



## PRESS RELEASE

- **Mary Robinson delivers Lecture on *The Role of Philanthropy in Tomorrow's Ireland***
- **Philanthropy Ireland identifies potential to expand the community of engaged donors who are regular, strategic and long-term contributors to good causes**

“Philanthropy, global solidarity, innovation. These are the forces which can form a major dynamic in Ireland’s economic recovery.”

Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson today (Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> 2010) delivered the third Ray Murphy Lecture in the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin. The theme of Mary Robinson’s lecture was the part that philanthropy can play in Ireland’s future. In a far ranging address, the former President said that to face seismic challenges of the magnitude facing Ireland, requires not only corrective solutions but leadership and a vision of the sort of society we hope will emerge from the crisis. She said that she believes that philanthropy can play a catalytic role in this process. She also discussed the distinct contribution which philanthropy can make, including providing society with a capacity for taking risks that goes beyond the limits of states or markets.

Responding to Mary Robinson’s lecture, Tom Arnold, Chief Executive Concern said:

“Ireland has a long and honourable history of charitable giving which has transformed the lives of millions both at home and abroad – as evidenced most recently by the incredible response to the Haitian earthquake. Charities are very aware that this work would not be possible without the public’s generous support. We need, however, to balance the immediate response to a crisis with an understanding of and a considered response to the root causes of that crisis. That is the role of philanthropy and I commend Philanthropy Ireland on their hugely important work.”

Mr John R. Healy, Chairman of Philanthropy Ireland also spoke about the need to grow philanthropy in Ireland and to expand the community of engaged donors who are regular, strategic and long-term contributors to good causes when he said:

“We invariably respond generously when presented with emergencies at home or abroad such as the Shannon floods or the Haitian earthquake but the spread of philanthropic giving in Ireland is relatively narrow and the cumulative amount of money given is small. This contrast strongly suggests that there is an untapped potential to increase significantly the number of individuals, families and businesses involved in regular, purposeful, engaged giving.”

Ray Murphy, who died in March 2007, was one of the pioneers of Irish philanthropy. Through his work with The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Charles Stewart Mott

Foundation, he worked in Ireland and throughout the world, supporting organisations working with disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

### **Additional Information**

Supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the 10 year Ray Murphy Lecture Series aims to providing a fitting tribute to Ray Murphy's life and work and also to encourage philanthropic giving in Ireland through exposure to international trends and best practice in philanthropy and to help position Ireland as a centre of philanthropic excellence. The inaugural lecture was delivered by the President, Mary McAleese in January 2008 and the 2009 Lecture was delivered by Matthew Bishop, the Economist and author of the book Philanthrocapitalism: How the Rich can Save the World.

Philanthropy Ireland was founded in 1998 by the Irish philanthropic community. Its mission is to represent, develop and inspire an effective and robust philanthropic sector in Ireland. More information on Philanthropy Ireland is available at our website: [philanthropy.ie](http://philanthropy.ie)