



# Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

## Freedom For All Ireland

### Christmas Appeal 2023-24 Kickoff



Sisters,

The 2023-24 Christmas Appeal is underway. Many thanks to all the Divisions, County and State Boards who have already been working to raise funds and get them in to me. At the National interim board meeting I was pleased to present the awards to entities who contributed \$1,000 or more to last year's campaign. In April along with President Madigan, Secretary Sandi Swift, Webmaster Brianna Curran and 4 members of the FFAI Committee I was able to travel to Ireland and distribute the funds to the organizations that we support. Not only did we distribute the checks, but we also met with each group and as we got to know them, they got to know the LAOH.

Groups that we donated to include the Ballymurphy Massacre Families, Belfast National Graves Association, Bloody Sunday Trust (Museum of Free Derry), Bogside Artists, Bridges Beyond Boxing Belfast, Duchas Oiriall, EALU, Greater New Lodge Cultural Society, Green Cross, Jim O'Neill & Robert Allsopp Memorial Flute Band Omagh Thunder Basketball, Passionist Peace and Reconciliation Office (Holy Cross), Relatives for Justice The Spring Project, St. Patrick's Center Downpatrick, The Martin McGuinness Foundation, The Witness Project, Tyrone National Graves Association, Springhill Westrock Massacre Committee, Herstory, James Connolly Center and Irelands Future. Each group was very thankful, telling us that our contributions and support for their programs mean so much to them, particularly with the cuts that the UK government is making to programs in their community. The Legacy Justice bill passed in September makes the impact on these programs even greater. The strain on mental health services, legal and justice groups and community support programs has increased because of this shameful legislation aimed at stopping the truth from coming out about collusion. With our donations, we are providing justice groups with the support they need to take steps to have this legislation scrapped. Our contribution to community groups will help bring hope to underfunded areas through sports and mental health programs. Collectively these programs work to provide for a successful future that will inevitably result in the truth coming out and a United Ireland.

I am asking all Divisions, Counties and State Boards to get involved by sending in a donation, so please bring this up at your meetings. Whether \$100 or \$500, it all adds up and every member can make a difference. Many members are looking for ideas on how to contribute. Suggestions include hosting an FFAI event, a basket raffle, a 50/50 or a bake sale for FFAI. Another way you can support the program is through a direct donation to our PayPal account at this link – (please put in a note that it is for FFAI).

<https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/1435515>.

Our National Committee will be launching our FFAI National fundraiser in the coming days. Tickets cost \$20 each, there will be 100 tickets numbered 1-100. Once all tickets are sold, we will select two winners with each receiving \$500. If you wish to purchase tickets, please send me an email [lahnationalffai@gmail.com](mailto:lahnationalffai@gmail.com) for information on payment methods and let me know how many tickets you want to purchase and the number(s) you want. Please subscribe to our Facebook page to make sure you see that announcement in the upcoming days. <https://www.facebook.com/LAOHFFAI32>.

We did very well with our Good Friday 25th Anniversary pins and still have some left (under 100). Hopefully you can help us sell them out. Pins cost \$10 each and we waive the postage on orders of 5 or more pins. All the funds from this go to the FFAI Christmas Appeal. They make fantastic Christmas gifts and are a great way to promote the great work the LAOH does. Just mail in a check (address below) with the number of pins and whether you prefer gold or silver. I will do my best to accommodate the color preference.

If you have any questions on the program, please go to our website page for FFAI and check out the information on the landing page as well as the links at the bottom of the page where I have other information regarding the program including reports on the trips in 2022 and 2023.

<https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/>. Also, as always you can contact me directly at [laohnationalffaichair@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalffaichair@gmail.com).

For the 2023-24 Christmas Appeal, please mail your donations to me by March 1, 2024. Donations received after that date will be applied to the next appeal. **Please mail your checks directly to me at: Dolores Desch, 20 Arlene Ave, Albany, NY 12203.**

Also, please include the following:

1. A check **payable to LAOH**, Inc.
2. Whether you want the money earmarked for a particular group(s) (please refer to the groups listed earlier in this notification)
3. The **name of the entity** (Division name, county, State, or Individual) making the donation. (for example: 'JFK Division 1, Albany County NY')
4. A **contact name**, mailing address and email address.

Ladies, you have always been so generous and so involved with your donations for the Christmas Appeal. Thank you for your unwavering support to help these communities in the north of Ireland.

**From our entire FFAI Committee – Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Le meas,

*Dolores Desch*

LAOH National FFAI Chairperson - [laohnationalffaichair@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalffaichair@gmail.com)

Kathleen Savage – MA

Catherine Reinholdt – MD

Nancy Ann Tindall-Sponsel – IN

Joan Moore - NY,

Rita O'Hara – OH

Louise Sullivan – FL

Kathleen Varady – PA

Patti Johnston – LA

Sandy Merrell – MO

Kathi Twohig-Hamelin – DE

Connie Buscha - TX