

Community
Foundation
Ireland



Impact Report 2024

Picture: Central Remedial Clinic

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“Equality For All in
Thriving Communities”

Introduction

It is increasingly clear that equality cannot be achieved without ending the emergency in climate and nature. This was a focus of our work in 2024 as acknowledged by global champion and former President Mary Robinson.

Families and communities struggling to make ends meet during a cost-of-living crisis remains a big challenge in many homes and communities as we move into 2025 and our 25th year as a philanthropic hub.

As a partner of essential services, researchers, and advocates, the Foundation is responding to the urgent needs of families forced to choose between food, power, or clothing. Additionally, it has placed the crisis at the forefront of the political agenda.

Two major elections, protests and acts of violence have put polarisation and social division in the spotlight. We are working with partners on the ground promoting community engagement and identifying the steps needed to find solutions.

Big developments in combatting gender-based-violence continue to advance the goals of our partner organisations and are bringing our country to an important moment.

This preliminary review of the year shows that not only have our actions and activity been mission aligned but we have also held true to our organisational strategy to promote and grow Irish philanthropy.

On behalf of all our partners and the communities they work with, thank you.



Denise Charlton,
Chief Executive,

“Community Foundation Ireland is a philanthropic hub with the expertise and experience to deliver positive, sustainable, and strategic impact. We link the generosity and vision of donors with the energy, ideas, and time of people in the community.

Our unique connectivity with communities and frontline services allows us to do this. The purpose of Community Foundation Ireland is to drive impactful social change. We are committed to working with frontline partners and with changemakers who want to make a difference.”

**€27M+ In
Donations**

**Building and
Rebuilding
Communities
to End
Division**



**Empowering Ireland's
Climate Advocates**

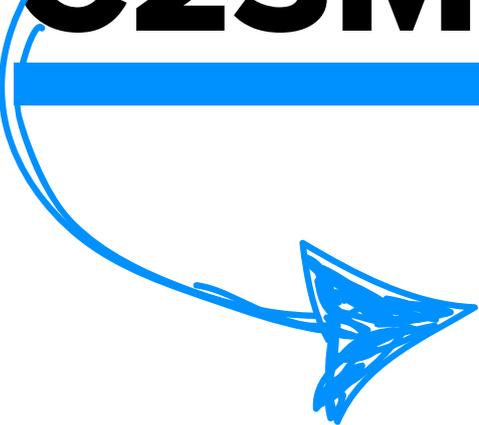
**Sexual
Exploitation
Research and
Policy Institute
Launched**



**Hot School Meals
committed for
Every Child**

Our Year In Numbers

€23M+ Total Grants
2024

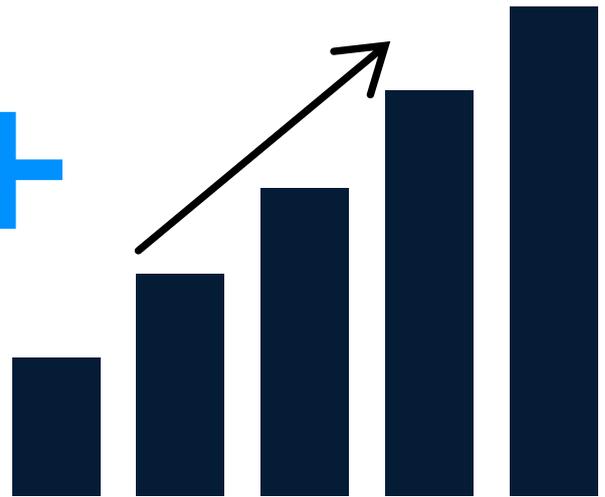


€140M+ Total Grants
Since 2000



€50M+

Endowment Fund
Value (approx.)



• Total Donations
2024

€27M+

• Total Donations
Since 2000

€185M+

Our Impact

Our preliminary year-end figures show that 2024 has seen Irish philanthropy maintain the growth levels achieved in the immediate aftermath of Covid-19. Other early indicators show an increasing interest by philanthropists to respond to the crisis in climate and nature. Division sparked at least in part by the impact of the cost-of-living crisis is leading to philanthropic re-commitments to ensure we have strong and thriving communities.

At the centre of the Community Foundation model is an endowment fund which has been grown by donors who take a longer-term view and want to future-proof our partnership with communities.

Our endowment investment portfolio reflects the Paris Aligned Investment Initiative, aiming to drive meaningful change in the business sector while safeguarding financial returns.



Climate and Nature

Community Foundation Ireland is a leader in climate and nature philanthropy. Our donors and supporters place us ahead of global trends in supporting action in this space.

We partner with hundreds of communities, top researchers and the leading advocates holding Government to account. The impact of those partnerships were captured in a special autumn convening [Climate Goals and Community Roles](#).

Watch some of this incredible work on the [Slopes of Croagh Patrick, with Bohemian Football Club](#), [Promoting Nature in the Burren, Mayo and Abbeylax, Co Kildare](#) and [See How We and Our Donors #InvestInOurPlanet](#).

Message from Mary Robinson

We are so proud that global climate advocate and former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, acknowledged the role of climate philanthropy and Community Foundation Ireland at a special convening we hosted in June 2024.

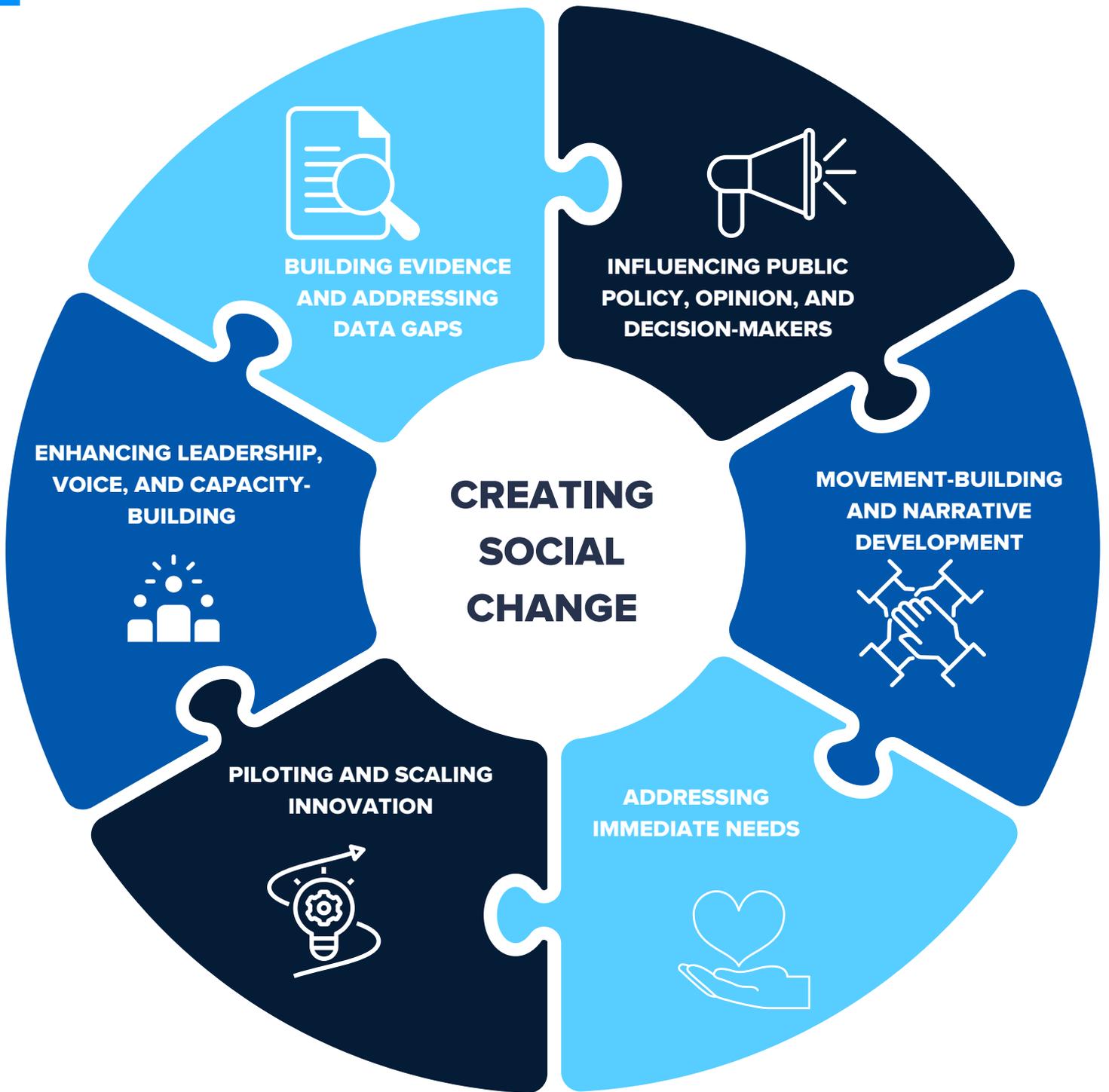
Watch [President Mary Robinson's Climate Philanthropy Message in Full](#).



“As philanthropists and change-makers you do have an even greater role to play. Climate philanthropy has an opportunity to be nimble. To respond faster than others. And to pioneer the type of ground-breaking research and studies which otherwise would not happen but will be essential to bring us out of the global crisis.”

Mary Robinson to Community Foundation Ireland donors and supporters, June 2024

Social Change





Community Foundation Ireland hosted two climate philanthropy convenings in 2024. Broadcaster Eileen Dunne (MC), Climate Advocate, then Minister Eamonn Ryan, Denise Charlton, Chief Executive and Roddy Rowan, Chair of our Board attending 'Invest In Our Planet at Trinity College Dublin.

Cost of Living Crisis

Families facing stark choices between food on the table, heat, light or clothing are on the frontline of the cost-of-living crisis. Our partners provide comfort to homes in communities in every county.

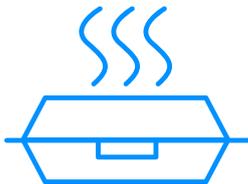
Strategically we have informed and pushed forward policy in this area.

Our actions are informed by best-in-class research such as the pioneering [Child Poverty Monitor](#) and [Poverty, Income Inequality and Living Standards Research](#) with the Economic and Social Research Institute.

Ensuring the wellbeing of older people and that Government commitments to them are honoured is part of a campaign to appoint an [Independent Commissioner on Aging and Older People](#). Other research highlights the importance of [Community Education and Lone Parents](#).

Implementation of all commitments will be a priority in 2025.

The announcement of [RTÉ Toy Show Appeal Grants](#) allows strategic work in this space and in many other priority areas for the Foundation as it supports 1.1 Million Children and their loved ones.



Hot School Meals for Every Child – Secured in Budget 2025



‘Holiday Hunger’ Pilot Programmes – Secured in Budget 2025



Targeted Child Benefit Payments – Committed to in Election 2024



Commissioner on Aging and Older People – Committed to in Election 2024



Picture: Feed Cork

Strengthening Communities

The cost-of-living crisis has been weaponised to spread division and in extreme cases hate.

Strong and thriving communities are central to our mission. Work commenced with partners in the local elections in June to combat polarisation largely removed the narrative of division from the November General Election.

Our work in this space includes working with family resource centres, local partnerships and others to counteract division by building and rebuilding communities.

This is reflected in multiple grant rounds including [Nelson Mandela Day Grants](#) in July.

“As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.”

-Nelson Mandela



Ending Sexual Violence

Strategic interventions continue to build on the successful achievements in Zero Tolerance, the Government plan to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

Support for refuges, helplines and other frontline services are essential to provide safety to those in violent homes.

We also have seen strategic high-profile interventions which are sparking debates and discussions from the corridors of power to the kitchen table in family homes.

Pioneering and ground-breaking research includes:

[Sex For Rent Research with National Women's Council](#)

[Facing Reality Research on the harm of pornography](#)

[Leave No Child Behind, Rally Call on World Day Against Human Trafficking](#)



Caption: The Sexual Exploitation and Research Policy (SERP) Institute is Ireland's only independent agency studying commercial sexual exploitation. It commenced a new chapter in 2024 thanks to our donors. Pictured Ruth Breslin, Yusha Yongkova, Denise Charlton, John Cunningham

2025

Community Foundation Ireland is building on the progress and the commitments made across a range of priority areas. Our strategic approach will continue. We will make possible work which is mission aligned and which would not happen without Irish philanthropy.

You can stay up to date by [Signing Up For Our Newsletter](#) or following us on our social media channels.



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For change. For better. For all.