

LAOH Freedom For All Ireland – 2019- 2020 Christmas Appeal

The 2019-2020 Christmas Appeal was a huge success. Many thanks to past FFAI Chair Agnes Gowdy and especially to all our members - you made that happen. Our donations helped twenty non-profit groups, providing much needed financial and moral support. This year's recipients include Relatives for Justice, Holy Cross Trust (Ardoyne), St. Patrick's Center (Downpatrick), Cairde (Strabane), Belfast National Graves, Down Patriot Graves, EALU (East Tyrone), New Lodge Commemoration Committee, Conway Mill Trust, Tyrone AOH, Bridges Beyond Boxing (Belfast), Green Cross, Omagh Basketball, Omagh Choir, Duchas-Oiriall (South Armagh), Ballymurphy Families Committee, Bloody Sunday Trust (Museum of Free Derry), Tyrone National Graves, The Witness Project - Sean Murray, The Pat Finucane Center.

The 2019-2020 Christmas Appeal checks were distributed in September. President Keane and I participated along with the AOH, in a Zoom event on Saturday September 19 at 2:30 pm EST where we heard from each of the recipients and their recent projects. In case you missed it, there is a full recording on YouTube at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k75Tv6VjuX8>

These recipients play a vital role in reinforcing peace and providing a sense of community. On the tour, while meeting with these groups, we witnessed the pain as well as the resilience in each one of them. We saw their strength and their love for their community. Everywhere we went, we heard a similar sentiment - that the funds we give them through the Christmas Appeal are very much appreciated, however even more valuable is that the Hibernians are present in their community standing shoulder to shoulder with them and helping them move forward. Thank you, Ladies, well done.

Now on to the 2020-2021 Christmas Appeal!



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