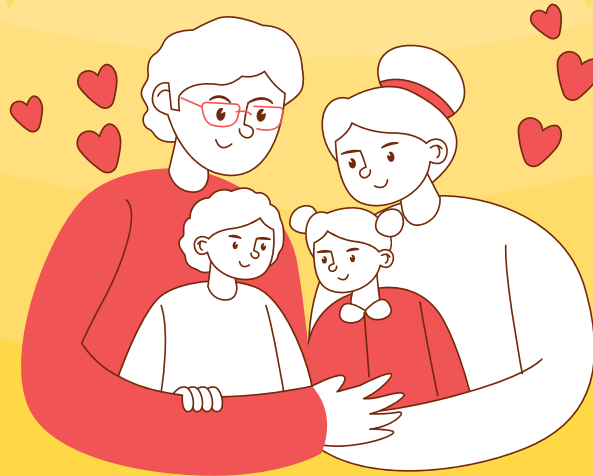


KHF KATHARINE HOWARD FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CONTENTS

CHAIRPERSON REPORT	3
CEO REPORT	4
ABOUT US	5
KATHARINE HOWARD AND THE FOUNDATION	6
STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT	8
PROGRAMME OF WORK 2023:	10
‘CHILDREN’S PROMISE’ GRANTS PROGRAMME	11
STRATEGIC GRANTS	13
COMMUNITY FAMILIES PROGRAMME	16
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	17
PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION, PROMOTING POLICY AND ADVOCATING LEARNING	20
SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	23
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	25
OUR TEAM	28



CHAIRPERSON REPORT



I am pleased to introduce the Katharine Howard Foundation's (KHF) Annual Report 2023. The report provides an overview of the Foundation's work over the past year.

KHF, as an independent Irish grant-making Foundation, works to improve the lives of vulnerable young children and their families. All our work is underpinned by a commitment to overcoming disadvantage and promoting equal opportunities for all children.

We use our Endowment Fund to provide strategic grants to build on and support initiatives at local community and national level that improve the outcomes for children and their families. We are very keen to ensure that we learn from our experiences, which help us in our objective of influencing and advocating for the development of national policy and practice to improve children's wellbeing.

During 2023 we launched 'Children's Promise', a new grants programme, in collaboration with Community Foundation Ireland. The programme is a promise to provide financial and other supports to selected organisations, working on the ground with disadvantaged children and their families. After a rigorous selection process we were pleased to be able to support 17 organisations.

We see our role also as an influencer of change, of creating sustainable children's supports. We focus on the 'micro' to make a real difference to a few children's lives, thus hoping to influence change to the 'macro'.

One of the key issues for all charitable bodies is good governance, and I am pleased to report that the Trustees, management and staff continue to place great importance on procedures and controls to protect the strong reputation of the Foundation.

I want to thank our dedicated management and staff who work effectively together to carry out their work with care and thoughtfulness. In particular, I want to thank our CEO Cliona Hannon for her wonderful leadership, making it all happen.

KHF hugely values its relationships with its partners and key stakeholders, without whom we could not make progress. I want to thank all of our partners - government agencies, voluntary bodies and others - we all have the one goal to dramatically reduce child poverty. Working together we can make real inroads.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to our Trustees who give of their time on a totally voluntary basis to supporting and overseeing the work of the Foundation. During 2023 we were very delighted to welcome Patricia Hayden and Fergal Lynch to the board as KHF Trustees. We are already benefiting from their vast experience.

Katharine Howard created a special Foundation, and we are passionate about keeping her spirit alive.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Willie Holmes".

Willie Holmes, Chairperson

CEO REPORT



The 'Children's Promise' (CP) Grants Programme was our key focus in 2023. The partnership programme, established between KHF and Community Foundation Ireland (CFI), aims to identify promising projects in community-based organisations that address the needs of vulnerable children. Our hope is that by providing financial and other supports, we will highlight the promising practices, strengthen the capacity of the organisations and place them on a more sustainable footing through identifying other, longer term sources of support.

We received 172 applications for the CP grants programme in 2023, many of which focused on pressing issues such as the need for greater support for vulnerable children with additional needs, children with family members in prison, children living in kinship or foster care, newly arrived families seeking international protection, children within the Traveller community and children experiencing the instability and trauma of domestic violence and homelessness. The solutions identified by these organisations aim to strengthen the networks of support around vulnerable children, through support to their parents or guardians and through structures which integrate such families within their own communities. They also aim to signpost and assist in navigation towards essential statutory services.

The open grants programme involved a review process by the KHF team, our Trustees and CFI. We were delighted to select 17 organisations with 'promising projects' focused on our target groups. Reporting on

grants is a necessary aspect of governance but it is also an opportunity for progress and learning. We have enjoyed developing a 'Community of Practice' with the selected organisations in 2023, helping them to identify, collect, analyse and communicate their key outcomes. We used a process called 'Outcomes Based Accountability' with the grantees, a relatively jargon free approach to capturing and communicating outcomes.

Alongside the 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme, we have continued to support the excellent campaigning and advocacy work of the Children's Rights Alliance, the Irish Penal Reform Trust, and to participate on the National Oversight and Support Group for Community Families, a high quality home visiting programme based in seven sites across Ireland. The main focus of 2024 is to open the second year of 'Children's Promise' grants programme, to continue to support the groundbreaking work of our campaigning partners, and to endeavour to make Community Families a fully functional, codified and sustainable home-visiting programme.

I would like to thank our Chairperson, Willie Holmes, for his passion for the work of KHF and for his leadership. I also thank our Trustees for commitment, advice and their considerable expertise. I thank the KHF team and project consultants for keeping the needs and wishes of our grantees close to their hearts and for their dedication to the ethos of KHF. Finally, we thank all of our partners in the community, policy and non-profit sectors for their vision and commitment to making Ireland a country where all children can thrive, regardless of background or circumstance.

Cliona Hannon, CEO

ABOUT US

Our Mission

The Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF) is an independent Foundation focused on improving the lives of young children and their families by:

- Working with others to identify and respond to the needs of children and families.
- Building on existing initiatives including at local community level.
- Formulating, implementing, and evaluating new initiatives, both universal and targeted.
- Making strategic grants that improve the outcomes for children and families.
- Gathering and disseminating learning from experience.
- Influencing and advocating for the development of policy and practice.
- Protecting the endowment fund.

Contact Information:

The Katharine Howard Foundation
7 Red Cow Lane
Smithfield
Dublin 7

T. 00353 1 6618963 E: info@khf.ie www.khf.ie

Trustees:

Willie Holmes (*Chairperson*)
Kieran Bristow
Maura Murphy
Jane Forman
Dr. Helen Johnston
Evelyn Leen
Dr. Fergal Lynch
Patricia Hayden

Legal and Financial:

Crawford Tipping F.C.A. – Auditor
Irish Life Investment Managers (ILIM)

Staff:

CEO - Dr. Cliona Hannon
Administrator - Gina Allen
Finance Manager – Jane Treacy
Consultant - Susan Brocklesby
Consultant - Francis Chance

KATHARINE HOWARD AND THE FOUNDATION

The Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF) was established in 1979 by **Katharine Howard**, who was the last survivor of the Earls of Wicklow and resided most of her adult life in Co. Wexford. She set up the Foundation with assistance from friends who agreed to support her by becoming Trustees. Her intention was to support locally based projects and community activities. She was a founder member of the Gorey Girl Guides and was involved in other voluntary organisations such as the Camphill Community, which assisted people with disabilities and others, involving environmental projects.

Initially she allocated £20,000 to her fund and gradually added more modest funds to the Foundation which continued distributing small amounts of funds until her death in 1990. Subsequently her estate, and that of her American grandmother, were then added to her endowment funds and this greatly increased the funding that was available. These funds were then carefully invested by the Trustees who also expanded the organisation and sought advice to become strategic and focused about its grant making. For more information on Katharine Howard and her life, please [click here](#).



Key Principles

The key principles that underpin KHF's work are:

- A belief that KHF can make a difference through evidence informed interventions based on collaboration, reflective learning, adding value and flexibility.
- A commitment to equality and overcoming disadvantage and promoting equality of opportunity for all children and their families.
- A commitment to demonstrate respect, integrity and empathy in all aspects of KHF's work.
- A commitment to work on the ground with people and communities.
- A commitment to transparency and accountability throughout all KHF's work.

Since the early 1990s the Foundation has operated as an independent all Ireland grant making Foundation with a particular emphasis on supporting community projects and initiatives in areas that are socially disadvantaged, particularly those with a focus on families and young children.

Work of the Foundation

The work of the Foundation includes:

- Advocacy and development work;
- Providing funding through strategic grants;
- Developing and implementing collaborative innovative programmes/initiatives.

KHF places great emphasis on working in partnership with statutory, community and voluntary organisations and other funders. This partnership approach has proved successful over the years and has affirmed the Foundation's developmental approach to its work in engaging in special projects especially in the area of young children and family support. KHF has built in a support role accompanying grants where possible. This support role includes an emphasis on designing and planning Programmes and Initiatives and supporting delivery and implementation through a considered and reflective approach. The impact of providing funding along with implementation support has strengthened the partnerships made by KHF within the sector in which it operates.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Foundation was established by a trust deed on 14 June 1979 and amended by a deed of variation on 25 November 1986. The Katharine Howard Foundation is a registered charity with the Charities Regulatory Authority: CRA Number 20010928 and Revenue Commissioners: Charity number CHY 6255. The Foundation is committed to maintaining the highest standard of governance, in full compliance with the core standards of the 6 principles of the Governance Code of the Charity Regulatory Authority:

- Advancing Charitable Purpose
- Behaving with Integrity
- Leading People
- Exercising Control
- Working Effectively
- Being Accountable & Transparent

The Foundation prepares an annual report and annual financial statement and audit in compliance with the Charities SORP. Previous annual reports and full audited accounts can be viewed [here](#).

The Trustees of the Foundation are those listed on page 5 and new Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees. A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibilities for the implementation of the current strategic plan rest with the CEO assisted by 3 Trustee Sub-committees:

- Finance and Investment
- Strategic Planning
- HR and Governance

All Trustees give their time and expertise voluntarily, without any form of remuneration in cash or kind.

The CEO has responsibility for the operational management of the Foundation, including staff supervision and team development, in line with best practice. Trustee meetings are held four times a year in each quarter and include a review of what was achieved and the outcomes of the work over the previous 12 months. This review helps to ensure that the objectives and activities remain focused on the stated aims of the Foundation. All grants are reviewed and approved by the Trustees.

The Foundation is a member of Philanthropy Ireland, a support organisation for grant making trusts and foundations. KHF liaises with other foundations operating in Ireland on sectoral issues and joint grant making. KHF is also a member of the Children's Rights Alliance, Prevention and Early Intervention Network (PEIN) and the Parenting Network. The CEO and staff of the Foundation are assisted by establishing advisory groups for the various programmes and initiatives.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees are aware of the major risks to which the Foundation is exposed, in particular those related to the finances and operations of the organisation and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to manage exposure to the major risks. The principal risks faced by the Trustees lie in the performance of investments and the operational risks of ineffective grant making and the capacity of the Trustees to make effective grants.

The Trustees consider variability of investment returns on its equities, fixed interest stocks and cash constitute the Foundation's major financial risk. This is mitigated by retaining expert investment managers and having a diversified investment portfolio. A medium risk level is deemed to be most suitable for the Foundation's investment and at least two meetings a year are held with the investment managers to oversee this approach.

The Finance and Investment Sub-committee assists the Trustees with the oversight of the investments and reports at each Trustee meeting. The investment funds are managed by Irish Life Investment Managers. The major operational risk is the extent to which the grants awarded make an impact on the intended beneficiaries. The review and reflection approach taken by the Foundation is informed by the reports received from grantees and/or programme partners. Recipients of strategic grants are required to provide a progress report within a year of the grant being allocated. This includes information on the grant purpose, project outline and information on what was achieved through the grant. Projects in receipt of multiannual funding through a specific programme provide quarterly financial and narrative reports. The learning from these reports informs KHF's approach to assessment for future funding.

One of the biggest risks for any charity is reputational/fraud risks. This is offset by the Trustees by strong governance and controls.

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2023

‘CHILDREN’S PROMISE’ GRANTS PROGRAMME



The ‘Children’s Promise’ Grants Programme is a new programme within Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF), launched in April 2023 in collaboration with Community Foundation Ireland. The Programme supports community-based organisations working with young children and their families in disadvantaged areas who may not reach their potential due to the corrosive impact of poverty. The ‘Children’s Promise’ Grants Programme aims to build on the powerful work taking place at community-level to address child poverty with a grants programme of €1,000,000 in financial and non-financial supports over the duration of the programme 2023-27.

Aim of the Grants Programme

All children are born with the potential to thrive and the ‘Children’s Promise’ Grants Programme aims to support community-based organisations working to protect that potential and to support the wellbeing of their families. The grants programme is a promise from KHF to provide financial and other supports to selected organisations, to support and develop the potential of the children engaged with the organisations.

This grants programme focuses on ‘promising projects and practices’ within community-based organisations, which aim to prevent or intervene at an early stage in addressing the potential impact of poverty on young children and their families. We encouraged applications from small, collaborative projects that focus on gaps in provision and innovative approaches to addressing these gaps.

In 2023, the Programme supported organisations in the following categories:

- A.** Early years / young children projects within community-based settings.
- B.** Parental support programmes.
- C.** Research into promising programmes or gaps in provision that may help to build policy support in those areas.
- D.** Capacity building within an organisation.

We received 172 applications, completed to a high standard and the projects outlined in the applications highlighted the ingenuity and commitment of the organisations to a range of pressing areas for social action across Ireland. They included a high number of applications for sensory spaces, therapies and urgent refurbishments to strengthen service delivery. After a rigorous selection process, 17 organisations were chosen to be supported through financial and non-financial supports. These organisations work with a wide range of complex issues, but all have a common objective: to harness the childhood potential in particularly vulnerable communities, through supports for pregnant mothers, young children and their families. The full list of grantees and information on their projects is available on our website.



the projects chosen, depicting the focus, aim, unique value and the potential of the success of their individual projects, accompanied by photos and quotes from their service users. (Sample poster of Bedford Row Family Project in Limerick shown here).

KHF Trustee Chairperson, Willie Holmes, opened the proceedings followed by keynote speaker, Dr. Anna Visser, Principal Officer, Child Poverty & Wellbeing programme office, Department of the Taoiseach. The response panel included Dr. Abigail Collins, HSE National Clinical Lead Child Health Public Health, Francis Chance, Chairperson of PEIN, Marian Barnard, CEO of ANEW and 2023 grantee.

KHF believes in partnering with organisations, in addition to providing funding. We know that many programmes are run on tight resources with committed staff and we want to help them to build their capabilities as an organisation and to aim for 'realistic' change. Both the one-year and multi-year programmes selected were offered non-financial supports, such as participation in a learning network with other grantees, strategic planning, help with building an evidence base and sustainability.

A celebration event for the Programme took place on 14 September 2023 in The Richmond Education and Event Centre in Smithfield, attended by all grantees, KHF Trustees and a selection of KHF collaborative partners in the sector. An array of posters were displayed to showcase the



As part of this support, between September and November 2023, Dr. Hannon and Willie Holmes visited 7 of the 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme organisations: Anew-Support Women and Families Co. Dublin, Bedford Row Family Project Limerick, Dochás Midwest Autism Centre Limerick, Hill Street FRC Dublin 1, Le Cheile National School Limerick, Meath Women's Refuge and Saoirse Domestic Violence Service Dublin 24.

The grantees were all very impressive, and thankful for additional support and interest offered by KHF, through these site visits, events and the learning network.

The first year of the grants programme call for applications was very successful. The grantees engaged in a programme of 'learning network' events with CEO, Dr. Hannon and KHF consultant, Susan Brocklesby in the latter end of 2023 to continue into 2024. These meetings focused on projects developing their evidence base and communicating their impact.

A huge thanks is due to the KHF Trustees for their considered input, and learning, and to Susan Brocklesby, for her expertise and thoughtful suggestions.



Alan, Cliona and Willie in Dochás MidWest Autism Centre.



Principal Shane Donoghue and Jacinta, Le Chéile National School.



Cliona with Katie O'Keeffe in Saoirse Domestic Violence Services.

STRATEGIC GRANTS

A small number of once – off strategic grants were made to support work with vulnerable young children and families in 2023, aimed at supporting organisations and groups involved in work linked to KHF’s strategic plan and providing valuable learning opportunities.

Multi-annual Grants		
Children’s Rights Alliance <i>(year 2 of multi-annual grant)</i>	Ending Poverty & Early Years Reform Project	€20,000
	Christmas 2023 Food Provision Project	€5,000
Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) <i>(year 1 of multi-annual grant)</i>	Children and Families Initiative	€12,500
Once-off Grants		
Aosóg Child and Family Project	Funding towards Christmas events & activities in the New Year & Tutors and resources for Parent-child activities courses	€2,000
Dolphin House Community Centre	Social Regeneration group to deliver a series of initiatives for children & families over Summer/ Autumn 2023	€5,000
St. Joseph’s Primary School Ballymun	Junior Nurture Room Project	€15,000
Shelton Abbey Prison	Family Links, a fathers and families initiative	€10,000
		Total
		€69,500

KHF strategic grants often involve securing matching or co-funding from other Foundations and Trusts. In addition to direct grant-making, KHF also supported applications for funding through indirect support and collaboration with other philanthropic partners.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ALLIANCE

KHF is a member of the Children's Rights Alliance (CRA) and continues its membership of the Early Years' Advisory Group which provides a forum for consultation on CRA's early years policy and strategy. 2023 marked the second year of the multi-annual funding towards the Children's Rights Alliance Ending Poverty and Early Years' Reform Project.

Some highlights of the impact of the Project in 2023:

- January: CRA was in Geneva as part of Ireland's examination by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Through engagement with the committee, they highlighted the issue of child poverty and the various dimensions of this problem in Ireland.
- February: [Report Card 2023](#) was launched. This was the third analysis of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the Green Party's joint Programme for Government: Our Shared Future and how it performed for children in 2022, analysing 16 promises made to children and young people and rating the Government on its efforts.
- June: The second Children's Rights Alliance's [Child Poverty Monitor](#) was published. The Monitor tracks government progress on reducing the number of children experiencing poverty, showcases best practice solutions and spotlights key areas of concern such as food poverty, income inadequacy, family support and educational disadvantage.
- July: Department of the Taoiseach published the Child Poverty and Wellbeing Unit's initial programme of work which will run from July 2023 – December 2025. The programme has six key areas for action including income supports, early learning and childcare, reducing the cost of education, family homelessness, consolidating and integrating Family & Parental Support, Health and Wellbeing and enhancing participation in culture, arts and sport for Children and Young People affected by poverty.
- September: End Child Poverty Week 2023, focusing discussions on the key priorities that can break the cycle of poverty for children and young people in the run up to Budget 2024.

- November: (i) Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth launched the next national policy framework called [Young Ireland, National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028](#). (ii) [First Five Implementation Plan](#) was published and contained an action to implement the Equal Participation Model and to also maximise participation and inclusion for all families with a particular focus on lower participating groups such as Travellers and Roma. These two actions were very much driven by the work of the Alliance. The development of the [Equal Participation Model](#) by the DCEDIY over the course of 2023 included consultation with the sector and the Children's Rights Alliance was a key participant in this engagement.
- The Government rolled out the [National Childcare Action Plan](#) with key regulatory measures and education requirements for childminders. CRA sits on the Steering Group for the National Childminding Action Plan. This provides the main mechanism for the Alliance to influence the regulation of childminding.

KHF also supported Children's Rights Alliance Christmas Food Provision Project in December 2023, which saw 40 organisations apply to the food drive, indicating a high level of need across the country during this period. Dr. Hannon continued to contribute to the Children's Rights Alliance advisory groups on alternative education provision and policy for young people and the End Child Poverty Project.

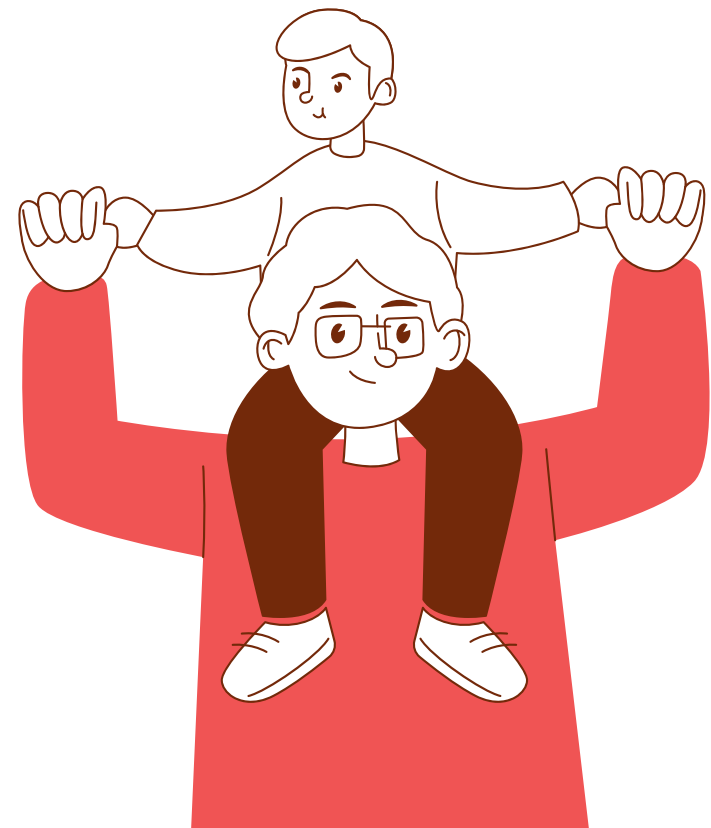
IRISH PENAL REFORM TRUST

Irish Penal Reform Trust: KHF joined partners Porticus and Community Foundation Ireland to provide multi-annual funding to the IPRT's Children and Family Initiative 2023-25. In 2020, KHF provided funding for the development of a Children and Families Initiative. This initiative led to the establishment of the Action for Children and Families of Prisoners Network and opportunities to improve the situation for people in prison and their families, contribute to the rehabilitation/reintegration of prisoners and create a more inclusive and equal society. This new funding stream was aimed at funding internal operational capacity and create a new, full-time staff role to lead and drive progress on the project over a three-year period. IPRT hired a full-time Project Coordinator for the Children & Families Initiative in November 2022. This role has enabled IPRT to significantly expand its work in the area of children/families impacted by imprisonment.

Some highlights of the Initiative during 2023 include:

- January: (i) IPRT attended Ireland's review under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. (ii) IPRT visited the new Female Prison in Limerick. The prison includes modern visiting facilities that are geared towards supporting the relationship between children and their mothers detained in prison. IPRT liaised with Bedford Row, a Limerick based specialist organisation providing support to children/families affected by imprisonment for the visit. (Bedford Row is a grantee of 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme 2023)

- March: (i) IPRT officially launched the Children and Families of People in Prison Initiative and the publication of new report '[A Scoping Study on Maternal Imprisonment in Ireland](#)'. (ii) Ashling Tobin, Project Coordinator, attended the Children of Prisoners Europe's (COPE) International Conference 2023 - "Reconnecting through Learning and Play" - co-hosted by Bedford Row Family Project, Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Prison.
- June: During the year IPRT held several meetings with the organisation Kids' Own, as part of a proposed plan to support Kids' Own in creating a book written by young people, for young people with experience of familial imprisonment. In June 2023, this project was chosen as a recipient of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal and Community Foundation Ireland funding.



COMMUNITY FAMILIES PROGRAMME

In 2023, KHF has continued to support to the development of the Community Mothers Programme (CMP) and its transition to the new Community Families Programme. This work has been carried out in partnership with the Health Service Executive, Tusla, the National College of Ireland (NCI) and the seven existing Community Mothers Programme (CMP) sites.

During 2023, work progressed on the development of a Client Relationship Management (CRM) system for Community Families to allow the collection of data on the delivery of the Community Families Programme and to track the outcomes that the programme is achieving for children and families. This work is being project managed by consultants Francis Chance and Susan Brocklesby on behalf of KHF, with funding secured by KHF from the Infant Health and Wellbeing Fund at Community Foundation Ireland. Much progress was made on the design and development of the system, on piloting by one of the sites and on a phased roll out to other sites. It is intended that the system will become fully operational during 2024 and will support the quality assurance, service management, funder reporting and programme promotion of Community Families.

KHF continued to actively participate in the Community Families National Oversight and Support Group through Dr. Cliona Hannon and Francis Chance. The key priorities continue to be securing the long-term support structure and service funding to ensure the implementation of the Community Families in the current CMP sites and to oversee the quality, roll out and future development of the Programme. Towards the end of the year there was considerable optimism that funding had been secured for Community Families in the 2024 budget process, but sadly this did not transpire.

It is hoped that work underway in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on parenting support and on home visiting, could provide a mechanism to achieve further supports in 2024. [Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services](#) was launched during the year and implementation commenced. The Department commissioned a study of Home Visiting Programmes with a view to developing a national approach to home visiting. In parallel, the Home Visiting Alliance commenced a feasibility study on the replication, scaling and expansion of evidence-based home visiting programmes in Ireland, including Community Families.

The establishment of the Child Poverty and Wellbeing Programme Office in the Department of the Taoiseach in December 2023 is another welcome development and KHF had positive engagement with key staff in the new Office.

Further information on the Community Mothers Programme Development Project and Community Families is available on our website.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SHELTON ABBEY

Katharine Howard's father, Hon. Hugh Melville Howard, was the younger brother of the 6th Earl of Wicklow, Cecil Ralph Howard, whose ancestral home was Shelton Abbey outside Arklow. As a result of tragically losing her parents in her childhood, Katharine and her brother went to live with their uncle, the 7th Earl of Wicklow, Ralph Frances Howard, at Shelton Abbey where they occupied a wing of the great house in the care of a housekeeper. **Shelton Abbey** is now used as an open, low security prison for males aged 19 years and over who are regarded as requiring lower levels of security.

In May 2023, the Q2 Trustee Board Meeting was held in Katharine's former homeplace of Shelton Abbey (see photo to the right). The Trustees met with the Governor, Joe Donohue and his team and the KHF team and Trustees enjoyed a tour of the grounds by local historian Pat Power.



Following this visit, and in light of Katharine's connection to Shelton Abbey, KHF provided a strategic grant for a fathers and families initiative, the first of its kind in Shelton Abbey. Dr. Hannon and KHF Trustee, Patricia Hayden, attended the launch of the Family Links Initiative in October 2023, which was attended by the Director General Irish Prison Service, Caron McCaffrey, the Department of Justice (DoJ), the IPRT and covered by both the Irish Times and the Irish Independent newspapers. The Shelton Abbey team had prepared a tremendous Halloween programme, highlighting the impact of rebuilding these family connections and underscored its importance in preventing re-offending. The grant also provided for funding summer activities, a playground on the grounds and other play equipment and family activities around the Christmas period in 2023. Following the launch of this initiative, the DoJ advertised for

a Family Connections Officer, and it is hoped that in this capacity, further family links programmes can be developed across the prison system.

KHF also provided funding towards the Shelton Abbey 50th Anniversary celebrations in July 2023.



KHF Trustee Kieran Bristow, pictured above with the Governor Joe Donohue, represented the Foundation and spoke about Katharine Howard and her background at Shelton Abbey, and the legacy she has left behind in the work of the Foundation. Charlie Bird and the Secretary General of Justice, Oonagh Philips, were present and the core focus of the day was that fathers and their children had a normal family day out, forging and re-establishing paternal-child relationships.



From L to R: John O'Callaghan, Deputy Secretary General, Department of Justice, Caron McCaffrey, Director General, Irish Prison Service, Saoirse Brady, Executive Director, Irish Penal Reform Trust, Katie Byrne, Irish Independent, Patricia Hayden, Trustee, Katharine Howard Foundation, William McNeill, Assistant Governor, Dr Cliona Hannon, CEO, & Joe Donohue, Governor, Shelton Abbey.

IRISH GIRL GUIDES (IGG)

In October 2020, KHF provided a grant of €20k towards the refurbishment of the new IGG National Training Centre as a once-off donation in light of Katharine Howard's own passion for the Girl Guides. The grant also went towards a creative kit for a national project using Educational Lego to build up STEM skills. In November 2023, KHF Trustee Chairperson, Willie Holmes, attended a special lunch for friends of the Irish Girl Guides to mark the opening of new centre and met with Lorraine McHugh, CEO. Helen Concannon, Chairperson of the Property Committee, gave great credit to KHF for our support and involvement in recent years, and spoke to Katharine Howard's involvement in the IGG in the 1920's and 1930's. Katharine was involved in the Gorey and the Arklow Units. She was Leader in Gorey from 27/03/34 until 04/05/44, and in Arklow from 30/02/32 until 29/10/39.



Katharine Howard, pictured here far left, with fellow girl guides on a hike in Ballinacor, Wicklow in 1928.

PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION, PROMOTING POLICY AND ADVOCATING LEARNING

The Foundation continued to work in partnership with statutory, community and voluntary organisations and other funders. This collaborative working is central to our approach to all work in supporting children and families, with a key emphasis on the importance of prevention and early intervention approaches in improving outcomes for children.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IRELAND

[Community Foundation Ireland \(CFI\)](#) is one of the largest philanthropic organisations in Ireland, established in 2000 with the support of Government and the business sector and KHF has a long-standing, collaborative partnership with CFI. To ensure the long-term sustainability of The Nurture Programme: Infant Health and Wellbeing, an Infant Health and Wellbeing Fund (IHWF) was established through matched funding from CFI to continue supporting innovation in service design and implementation for early years, especially as the findings from new research becomes available. Dr. Hannon is a member of an Advisory Group, established in 2022, to oversee the fund. KHF collaborated with CFI on the 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme in 2023 and we are very grateful for their continued collaboration and support.

THE IRELAND FUNDS

[The Ireland Funds](#) is a philanthropic network established in 1976 to harness the power of a global philanthropic network of friends of Ireland, to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development across the island of Ireland and among Irish communities around the world. In the Spring of 2023, two site visits took place with The Ireland Funds team and KHF to St. Joseph's Pop Up creche and Primary School in Ballymun, Dublin 11 and Familibase, a community centre for children, young people and families in Ballyfermot, Dublin 10. As a result of these collaborative visits, both organisations received support and funding from the Heart of the Community fund by The Ireland Funds and another Trust linked to The Ireland Funds respectively.

Dr. Hannon also attended The Ireland Funds gala in June 2023, where Minister Paschal Donohue spoke about the positive impact of home visiting programmes and the important work of the Early Learning Initiative in the National College of Ireland, in building and highlighting this work.

ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN TRUST

[St. Stephen's Green Trust \(SSGT\)](#) is an independent social justice grant-maker which works across the island of Ireland. KHF continued collaboration with the Trust in supporting a new scoping study on [Maternal Imprisonment in Ireland](#) published by the Irish Penal Reform Trust in March 2023. The report examines the numbers and experiences of mothers imprisoned in Ireland, and of their children. The report makes recommendation for actions that would reduce the harm caused to these children and families, and particularly for reducing female imprisonment.

THE PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION NETWORK

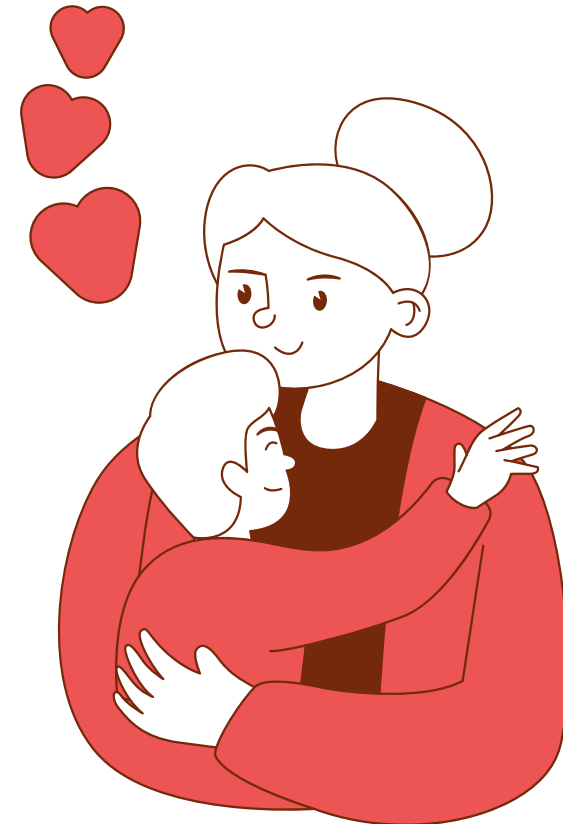
KHF is a member of [The Prevention & Early Intervention Network \(PEIN\)](#) a network of evidence-based practice, advocacy and research organisations and individuals across the Republic of Ireland that share a commitment to improving outcomes for children, young people, and their communities. In September 2023, Dr. Hannon attended the Network's Prevention and Early Intervention Summit in Limerick, a 2-day event to allow all those working in/with an interest in prevention and early intervention to come together, exchange ideas, hear inspiring keynotes, inputs and stories, and enhance the collective voice. KHF is a member of the Steering Group of the [Parenting Network](#), an all-Ireland Group with a focus on supporting parents in their parenting role.

PHILANTHROPY IRELAND

KHF continued membership of [Philanthropy Ireland \(PI\)](#), a network organisation for grant making trusts and foundations and the wider philanthropy community of stakeholders. PI provides platforms for collaboration with peers, colleagues, and interests across the sector, seeking to give voice to philanthropy to deepen understanding, knowledge, and engagement. In November 2023, Dr. Hannon attended the Philanthropy Ireland Symposium which provided an opportunity for connection and engagement on the diverse range of interests of the philanthropy community. Throughout the Symposium, ideas, structures, and relationships were advanced, all in the name of empowering the next evolution of philanthropy in Ireland.

CHILD SUMMIT

Dr. Hannon attended Ireland's second Child Summit which took place in Croke Park, November 2023. The event was hosted by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) in collaboration with the Children's Rights Alliance (CRA). Representatives from rights-focused NGOs, the statutory sector, education and youth organisations participated at the event. There was a strong focus at the event on rights-based approaches to children and young people's issues, and to building strong systems for youth participation in policy that affects them.



SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

Katharine Howard Foundation (Established by Trust Deed in 1979)

Income & Expenditure		
Income	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Unrestricted Income	567	219
Restricted Income	78,611	78,611
Total Income		78,830
Expenditure	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Grants Allocated	64,500	55,675
'Children's Promise' Grants Programme	210,515	
Community Mothers Programme Development	108,041	78,611
Staff Costs	162,611	146,852
Governance Costs	5,500	6,694
Support Costs	40,197	44,019
Total	591,364	331,851

Summary Balance Sheet		
	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Financial Assets	8,715,551	8,876,650
Current Assets	948,824	376,997
Current Liabilities	-160,837	-109,709
Total Funds 31 December	9,503,538	9,143,938
<p>The financial information on this page has been extracted from the Katharine Howard Foundation's Audited Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2023 which were approved by the Trustees in June 2024.</p>		

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Willie Holmes (Chairperson)

Willie Holmes, an Actuary by profession, has spent his working life in insurance, investment and pensions. He is a recent Past President of the LIA, which provides training to the financial services industry; and is currently a Director of the Financial Planning Standards Board Ireland. He is a former chairman of Celbridge GAA Club; joint founder of the Fr. John Nevin Scholarship Fund for Pakistan; and is currently chairman of the Maynooth Parish Finance Committee. He became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in 2017. He is a member of the Finance and Investment sub-committee, the Strategic Planning sub-committee and the HR & Governance sub-committee. He took up the role of Chairperson in May 2021.



Kieran Bristow

Kieran Bristow has worked his entire career in Financial Services including General Insurance, Life Assurance, Investment, Management and as a Bank Treasurer. He has been a Trustee representative on a school board with specific responsibility for Finance. Kieran became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in May 2012. He is also the Chairperson of the Finance and Investment sub-committee.



Maura Murphy

Maura is from Co. Wexford and trained as a nurse in the Mater Hospital, Dublin. She worked for the Health Service Executive and Tusla (Child and Family Agency) for 36 years (she retired from Tusla at the end of 2015). She was employed as a Public Health Nurse in New Ross Health Centre for 10 years and was appointed as Preschool Services Officer in 1995. During the past number of years, Maura has completed a BSc. Honours in Psychology and an MA (Ed) in Lifelong Learning. She has been involved with many voluntary and statutory agencies in the development of Preschool services in county Wexford and was a former board member of Wexford County Childcare Committee. She is passionate about the needs and rights of children and their families and the promotion of excellent standards of care and education for preschool children. Maura became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in February 2015. She is the Chairperson of the Strategic Planning sub-committee and a member of the HR and Governance sub-committee.



Jane Forman

Prior to her retirement, Jane worked as a Programme Executive for the Children and Youth Programme with The Atlantic Philanthropies. Jane has a background in vocational training and education and has fulfilled several senior management roles including operations management, programme development and business development with the Rehab Group and FAS. She spent ten years as Chairperson of the Tallaght Partnership and has significant board experience in the community and voluntary sector. She holds an MA from St Andrew's University, an MBA from The Open University and an IoD Diploma in Company Direction. Jane became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in 2018 and she is a member of the Strategic Planning sub-committee.



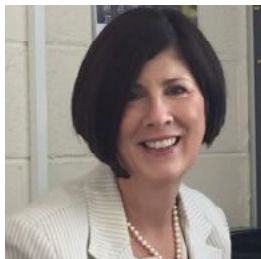
Dr. Helen Johnston

Dr. Helen Johnston joined NESC as Senior Social Policy Analyst in July 2007. Since then, she has worked on issues of well-being and social reporting, social regulation and standards, the social consequences of the 2008 economic crisis, as well as undertaking work for the OECD on social disadvantage. She has carried out research on low work intensity households and their transitions to employment. She has recently completed a project on the future direction of the social welfare system. Helen was previously Director of the Combat Poverty Agency. A native of Northern Ireland, Helen has previous experience working in the Northern Ireland civil service. She is currently Chair of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Helen has qualifications in Environmental Science and Town and Country Planning, a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Doctorate in Governance, where she examined the implementation of mental health policy in Ireland. She became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in September 2020. She is also a member of the HR and Governance sub-committee.



Evelyn Leen

Evelyn is a Senior Investment Manager with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) which is a sovereign development fund with a mandate to make commercial investments which result in economic activity and employment in Ireland. She previously worked at Bank of Ireland supporting the bank's agenda during the Global Financial Crisis through the execution of disposals and supporting strategically important Group projects. Evelyn has completed the Chartered Accountant exams and has an honours degree (BSC) in Finance from UCC and a diploma in Corporate Finance from the Chartered Accountants Ireland. She became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in September 2021. She is also a member of the Finance and Investment sub-committee.



Patricia Hayden

Patricia graduated from UCD with a B.A. in English and Psychology and a Higher Diploma in Education. She began her career as a teacher of English, additional needs coordinator and year head at Wesley College. In 1995 she was elected President of the Reading Association of Ireland (RAI). During her presidency, she represented RAI at the International Reading Association in Washington D.C. RAI is a cross sectoral, multidisciplinary organisation, focused on supporting parents, teachers, publishers and others to raise literacy levels and encourage a love of reading.

In 2004 Patricia achieved a MSc.in Ed. Leadership from Trinity College, and was appointed principal of St Joseph's Secondary School, Rush in 2007. Under her leadership, the school experienced rapid growth and improvement. It is now a coeducational DEIS school of 930 students. Through its links with the Trinity College Access Programme, St Joseph's became the first school in Europe to be a College For Every Student School of Distinction. As a result of its success in this programme, St Joseph's was invited to be a pilot school for College Awareness Week. It was also invited to be a pilot school for the National Educational Psychological Service, Student Support Teams, and a Whole School Approach to Guidance.

Patricia was a member of the 2017 National Taskforce on Youth Mental Health and represented the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals on the Fingal Children and Young People's Committee. Patricia retired from St Joseph's in 2021 and is now a Centre for School Leadership mentor for newly appointed principals. She is a member of the Arts Committee of the National Association Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) and volunteers as an ambassador with NAPD. She became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in July 2023.



Dr. Fergal Lynch

Fergal Lynch, MSc (Econ), DGov, is Senior Lead for Government and Policy Engagement in the Institute for Lifecourse and Society. He is working with the University of Galway and other Higher Education institutions to promote close collaboration between researchers and policy practitioners in the development, implementation and evaluation of public policy in Ireland. Fergal was Secretary General of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2015-2022) and Deputy Secretary General of the Department of Health (2012-2015). He has been seconded to the University of Galway since March 2022. Fergal's work areas within the University include supporting research, teaching and civic engagement on policy development, analysis of policy issues with a focus on lessons for the future, and lecturing on selected postgraduate courses. He also works with the Irish Universities Association on research for policy under the Campus Engage programme, and is collaborating with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science on linking research in higher education and policy making in the civil service.

Fergal is external advisor to the OECD project Strengthening Public Policy and Strategic Foresight in the Irish Public Service, sponsored by the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. He became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in July 2023.

OUR TEAM



Dr. Cliona Hannon

Dr. Cliona Hannon has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Katharine Howard Foundation since January 2022. Cliona was formerly Director of the Trinity Access Programmes (1999-2021), Trinity College Dublin, a Visiting

Fellow and Course Director in Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University (2016-21) and a Chen Yidan Visiting Global Fellow in Harvard University 2021-2022. She has developed a range of innovative courses to diversify admissions into selective universities and to prepare teachers in socio-economically challenged communities to lead change in their classroom, school and communities. She is an expert on the development of educational outreach and admissions routes for students from under-represented socio-economic groups, which has transformed admissions in Trinity College Dublin, the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge in the UK.

Cliona has a BA (History and Sociology), MA (Development Studies), MBA and a PhD (Sociology of Education). She has published a book on use of the capability approach as an evaluative lens for student development in less advantaged communities. She has also published on the financing of higher education, international admissions policies and leadership in higher education.



Gina Allen

Gina joined KHF in 2014 to manage office and operational administration and programme support for the Foundation. She is an honours graduate of UCD with a degree in French and Spanish, and upon completing college, she joined the Department of An Taoiseach for 3 years, working in the Information Society Commission.

Following a period of travel, she returned to Ireland in 2000, joining Accenture European Service Centre, before moving to The Coca-Cola Company in 2004 where she got involved in the company's corporate citizenship programme. Gina returned to Australia in 2007 but a desire to work in the not-for-profit area in Ireland brought her back to Dublin in 2010 where she started volunteering initially, before joining the team at Suas Educational Development fulltime from 2010-2014.



Jane Treacy

Jane is the Finance Manager for the Katharine Howard Foundation, having joined KHF in 2016. She is an honours graduate in Computer Science from SETU and holds qualifications in Project Management from DCU and Business Management from the NCI. Jane's background is in IT, and she worked with Irish software consultancy Prose (now part of Version 1) for twenty years. Her role as Software Development Manager involved working on a

variety of financial and bespoke projects in government departments, RTE, the IAA, and other organisations. Jane joined the not-for-profit sector in 2007 working with Irish Charities Tax Research Ltd, managing their membership and financial systems. In 2012, she moved to the Insurance Institute of Ireland, a not-for-profit educational body, to work as a Systems Development Specialist on their student/member interface.



Francis Chance

Francis works with the Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF) in a consultancy capacity, in particular supporting the Community Mothers Programme Development Project. From 2015 to March 2020 Francis worked with KHF as Programme Manager of The Nurture Programme – Infant Health and

Wellbeing. Francis is a Professionally Qualified Social Worker with almost 40 years' experience of working with children in Ireland in both the statutory and voluntary sectors including in Children and Family Services within the Eastern Health Board and, latterly, the Northern Area Health Board and as Assistant Director of Children's Services in Barnardos. Francis has considerable experience in working strategically on committees and working groups at national, regional and local levels including the HSE Expert Group on Children (2006-2009), the Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative, the South Dublin Children's Services Committee and the National Steering Group for Children's Services Committees.



Susan Brocklesby

Susan Brocklesby is a consultant with extensive experience supporting the community, voluntary, and state sectors in prevention and early intervention. With a background in Occupational Therapy, Susan gained experience in area-based infrastructures, funding and community development as Children and Families Manager for South Dublin County Partnership in Clondalkin

and Tallaght. Along with an MSc in Social Anthropology of Children and Child Development and a Postgraduate Certificate in Statistics, Susan has delivered a number of research, evaluation and project-focused initiatives in the areas of sustainable community early childhood education and care, child protection training, parenting, home visiting, area-based projects and infant mental health. Susan strongly understands Irish and international policy and is committed to developing sustainable grassroots solutions to complex challenges. Susan works with KHF supporting the Community Families Programme and the new Children's Promise Grants Programme, and shares KHF's aim to deliver improved lives for children, families, and their communities, especially those most at risk of poverty.

Katharine Howard Foundation,
7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin D07 XN29
01 6618963 | info@khf.ie | www.khf.ie

