
Hill Street Family Resource Centre Co. Dublin RCN:20142667	Funding for its child and family outreach programme which supports children and caregivers living in international protection or homeless accommodation.	€40,000
Cliona's Foundation All Counties RCN:20068899	Funding will provide immediate financial support to families caring for a seriously sick child across the island of Ireland.	€35,000
iScoil All Counties RCN:20080990	Funding for a project which will enable ten young people, who are fully out of mainstream education, access to iScoil and complete a QQI Level 3 qualification over a one-year period.	€40,000
Ballymun Regional Youth Resource Co. Dublin RCN:20053420	Funding for its Bowled Over! initiative which delivers targeted, sustainable, youth cookery programmes to address one of the root causes of food poverty.	€16,000
CyberSafelreland CLG Co. Cork RCN:20104108	Funding for an awareness campaign to empower children and young people to avoid sexual abuse online, by fully understanding their rights.	€45,000
Donegal Travellers Project Co. Donegal RCN:20035426	Funding to support its work in addressing the inequality of outcome and educational disadvantage which Traveller and Roma children and young people experience.	€17,600
Good Shepherd Cork Co. Cork RCN:20041618	Funding for its Our Place to Thrive project ensuring children in its family hub service have a range of high-quality, trauma informed supports.	€40,000
Immigrant Council of Ireland Co. Dublin RCN:20061982	Funding to support KIND - Kids in Need of Defence, servicing an unmet legal need and fostering integration of unaccompanied children through access to family life and Irish citizenship.	€40,000
Navan Travellers Workshops CLG (Meath Travellers Workshops) Co. Meath RCN:20026134	Support for the partnership of Travellers and settled people working to improve the social and economic situation of the Travelling Community in County Meath.	€40,000
Mount Carmel Secondary School Co. Dublin RCN:20145842	Funding for its project supporting newly arrived children in Ireland, many with no prior schooling, by equipping them with essential English language skills, empowering them to integrate and thrive.	€30,000
Meath Women's Aid Housing Association CLG Co. Meath RCN:20021634	Funding for a Community Engagement Worker for young people in Meath—to build young people's leadership on healthy intimate partner relationships, and develop effective prevention responses to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.	€40,000
Anew Support Services CLG Co. Dublin RCN:20022983	Funding for its youth integrated pregnancy support (YIPS) for disadvantaged pregnant women and new mothers (aged 18 to 25) and their babies who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness and poverty.	€40,000
North West Clare Family Resource Centre Co. Clare RCN:20046521	Funding for its Nature and Unity project, a cultural exchange between Irish and Ukrainian Young people.	€16,000
Longford Women's Link CLG Co. Longford RCN:20032937	Funding for a project which trains school guidance counsellors to identify and address domestic abuse and unhealthy teenage relationships.	€22,500
My Canine Companion Ltd All Counties RCN:20079147	Funding to support the provision of ten puppies in its service dog programme, changing the lives of children on the autism spectrum.	€40,000
Barnardos All Counties RCN:20010027	Funding to support the early education and care of vulnerable children from disadvantaged areas in Finglas, Dublin.	€40,000
Kinship Care NI All NI Counties RCN:101036	Funding to support 275 carers and 405 children and young people in kinship care arrangements across Northern Ireland.	£35,000





Community Grants

Charity	Synopsis	Grant Amount
Midlands Science Co. Westmeath, Co. Longford. Co. Laois & Co. Offaly. RCN:20204089	Funding for its Making Sense with Science programme which helps young people from disadvantaged areas develop the critical thinking skills to understand science.	€13,500
Down Syndrome Centre North East Co. Monaghan RCN:20161132	Funding to support essential therapies (speech & language, physiotherapy, occupational) in a fun, social, and themed environment.	€16,000
Engage in Education Co. Limerick RCN:20027209	Funding to provide extra tuition both in-person/online and extra revision support for senior cycle students from socio-economically disadvantaged areas.	€18,000
Community Connect Co. Dublin RCN:20206555	Funding to support the community connect baby bank in Dublin, supporting families with essential baby supplies.	€15,000
Teen-Turn Co. Carlow RCN:20157739	Funding for its Community Online initiative which delivers learning opportunities in STEM and digital literacy to teen girls from underserved areas.	€17,000
Learning Hub Limerick Co. Limerick RCN:20063436	Funding to provide a safe, welcoming, learning environment where young people can reach their full potential.	€18,000
Ballycommon Telework & Training Centre Ltd Co. Offaly RCN:20206504	Funding to advance education and services for the unemployed, those at risk of unemployment and marginalised groups in rural Offaly and surrounding areas.	€16,000
Quarryvale Family Resource Centre Co. Dublin RCN:20052560	Funding to expand its existing food bank supports and family activities.	€18,000
St John the Baptist BNS Co. Limerick RCN:20204900	Funding to support the implementation of sensory breaks throughout the school day for all students to promote emotional regulation, improve focus, and enhance engagement in teaching and learning.	€18,000
YANA North Cork Domestic Violence Project CLG Co. Cork RCN:20063009	Funding for YANA its children's programme which works with children to break the cycle of abuse and allows them to start to heal from trauma through therapy.	€14,400
Mercy Law Resource Centre Co. Dublin RCN:20072254	Funding for the provision of information, legal advice and representation for families who are homeless and/or accessing emergency accommodation and/or social housing.	€18,000
Clara Community & Family Resource Centre CLG Co. Offaly RCN:20066406	Funding to expand its Planet Youth project by continuing to employ a youth worker to engage marginalised teens in its programmes.	€15,000
Cranmore Community Co-operative Society LTD Co. Sligo RCN:20064396	Funding to support its community café and garden which provides healthy food choices for children from a socially and economically disadvantaged area.	€17,500
Hygiene Hub (formerly The Hygiene Bank Ireland) All Counties RCN:20206208	Funding to support the distribution of essential hygiene items to children and families in need across Ireland, while raising awareness of the issue of hygiene poverty.	€18,000
Action Deaf Youth Co. Antrim RCN: 102041	Funding to support the provision of outreach play therapy sessions for deaf children.	£9,884
Diverse Youth NI Co. Antrim RCN: 108130	Funding for a 12-month project 'Building Resilience Through Creativity and Wellbeing' targeting 80 vulnerable young people.	£10,000
GLOW Co. Antrim RCN: 1206547	Funding supported the expansion of its mental health support services for girls aged 10-17 in deprived areas of Belfast.	£10,000
Lightyear Foundation All NI Counties RCN: 1150231	Funding to support the provision of 600 disabled and neurodivergent young people across six special schools.	£10,000
Young at Art Ltd. Co. Antrim RCN: 102564	Funding for its 'Resilient Child' project which provide arts access and play-based workshops in six disadvantaged Belfast primary schools.	£10,000



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. Funding in this category is also 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.

Impact Grants

Charity	Synopsis	Grant Amount
Irish Dogs for the Disabled Co. Cork RCN:20067069	Funding to continue its stability dog programme, supporting children with severe physical disabilities by gifting them a unique stability dog.	€38,500
Youngballymun Co. Dublin RCN:20070533	Funding towards the 'Ballymun Schools Play Therapy Project', supporting children through the provision of play therapy in local schools.	€15,000
Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC) All Counties RCN:20007225	Funding to support 'Smart Moves' an in-schools programme that works to build the emotional resilience and coping skills of 5th/6th class and 1st year students during their transition from primary to secondary school.	€40,000
The National Centre for Youth Mental Health CLG (Jigsaw) All Counties RCN:20064846	Funding to support its 'Connect Client Portal,' a secure online platform allowing clients view records, schedule appointments, communicate with therapists and access trusted mental health resources.	€40,000
Walkinstown Greenhills Resource Centre Co. Dublin RCN:20054885	Funding towards a project providing therapeutic supports to children and adolescents experiencing the trauma of familial substance abuse.	€35,000
Peter Bradley Foundation (Acquired Brain Injury Ireland) All Counties RCN:20046200	Funding the 'On with Life' paediatric programme, which empowers children with acquired brain injuries by equipping their parents, teachers, and caregivers with specialist knowledge, tools, and strategies to support the child's rehabilitation.	€40,000
Croom Family Resource Centre Ltd. Co. Limerick RCN:20200336	Funding the expansion and the upscaling of its existing child and adolescent psychotherapy service to meet the growing demand.	€24,000
Amber Women's Refuge Co. Kilkenny RCN:20032920	Funding to support the development of a safe, structured, space for one to one and group work with children and young people who are victims/survivors of domestic violence.	€18,000
National Concert Hall All Counties RCN:20011987	Funding its children's hospitals programme in partnership with Music & Health Ireland, bringing the joy of live music to children, their families and healthcare workers in hospitals across Ireland.	€33,000
St Andrews Resource Centre (St Andrews FRC) Co. Dublin RCN:20032043	Funding towards the delivery of therapeutic supports for neurodiverse children and their families.	€25,000
Soar Foundation All Counties RCN:20081607	Funding to help marginalised teenagers to develop their resilience, discover who they are and what they can achieve with Soar's evidence-based, experiential, character-development programmes.	€40,000
Belong To Youth Services All Counties RCN:20059798	Funding contributed to the continued growth of its children and family support service which provides LGBTQ+ young people and their families access to supports for their health and wellbeing.	€40,000
St. Vincent de Paul Co. Dublin RCN:20013806	Funding to provide creative therapy services for children living in disadvantaged communities in the north inner city of Dublin.	€28,000
The Saoirse Foundation (Bumbleance) Co. Cork RCN:20075163	Funding supported the recruitment, training, and employment of a new BUMBLEance driver.	€40,000
Enable Ireland Disability Services Co. Wicklow RCN:20006617	Funding to support the expansion of Making Waves, which provides hydrotherapy access for children with disabilities.	€40,000



Charity	Synopsis	Grant Amount
Offaly Traveller Movement Co. Offaly RCN:20204733	Funding to expand the availability of Traveller-specific, culturally appropriate therapeutic counselling support for young Travellers.	€40,000
Sensational Kids Co. Kildare RCN:20066133	Funding will support the expansion of access to fully funded outcome-focused therapy programmes across its four child development centres.	€40,000
Purple House Cancer Support Co. Wicklow RCN:20037178	Funding its project which focuses on children experiencing trauma or grief due to cancer. Purple House aims to provide psychological, emotional, and practical support to the entire family unit affected by or bereaved by cancer.	€40,000
Children's Health Foundation Co. Dublin RCN:20042462	Funding supported the addition of specialised seating, mobility, and self-care equipment to the occupational therapy stock to meet the needs of young people living with obesity.	€40,000
Ballinrobe Family Resource Centre CLG (Tacú FRC) Co. Mayo RCN:20061456	Funding contributed to the employment of a community support worker for Traveller families in Ballinrobe.	€38,000
Early Childhood Ireland All Counties RCN 20078904	Funding to support its 'Time for Nurturing Connections' pilot programme which explores how children's mental health and wellbeing can be positively impacted by a slow relational pedagogy.	€45,000
Coolmine Therapeutic Community Co. Dublin RCN:20009687	Funding towards developing meaningful family spaces to support positive reunification for fathers, children, and their families.	€32,000
South West Wexford Family Resource Centre Co. Wexford RCN:20027087	Funding for a project to install a sensory space tailored specifically for neurodivergent individuals.	€28,000
One Family Co. Dublin RCN:20012212	Funding to support the employment of a therapist with experience of working with young people and their parents.	€40,000
Galway Rape Crisis Centre Co. Galway RCN:20016364	Funding to continue its art psychotherapy programme for young people impacted by the trauma of sexual violence.	€35,000
Cystic Fibrosis Ireland All Counties RCN:20011376	Funding its exercise grant to support the purchase of exercise equipment, enrolment in exercise classes/team sports and/or membership to clubs/gyms acting as a preventative and immediate support to those with CF.	€40,000
ChildVision Co. Dublin RCN:20001278	Funding for its equine therapy programme which provides children with visual impairments and complex disabilities access to year-round equine-assisted therapy.	€36,000
Down Syndrome Ireland All Counties RCN:20010164	Funding Lámh and other specific communication programmes for children with Down syndrome, providing training for teachers and fostering collaboration to create an inclusive learning environment.	€40,000
Clondalkin Behavioural Initiative Limited Co. Dublin RCN:20065843	Funding to implement an evidence-based, anti-bullying programme to six designated DEIS Primary Schools in Dublin to support children's mental health and wellbeing.	€32,000
Down Syndrome Centre Co. Dublin RCN:20055158	Funding for essential therapies (speech & language, physiotherapy, occupational) in a fun, social, and themed environment.	€40,000
Newbridge Family Resource Centre Co. Kildare RCN:20053086	Funding for its creative parenting project which develops mindfulness-based approaches to improve emotional connection, self-compassion, and communication, while expanding children's access to play therapy.	€38,000
Cork Counselling Services Co. Cork RCN:20022327	Funding for a suicide prevention programme to provide one-to-one services to young people and to develop bespoke plain language clinical documents and policies.	€32,000
Huruma t/a Wellsprings Co. Cork RCN:20046828	Funding towards the provision of comprehensive and multi-faceted support to families, particularly care leavers and their children.	€40,000
St. Gabriel's Foundation Co. Limerick RCN:20008536	Funding for 'Get Going, Get Rowing 2025' an initiative for children with disabilities such as ASD, to come together in a weeklong camp over the summer when structure is lost in their lives, causing high amounts of stress.	€40,000
Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI) All Counties RCN:20206772	Funding towards its family residential weekend conference which brings the families from its family support network together for a weekend of workshops and community building.	€15,000

Charity	Synopsis	Grant Amount
Early Learning Initiative Co. Dublin RCN:20024956	Funding P365 a family-centred support programme for children with developmental delay and additional needs.	€40,000
Children's Sunshine Home Trust (LauraLynn) Co. Cork RCN:20154844	Funding to embed a specialist clinical psychology service for children with palliative care needs and their families in Munster.	€40,000
Irish Cancer Society All Counties RCN:20009502	Funding to support bereavement camp weekends in partnership with Barretstown, offering families a supportive environment within which they can spend quality time together.	€40,000
ARC Cancer Support Co. Dublin RCN:20028428	Funding its child and teen counselling programme which provides specialised one-to-one support for children and teenagers affected by cancer.	€40,000
First Fortnight Co. Dublin RCN:20081492	Funding for creative therapy services, offered free of charge, to children and adolescents experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness.	€40,000
Ballyfermot Youth Service Co. Dublin RCN:20150532	Funding for its initiative to embed its psychotherapy and therapeutic services.	€36,000
The Cancer Fund for Children All Counties RCN:20142681	Funding to expand its hospital-based youth support programme, providing vital psychosocial support to young people with cancer.	€38,000
The Curragh P.R.I.D.E. Family Resource Centre Co. Kildare RCN:20063504	Funding for the provision of direct therapies specific to the developmental needs of neurodiverse children.	€32,000
Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services Group Co. Limerick RCN: 20026127	Funding to support Beston, an innovative, integrated early years and family support model specifically tailored for the community of Ballinacurra Weston.	€28,800
Limerick Youth Service Co. Limerick RCN:20016531	Funding to help maintain its 'Be Well Rural Youth Mental Health Project', supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people aged 14-25 years.	€40,000
Autism Spectrum Information, Advice and Meeting Point (AsIAm.ie) All Counties RCN:20144838	Funding for its child and family programme; providing a unique model of mental health support for autistic children and families.	€35,000
North Tipperary Community Services Co. Tipperary RCN:20017071	Funding for a project which provides one-to-one support and social groups for all LGBTI+ young people (ages 12-24) in the Midwest.	€40,000
Pieta House CPSOS Co. Mayo RCN:20062026	Funding to maintain its suicide prevention and bereavement counselling services for young people.	€40,000
Cancer Fund for Children NI Co. Antrim RCN: 100532	Funding for its 'Resilient Futures' initiative which provides informal therapeutic support for children and young people with Cancer.	£35,000
Young Enterprise NI Co. Antrim RCN: 107515	Funding the support of inclusive enterprise education for young people in Northern Ireland.	£35,000



Community Grants

Charity	Synopsis	Grant Amount
Mohill Family Support Centre CLG Co. Leitrim RCN:20049126	Funding to provide therapeutic interventions on a one-to-one and group basis for children and young people.	€12,000
Oscar's Kids Ireland All Counties RCN:20206106	Funding to support its play therapy programme which provides structured play therapy sessions to children with terminal cancer and their siblings.	€20,000
Shannon's Hopeline CLG Co. Dublin RCN:20107703	Funding a project to provide 150 children and young people affected by suicide with 12 sessions of counselling.	€16,000
Cuan Cancer Social Support Company Co. Cavan RCN:20142810	Funding its programme of creative therapies for children and teenagers affected by cancer.	€18,000
Beacon of Light Counselling Centre Co. Dublin RCN:20047139	Funding to provide affordable psychotherapy to disadvantaged teenagers between the ages of 12 and 18.	€16,000
St. Francis SNS Co. Dublin RCN:20205295	Funding to provide regular play therapy to the most vulnerable pupils in our school who have been exposed to trauma.	€12,000
Children in Hospital Ireland All Counties RCN:20012632	Funding for play based support sessions to children in hospital who may face extended periods alone in hospital, bringing children and families community support when they most need it.	€16,000
Millennium Family Resource Centre Ltd Co. Tipperary RCN: 20048167	Funding play therapy supports to help children deal with the emotional fallout from traumatic life experiences.	€16,000
Order of Malta Share to Care Co. Galway RCN: 20005924	Funding to support respite holidays and social events for children with disabilities and life-limiting illnesses and their families.	€16,000
St Joseph's JNS Co. Dublin RCN: 20129132	Funding for a school nurture area, providing the school's most vulnerable children with space to regulate, eat and access education.	€15,000
Shannow Family Resource Centre Co. Kerry RCN:20074968	Funding for the provision of play therapy, adolescent counselling, and other therapeutic interventions to low-income families and their children.	€8,000
Kinaffe NS Co. Mayo RCN:20205918	Funding for its 'Brighter Futures' holiday wellbeing programme which provides education and support for newly arrived international protection and IPAS children.	€20,000
Venture Out Wilderness Project CLG Co. Roscommon RCN:20156305	Funding for its 'Unearth 1 to 1' support service which helps young people manage and overcome the challenges they face through outdoor based adventure and youth work focused activities.	€18,000
Karablu CLG (BEST) Co. Dublin RCN 20042783	Funding therapeutic supports for children, who have experienced trauma in their lives, to help develop personal, social, and emotional skills that will benefit their overall wellbeing.	€16,000
Blue Box Creative Arts Therapy Centre Co. Limerick RCN:20052836	Funding to provide creative arts and play therapy to vulnerable and at-risk children, young people, and families in Limerick city.	€16,000
Dyspraxia DCD Ireland All Counties RCN:20041571	Funding a programme which helps parents develop their understanding of dyspraxia/DCD, how it affects their child's development and behaviour, and effective strategies for managing it.	€11,400
Dunmanway Family Resource Centre Co. Cork RCN:20071349	Funding to support the development of an in-house toddler group where parents and children can interact through play with their children, connect and support each other.	€8,000
Killinarden Family Resource Centre Co. Dublin RCN: 20040260	Funding the continuation of its one-to-one therapeutic intervention service for children and young people.	€11,500
Williams Syndrome Ireland All Counties RCN:20024123	Funding to enhance the summer camps that WSI operate to support the mental health of children with Williams Syndrome.	€8,000
Heart Children Ireland All Counties RCN:20025274	Funding for its play therapy programme which provides vital emotional and psychological support for children born with CHD and their siblings.	€15,500

Charity	Synopsis	Grant Amount
Greencastle Community Development Co Ltd Co. Donegal RCN:20052881	Funding for its Growing Wild programme which combines the therapeutic benefits of gardening and ecotherapy with fun outdoor play.	€12,000
Trim Family Resource Centre CLG Co. Meath RCN:20079802	Funding for its project which delivers a series of structured summer and after-school programmes designed to enhance wellbeing for children and young people.	€15,500
Safe Haven Ireland Co. Sligo RCN:20105471	Provides sail training opportunities to young people aged 12-21 to promote integration and youth development.	€14,400
Prader Willi Syndrome Association Ireland (PWSAI) All Counties RCN:20051693	Funding to enable the provision of dietary advice and help for children and young people who have Prader Willi syndrome in Ireland.	€8,000
Embrace Farm Co. Laois RCN:20149956	Funding its 'Minding Me' project which delivers specialised, trauma-informed therapy, family support retreats for children in farming families who have experienced trauma.	€16,000
Narrative 4 CLG Co. Limerick RCN:20155254	Funding for 'Connect 4' its summer camp for girls of a migrant background to share experiences, connect through storytelling, & art while improving life-skills and well-being.	€8,000
Open Spectrum CLG Co. Dublin RCN:20206387	Funding for its programme of therapy for autistic children and teens with psychological challenges.	€8,000
Balally Family Resource Centre Co. Dublin RCN:20039578	Funding for its 'Circle of Friends' programme, a specialised therapeutic space designed for children from 6 years old.	€11,000
Outcomers LGBT Support Service Co. Louth RCN:20206209	Funding for its 'Pride in Resilience' programme which aims to support LGBT+ young people.	€8,000
Bedford Row Family Project Co. Limerick RCN:20042172	Funding to support its work with families who have loved ones in prison, working to break the cycle of imprisonment through a range of supports.	€8,000
GOSHH Co. Clare, Co. Limerick, Co. Tipperary RCN:20030957	Funding for this project will partially fund a full-time youth worker dedicated to supporting LGBTI+ young people across the Midwest of Ireland.	€16,000
ADDNI Limited Co. Antrim RCN:100298	Funding for its project to address ADHD needs, while supporting and empowering neurodiverse young people.	£10,000
Child Training Academy Co. Antrim RCN:106988	Funding for 'FEED PLUS' its (Fitness, Education, Empowerment & Development Programme).	£9,540
Fresh Little Minds Co. Antrim RCN:108816	Funding for Sunrise Communities.	£10,000
New Lodge Duncairn Community Health Partnership Co. Antrim RCN:103529	Funding its services aimed at supporting the emotional wellbeing of children and young people.	£9,983
Northern Ireland Newpin Co. Derry/ Londonderry RCN:105131	Funding to support its 'Our Time to Shine' project.	£10,000
Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Co. Antrim RCN:104363	Funding to support its mindful play project.	£10,000







Arts and creativity can be powerful, energetic tools that can help children solve problems, think strategically, relate to others, and manage life's ups and downs. Creativity and play are essential to supporting children's development of cognitive and social behaviours. This funding aims to enhance personal and emotional development, resilience and wellness for disadvantaged children through creative programmes and activities which help personal development and enhance inclusion.

Impact Grants

Charity Name		Grant Amount
Baboró Galway International Children's Festival Limited Co. Galway RCN:20043834	Fosters children and young people's engagement with the arts through various initiatives and festivals.	€23,500
New Court School Co. Wicklow RCN:20140762	Funding towards the purchase of play equipment to develop an inclusive outdoor recreational space for children with special needs.	€30,000
Sing Ireland Co. Limerick RCN:20012601	Funding for 'Star Songs' its early years initiative offering children from marginalised communities, access to creative, play-based learning.	€40,000
Helium Children's Arts & Health All Counties RCN:20075200	Funding creative pathways for young people with lifelong health conditions by provides accessible creative opportunities to support their emotional health.	€40,000
St Joseph's Special School Co. Galway RCN:20140182	Funding to support its educational programmes for pupils aged 4-18 with moderate general learning disabilities and autism.	€40,000
South Presentation Centre CLG Co. Cork RCN:20077921	Funding to help provide psychosocial support to asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in Cork.	€40,000
Graffiti Theatre Company Co. Cork RCN:20022082	Funding its theatre arts programmes within the community, providing access to participation in the arts for children and young people.	€40,000
Fighting Words Co. Dublin RCN: 20069742	Funding contributes to programmes to develop writing, reading and literary creative skills for children and adults.	€40,000
Galway Community Circus Co. Galway RCN:20064747	Funding to support the development of accessible programmes to enable the physically disabled and neurodiverse youth fully participate in circus arts.	€32,500
Lakers Social and Recreation Club Co. Wicklow RCN: 20051907	Funding to fully equip a new junior activity room and adjoining sensory room for its junior members.	€18,000
Irish Chamber Orchestra Co. Limerick RCN:20022006	Funding to support equity of opportunity through free string instrumental, choral and songwriting lessons for children who otherwise would not have access to the arts.	€20,000
Children's Books Ireland All Counties RCN:20038922	Funding for its 'Every Child a Reader' programme which brings the transformative impact of reading for joy to children in schools in disadvantaged communities.	€38,500
National Association for Youth Drama All Counties RCN:20023492	Funding transformative youth theatre experiences and increased opportunities for artistic engagement for young people facing barriers of rural isolation, disability, and socio-economic challenges.	€40,000
Spraoi agus Spórt Family Centre CLG Co. Donegal RCN:20077105	Funding for an accessible, sensory-friendly celebration space in Inishowen, so children with disabilities, sensory sensitivities, and from low-income families can celebrate milestones in an inclusive way.	€40,000
Special National School Baldoye Co. Dublin RCN:20204614	Funding for a fully accessible, sensory-rich playground providing children with complex needs a safe, inclusive space to play.	€22,400
Ballymun Arts & Community Resource Centre t/a Axis Co. Dublin RCN:20046248	Funding to create a safe and engaging sensory outdoor play space for the Axis Crèche, benefitting all users of the space.	€40,000
In Your Space Circus Ltd Co. Derry/Londonderry RCN: 103059	Funding for its 'All In' circus project.	£39,914

Charity Name		Grant Amount
Rainbow Child and Family Centre Co. Derry/Londonderry RCN: 103745	Funding for its play with a baby and child project.	£24,168.56
The Cedar Foundation All NI Counties RCN: 101121	Funding for a 12-month arts and cultural activities programme for 126 disabled children and young people aged 5-18.	£24,942

Community Grants

Charity Name	Synopsis	Amount Awarded
Irish Aerial Creation Centre Co. Limerick RCN:20206715	Funding the advancement of the arts through the aerial arts with special schools' taster sessions, rehearsals, and creative opportunities for young people.	€14,000
Love and Care for People Co. Cork RCN:20204558	Funding a project to use inflatable dragon boats for fun outdoor team-building games to help 35 children and young people including migrants recovering from trauma.	€14,200
Sample-Studios Co. Cork RCN:20205874	Funding contemporary arts practitioners through affordable artist-run studios, sustaining local, regional, and international initiatives and community outreach.	€16,000
Barnstorm Theatre Company Co. Kilkenny RCN:20081942	Funding to support the development of high-quality theatre for children, young people, and adults throughout Kilkenny and beyond.	€14,000
Kilkenny LEADER Partnership Co. Kilkenny RCN:20069346	Funding the continuation and expansion of the provision of Forest School for young people who are members of the Travelling Community.	€8,000
Killala Community Council Newstart CLG Co. Mayo RCN: 20154066	Funding the provision of a wall-projected interactive play and games system for children of all ages in the Killala community.	€12,800
Castlebar Le Cheile FRC Co. Mayo RCN:20079703	Funding for a creative play opportunity for babies, toddlers, and parents to come together, to express themselves through art music song & dance.	€18,000
Fighting Words Northern Ireland Co. Antrim RCN: 105751	Funding to take 75 P5 pupils from three Belfast primary schools on a journey to discover the joy of creativity by writing stories in their own words.	£10,000
Helping Hands Autism Support Group Co. Antrim RCN: 105722	Funding to support its 'Helping our Hands Continue to Be Creative' project in 2025-2026.	£9,498
Sticky Fingers Arts Co. Down RCN: 101275	Funding to support the provision of accessible arts and creative play programmes at The Imaginarium Centre.	£10,000

Section 4

Safeguarding Donor Generosity



Transparency and Trust

At the heart of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal is the commitment that every donation will be used responsibly, effectively, and with the highest standards of accountability. This section explains how we deliver on that commitment.

How the Appeal works

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal exists as a Donor Advised Fund held in trust in a ring-fenced account with registered charity Community Foundation Ireland (RCN: 20044886). Following a tender process, RTÉ awarded the contract to support the philanthropic strategic objectives, and the grant assessment and distribution services for the Appeal to Community Foundation Ireland.

RTÉ maintains oversight and management of the Appeal through a dedicated Steering Group comprising of senior professionals from across the organisation, chaired by the Director General.

The work of Community Foundation Ireland is supported by an expert and passionate team of professionals guided by independent Board members. Community Foundation Ireland has policies to ensure high standards of accountability, probity, financial control, and business planning.

In all aspects regarding the management of the Appeal both RTÉ and Community Foundation Ireland are committed to the highest standards of governance and transparency. The Appeal is managed in accordance with the standards outlined in its Donor Charter, and in full compliance with the standards of the Charities Regulator.

RTÉ Toy Show Appeal Donor Assurances

Donors have the right to be assured that their gifts shall be used for the purposes for which they were given. The Foundation respects the rights of donors to be informed about the mission and causes for which the Foundation is raising funds; to be informed about how their donation is used through the receipt of clear, honest, and accurate information.

Privacy: Donors' personal information shall be treated with respect, confidentiality, and in accordance with applicable data protection laws and their stated wishes.

Recognition: The Foundation shall acknowledge and appreciate donors' contributions promptly and appropriately, including providing receipts for tax purposes and recognition in accordance with the donors' preferences.

Feedback and Complaints: Donors have the right to provide feedback, express concerns, or lodge complaints about the Foundation's fundraising practices or use of funds.



Use of RTÉ Toy Show Appeal Donations

The Foundation shall use donations responsibly, effectively, and efficiently to advance its mission and programmes in accordance with the agreed strategic objectives of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, and in compliance with the Donor Advised Fund Agreement which underpins same.

The Foundation shall ensure that funds raised are allocated in line with the mutually agreed grant structure and the Foundation's strategic priorities.

The Foundation shall provide periodic updates to RTÉ on the impact of the funds raised and the progress of the grantees' projects and initiatives.

Governance and Oversight

The Board of the Foundation provides oversight and ensures that all activities align with the Foundation's mission, values, charitable and strategic objectives. The Foundation has established appropriate policies, procedures, and controls to safeguard donors' contributions and maintain the trust and confidence of all donors and the public.

Compliance and Accountability

The Foundation shall comply with all relevant laws, regulatory bodies, including the Charities Regulator, and best practices governing charitable fundraising and financial management. The Foundation shall be accountable to its donors, beneficiaries, stakeholders, and the public for the effective and ethical use of funds.

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), a sub-committee of the Foundation board provides oversight on all governance, risk and financial management.

Highest Standards of Reporting and Charity Regulation Compliance

The Foundation has self-declared for Charities Institute Ireland's Triple Lock Certification;

1. The Board has formally adopted the Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public, as devised by the Charities Regulator
2. The Foundation prepares an annual report and financial statements in full compliance with the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice under FRS102) and are freely available to the public at Community Foundation Ireland's website.
3. The Board has confirmed compliance with the Charities Governance Code as devised by the Charities Regulator and confirmed intent to maintain full compliance. The Foundation's Board has appointed an external auditor to audit/examine the annual accounts.



How the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal Grants are Awarded

Both RTÉ and Community Foundation Ireland aim to ensure that the funds raised via the Appeal are distributed as effectively and equitably as possible.

The Grant Assessment Process

On behalf of RTÉ, Community Foundation Ireland runs an open application grant process in the months that follow each RTÉ Toy Show Appeal.

The grant application period is promoted to the sector via Community Foundation Ireland (who have a network database of over 5,000 organisations), and publicly via the RTÉ social media channels. Community Foundation Ireland also provides a webinar briefing and information session on the grant process to ensure that all potential applicants are proceeding on the most informed and equipped basis possible.

Only formally registered charities are eligible to apply, for grants within the Community, Impact and Transformative Grant categories.

Thereafter the grant applications are assessed and scored against a transparent set of criteria, which align with the three strategic priorities of the Appeal, and by Community Foundation Ireland's expert professional grant assessment team. There is then a further review of the shortlisted grant applications by the Foundation's expert Children's Advisory Group which this year comprised:

- Tanya Ward (Children's Rights Alliance)
- Fergal Landy (Family Resource Centre National Forum)
- Prof. Nóirín Hayes (Trinity College Dublin)
- Dr. Cliona Hannon (Katharine Howard Foundation)
- Denise Harding (Youth Representative)

As agreed with RTÉ in their Donor Advised Fund agreement, a panel of members of Community Foundation Ireland's Board provide authorisation and final sign off on the grants to be awarded. All applicants are then formally advised of the outcome of their application.

All grants are assessed independently by experts and not by members of RTÉ.

Grant Making Informed by Youth Perspective



Whilst young people have no direct role in this process, the Children's Advisory Group mentioned above ensures that the needs of children are being suitably responded to through the successful applications. Across the wider work of Community Foundation Ireland grant making for young people is informed by input from a dedicated youth consultation forum. This helps to ensure that grant making is informed directly by their views and experience. These insights also assist the decision-making processes which relate to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal.

Due Diligence

Due diligence on the charities funded through the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal is performed by Community Foundation Ireland, as part of the agreement with RTÉ. Community Foundation Ireland carries out due diligence checks for every grant made to ensure that the organisation is charitable, not-for-profit and has shown that they have the capacity to manage the grant. All due diligence is carried out in line with Community Foundation Ireland's Due Diligence Framework and Governance Checklist.

Award Conditions

RTÉ Toy Show Appeal grantees are expected to complete an Interim Report every six months from the date of payment as well as a final Outcome Report once the project is complete. The organisations are required to complete a template form that allows them to show the progress of the project, the budget spent at that time, and impact of the project so far. All funding should be spent down in the manner it was intended and the Interim and Outcome Reports provide an opportunity for the charities to demonstrate this. Where larger grants are made, more in-depth due diligence is performed at the Interim and Outcome report stages.

Financial Overview

Since its launch in Autumn 2020, the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has raised an impressive €26.6M, driven primarily by the generosity of individuals across the island of Ireland. Over the five-year period, 97.8% (€26M) of all donations came from individuals, with the remaining 2.2% (€587K) contributed by corporate donors. All donations are made directly to the accounts of Community Foundation Ireland; they are not received by RTÉ.

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has endured the uncertainty caused by the pandemic and the subsequent cost-of-living crises. Even during these challenging times, viewers have remained consistently loyal to the appeal and continued to give generously. This is evidenced by a 33.9% increase in donations received in 2024 compared to 2023.

All funds raised are transferred via our payment platforms, Stripe and Revolut, to the Foundation, where they are ring-fenced in a Donor Advised Fund bank account until all grantee applications have been received and assessed.

Fund Deductions

No deductions or fees are made by RTÉ in relation to any donation made to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal.

In accordance with the terms of the Fund Agreement with RTÉ (and as clearly stated on the respective donation platforms), deductions towards the management costs of the Appeal are deducted at source.

Since inception, of the total funds raised 96.7% (€25,808,746) of the Appeal proceeds have been disbursed to frontline children's charities. The Appeal operates with maximum cost-efficiency, with just 3.3% (€890,435) of total funds raised over the five years allocated to operating costs; significantly below sector norms.

Operating costs include the following:

Transaction Fees

Fees for online transactions—these are deducted at source from payment processing service Stripe, who facilitate the online transaction to donations made via the bespoke donation website. This fee is charged at a reduced charity rate for these services. This deduction is referenced in the text on the donation website, at the point of transaction, to ensure transparency for the donor. The total deduction for online fees is transparently disclosed in the annual Financial Statements. There are no processing fees for donations made via the Revolut app which also makes explicit that donations are received by Community Foundation Ireland directly. Call Centre support services have been provided to the Appeal by Abtran since 2020 on a pro bono basis.

Grant Making programme administration costs

The extensive work and due diligence in terms of grant assessment, grant distribution, and follow up compliance work is considerable. In order to ensure that this work is carried out to proper professional standards, RTÉ authorises that Community Foundation Ireland deducts a fee which is contractually agreed in advance of each Appeal. Similarly, in relation to the grant awarded to Community Foundation Northern Ireland (for grant making in Northern Ireland), a modest deduction is made for the cost of their professional services. Both fees are published annually in the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal Financial Statements.

Financial Processes and Oversight

All financial processes are subject to independent oversight by the Board of Community Foundation Ireland. The Foundation prepares its annual report and financial statements in full compliance with the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice under FRS102) and are freely available to the public at Community Foundation Ireland's website. In addition, both RTÉ and Community Foundation Ireland collaborate to create an annual RTÉ Toy Show Appeal Report, which includes a full breakdown of all grants awarded in that respective year, and a comprehensive Financial Statement. These reports are published online by both organisations and circulated to key stakeholders.

Community Foundation Ireland, as a company limited by guarantee, undergoes an annual statutory audit conducted by Forvis Mazars. The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal falls within the scope of the annual statutory audit and is examined in accordance with standard audit protocols.

Financial Statements for the Period 2020-2025

RTE Toy Show Fund - at 31.10.2025	5 Year Total	2024 Toy Show	2023 Toy Show	2022 Toy Show	2021 Toy Show	2020 Toy Show
Opening Balance	€0	€32	€47,144	€37,768	€22,287	€0
Donations Received						
Donations received	€26,491,540	€5,085,529	€3,685,208	€4,055,281	€6,826,478	€6,839,045
Co Funding Donation from the Foundation	€77,543	€40,000	€37,543	€0	€0	€0
Prior year grants refunded	€93,000	€0	€93,000	€0	€0	€0
Tax received	€43,681	€0	€13,449	€30,232	€0	€0
Total Donations	€26,705,764	€5,125,529	€3,829,200	€4,085,513	€6,826,478	€6,839,045
Grant Payments						
ROI Community Round						
Addressing Essential Needs	(€988,825)	(€232,400)	(€261,128)	(€267,500)	(€227,797)	€0
Health & Wellbeing	(€1,458,974)	(€414,300)	(€334,500)	(€397,000)	(€313,174)	€0
Creativity & Play	(€812,114)	(€97,000)	(€149,000)	(€204,500)	(€361,614)	€0
Total - ROI Community Round	(€3,259,912)	(€743,700)	(€744,628)	(€869,000)	(€902,584)	€0
ROI Impact Round						
Addressing Essential Needs	(€3,806,774)	(€1,024,000)	(€499,215)	(€720,000)	(€1,220,565)	(€342,994)
Health & Wellbeing	(€7,346,922)	(€1,717,300)	(€1,248,144)	(€1,439,000)	(€1,615,380)	(€1,327,099)
Creativity & Play	(€3,580,336)	(€544,900)	(€398,000)	(€558,000)	(€1,102,969)	(€976,467)
Total - ROI Impact Round	(€14,734,032)	(€3,286,200)	(€2,145,358)	(€2,717,000)	(€3,938,914)	(€2,646,560)
ROI Transformative Round						
Addressing Essential Needs	(€2,104,492)	(€95,000)	(€205,000)	€0	(€300,000)	(€1,504,492)
Health & Wellbeing	(€2,244,492)	(€280,000)	(€160,000)	€0	(€300,000)	(€1,504,492)
Creativity & Play	(€1,112,690)	(€140,000)	(€120,000)	€0	(€550,000)	(€302,690)
Total - ROI Transformative Round	(€5,461,673)	(€515,000)	(€485,000)	€0	(€1,150,000)	(€3,311,673)
NI Grants Awarded						
Community Round	(€1,177,031)	(€166,679)	(€104,221)	(€97,856)	(€179,555)	(€628,720)
Impact Round	(€1,176,097)	(€227,967)	(€232,766)	(€257,302)	(€458,062)	€0
Others	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0
Total - NI Grants Awarded	(€2,353,128)	(€394,646)	(€336,987)	(€355,158)	(€637,617)	(€628,720)
Total Grant Payments	(€25,808,746)	(€4,939,546)	(€3,711,973)	(€3,941,158)	(€6,629,116)	(€6,586,953)
Processing Fees						
Grant-making programme and admin costs (ROI & NI)	(€739,933)	(€171,741)	(€155,119)	(€118,939)	(€151,439)	(€142,695)
Fees for online transactions	(€150,502)	(€12,326)	(€9,220)	(€11,404)	(€30,443)	(€87,110)
Refunded Donations (Revolut recurring payments)	(€4,636)	€0	€0	(€4,636)	€0	€0
Total Processing Fees	(€895,071)	(€184,067)	(€164,339)	(€134,979)	(€181,881)	(€229,805)
Closing Fund Balance	€1,947	€1,947	€32	€47,144	€37,768	€22,287



**High Five
to our
partners and
supporters**

Acknowledgements

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal would not be possible without the generosity and dedication of our partners and supporters.

**We are deeply
grateful to:**



ABTRAN who generously provided all professional call-centre services at no charge to the appeal. Thanks to all the call-centre volunteers who help process all donations made by telephone.

stripe

Stripe our payment processing provider, facilitates online donations at a specially discounted professional rate.

Revolut

Revolut who enable all donations to be made to the Appeal, on a fee-free basis, and who offer all essential technical support to enable this volume of donations be possible.

PENNEYS

Penneys for their partnership and support in raising awareness and funds for the Appeal.



Tesco for their partnership and support in raising awareness and funds for the Appeal.

**And finally, to the people of Ireland—
your extraordinary generosity and
unwavering support make it possible to
reach children and families across the
island when they need it most.**

Thank you.



YOUR PUBLIC SERVICE MEDIA

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