



Irish Pastoral Centre
Boston



2025/2026 Impact Report

(617) 265-5300 | www.ipcboston.org

ANSEO LE CHÉILE - HERE TOGETHER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From Our Director	1
Our History	2
Mission & Values	3
Our Impact FY 2025/26	4
Programs & Services	6
<i>Client Services</i>	7
<i>Community Engagement</i>	10
<i>Aging Well</i>	12
Diaspora Engagement	14
J1 Support Program	16
Volunteer Program	17
Community Partners	18
Financial Overview	20
Looking Ahead	21

CONTACT

The Irish Pastoral Centre Boston
540 Gallivan Blvd. (Rear),
Dorchester, MA, 02124

Brighton Location
The PSF Community Center
640 Washington St.
Brighton, MA 02135

www.ipcboston.org
info@ipcboston.org

The Irish Pastoral Centre was founded in 1987 in response to a large increase in the number of Irish immigrants to the Greater Boston area. The IPC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is funded in part by the Irish government in addition to donations from the Irish and Irish American Community.

EIN: 20-8046867



Irish Pastoral Centre
Boston

ANSEO LE CHÉILE - HERE TOGETHER

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

A Chairde

As we look forward to our 40th anniversary, it is my privilege as Executive Director to present our impact report for the past twelve months. Thanks to your continued support, our work and our Centre has continued to grow and evolve through community engagement and client support services.

This report is a broad overview of IPC's operations and programs. It is my hope that this overview will show you the scope of our work, our range of programs and services that includes your journey along the way with us! Whether you read our newsletter, support us with donations, work at the Centre, serve on our Board of Directors, volunteer at events or participate in our programs, you are very much a part of who we are! Its forty years of impact – made possible by you!

Because of your financial support, IPC has been able to:

- Foster Deep Connections: Build a safe, inclusive hub for generations of community members.
- Expansion of Critical Support services: Deliver essential services to vulnerable individuals, ensuring no one in our community is left isolated.
- Preserve Our Heritage: Cultivate a vibrant cultural space while adapting to the evolving modern needs of our neighborhood.

While our 40th anniversary is a time to reflect with pride, it is also a powerful launchpad for the future. The needs of our community are changing, and IPC must evolve with them.

As we look ahead, your continued partnership will allow us to expand our core outreach programs, upgrade our community spaces, and ensure that IPC remains resilient and active for the next 40 years.

We are proud to share this snapshot of the Centre and look forward to celebrating with you this year.

Sincerely,

— **Mary Swanton, Executive Director**

IPC Board of Directors

Michael Carey
President

Mark Porter
Treasurer

Kayla Skillin
Secretary

Della Costello

John McColgan

Eugene O'Flaherty

Mary Ellen Brett

Fr. John Connolly

Angela Bergin

Phil Carver

Richard Wells



OUR HISTORY

The Irish Pastoral Centre - Boston was founded in 1987 in direct response to the large increase in Irish Immigrants in the Greater Boston area. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Dorchester, Massachusetts and offer a comprehensive range of caring and culturally appropriate spiritual, family, social, legal, and educational services to more than 1,300 vulnerable and at-risk immigrants of various ethnic backgrounds of all ages who are in need and living in Greater Boston, primarily Suffolk and Middlesex Counties with plans to expand, to help these immigrants adjust to life in a new country.

The Centre is guided by the Christian principle of providing help to “the stranger among us.” The Irish Pastoral Centre - Boston provides a comprehensive range of services and support to immigrants to assist them in all aspects of coming to a new country, adjusting to life here and becoming active and involved citizens and community members. ‘We are a parish without boundaries.’

MISSION AND VALUES

Mission:

The Irish Pastoral Centre is committed to welcoming the "stranger among us". We believe in justice for all, solidarity in the face of hardship, and that the bonds of community are rooted in the best of what it means to be Irish. We provide a grassroots response to individuals in need offering spiritual, social, legal, and emotional support.

Values:

- Community • Integrity • Inclusion
- Compassion • Culture • Service

Vision:

The Pastoral Centre stands on the shoulders of previous Immigrants from Ireland who extended the hand of friendship and support to new arriving Irish for generations. Today, our broad range of comprehensive support services honors that legacy while we continue to celebrate the continued presence of Ireland in Boston.



St. Patrick's Day Celebration at Florian Hall



Friends of St. Brendan's Food Drive

OUR IMPACT

FY 2025/26



12%

Increase in Grants & Foundation Support



3

New Corporate Partnerships



100,000

Social Media Reach per Month



2

New Client Services team members



2

- New Website
- Donor platform



30%

Newsletter reach increased

OUR IMPACT FY 2025/26



25%

Increase in Community
Resources & Partner
Agencies



899

Irish passport &
Foreign Birth
Registration Assistance



577

Documents
Notarised

BARRY'S
TEA

10,000 +

Cups of Barry's Tea
Made Annually





PROGRAMS & SERVICES

For nearly 40 years, the Irish Pastoral Centre (IPC) has supported the Boston Irish community by fostering connection, promoting social inclusion, providing pastoral care, and offering immigration and community resources. Through a diverse range of year-round programs and events, the IPC continues to strengthen and support individuals and families across all stages of life.

Client Services

- Immigration and community resource assistance
- Information, referrals, and advocacy
- Pastoral care and individual support

Community Engagement

Building a vibrant, connected community through cultural events, and programs that foster belonging and meaningful participation.

Aging Well Program

Supporting older adults through social connection, wellness initiatives, educational programming, and access to community resources that promote healthy, independent living.

CLIENT SERVICES

The Irish Pastoral Centre's Client Services team provides confidential, person-centred support to individuals and families navigating complex personal, social, and practical challenges. Through an integrated model of case management, social work, counselling, immigration support, bereavement services, sobriety programs, and pastoral care, the Centre ensures each client receives coordinated, compassionate, and culturally responsive support tailored to their individual circumstances.

This year, the Centre further strengthened its case management approach, providing holistic assessments, individualised care plans, referrals to internal and external services, and ongoing monitoring to ensure continuity of care. Working within established safeguarding frameworks and professional standards, the multidisciplinary team collaborated closely with healthcare providers, housing agencies, legal professionals, and community organisations to address the interconnected needs of clients experiencing vulnerability, trauma, isolation, financial hardship, or uncertainty. Regular case reviews and collaborative planning ensured consistent, accountable, and responsive service delivery while enabling the team to identify emerging community needs and deliver preventative support.

7

Integrated Services

40

Weeks of Bereavement Support

6

Internal Staff Training Sessions

53

Return to Ireland Inquiries

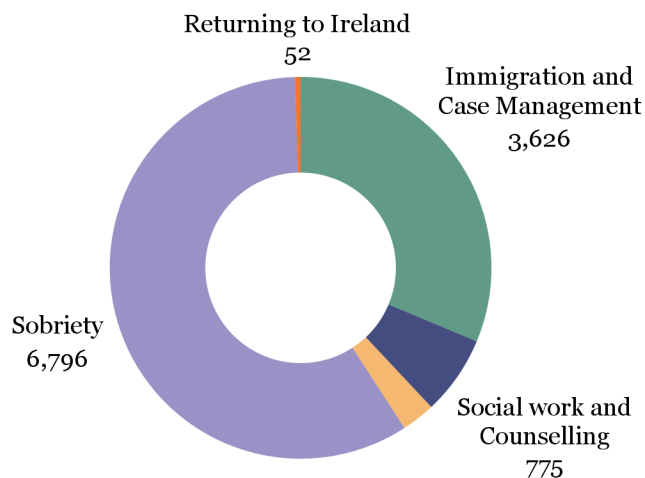
Service delivery breakdown

Total clients supported

1729

Total client interactions

2889





Partner Agencies

- Healthcare providers
- Housing agencies
- Legal services
- Recovery supports
- Social services
- Community organisation

Social Work and Counselling

Counselling and social work services continued to respond to increasingly complex presentations affecting the Irish community. Many clients experienced heightened anxiety resulting from immigration uncertainty, financial pressures, caregiver responsibilities, untreated trauma, family conflict, and barriers to accessing healthcare and social supports. The Centre expanded coordination with partner organisations to improve access to specialist services, reduce waiting times, and strengthen referral pathways. Increasingly, the social work team collaborated with healthcare providers, family support agencies, legal professionals, recovery specialists, and domestic violence organisations to ensure individuals and families received coordinated, multidisciplinary care. Education through newsletters and community outreach further supported individuals by raising awareness of trauma, healthy relationships, mental wellbeing, and available support services.

Bereavement Services

Recognising the growing need for specialised grief support, the Centre expanded its bereavement program through individual counselling, structured support groups, and ongoing community-based initiatives led by a licensed social worker. Grounded in trauma-informed practice and Irish traditions of remembrance, the program acknowledged the unique experience of grieving while living far from home. Many participants navigated not only the loss of loved ones but also separation from family, missed funerals, cultural displacement, immigration uncertainty, and social isolation. Through storytelling, psychoeducation, ritual, and peer support, participants found a safe space to process grief while strengthening resilience and community connection. Seasonal programs, including grief support during the holidays, sudden loss groups, and the ten-week Living After Loss program, provided structured opportunities for healing alongside ongoing follow-up support beyond formal group sessions.

Immigration and Case Management

This year marked the fifth anniversary of the Le Chéile Sobriety Programme, which continues to provide a culturally familiar, supportive environment for individuals seeking recovery and sustained wellbeing. The programme combines peer support with access to complementary wellbeing initiatives, including Polarity Therapy, helping participants strengthen recovery while reducing isolation and building lasting community connections.

Returning to Ireland

Changes to U.S. immigration policy and federal safety net programmes have increased uncertainty for many members of the Irish community, contributing to growing demand for Returning to Ireland support. In response, the Irish Pastoral Centre, in partnership with Safe Home Ireland and supported by IAU Surge funding, has launched a pilot initiative to develop pathways for vulnerable individuals returning from the United States to Ireland. Working alongside the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres, the Centre is helping establish coordinated frameworks, action plans, and best practices to meet the anticipated growth in demand nationwide.

Sobriety Programs

This year marked the fifth anniversary of the Le Chéile Sobriety Programme, which continues to provide a culturally familiar, supportive environment for individuals seeking recovery and sustained wellbeing. The programme combines peer support with access to complementary wellbeing initiatives, including Polarity Therapy, helping participants strengthen recovery while reducing isolation and building lasting community connections.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care remained an important part of the Centre's holistic approach, providing spiritual support through home and hospital visits, memorial services, crisis response, and accompaniment during periods of illness, bereavement, and significant life transition. This service complements the Centre's clinical and practical supports, ensuring individuals and families receive compassionate care that reflects both their personal and cultural needs.

Together, these integrated services reinforce the Irish Pastoral Centre's commitment to delivering compassionate, coordinated, and person-centred care. By responding to immediate needs while strengthening long-term resilience, the Client Services team continues to serve as a trusted source of support for the Irish community throughout Greater Boston.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Grounded in the Centre's philosophy of nurturing both roots and branches, the Community Outreach programme strengthens connections to Irish heritage while fostering new relationships, opportunities, and a sense of belonging within the wider community. Through a diverse program of cultural, social, and intergenerational initiatives including Irish dance classes, traditional music sessions, card games, knitting and crochet groups, community lunches, toddler programs, supper clubs, and live screenings of GAA matches—the Centre provides welcoming spaces where people of all ages can connect and thrive.

Annual cultural commemorations, fundraising events, school visits, and engagement with visiting sports teams further celebrate Irish identity while extending the Centre's reach across the Greater Boston community. Together, these initiatives reinforce cultural traditions, cultivate new connections, and support an inclusive, vibrant community for current and future generations.

15

Community
events held

3826

Community
programme
attendances

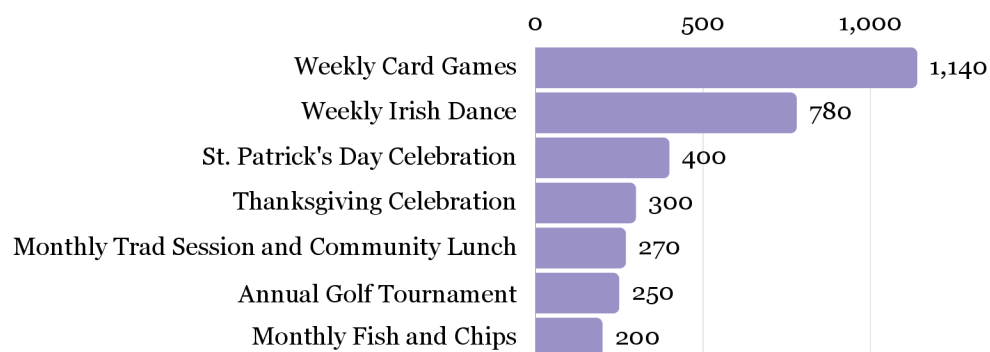
2594

attendances at
regular weekly and
monthly programmes

1232

attendances at
community celebrations
and special events

Service delivery breakdown





AGING WELL

IPC Aging Well programs play a critical role in promoting healthy, connected, and independent living for our older population. With an emphasis on community engagement, this program plays a critical role in promoting healthy, connected, and independent living for seniors. Our emphasis on social engagement, wellness activities, and access to community resources addresses not only the physical needs of participants but also their emotional and mental well-being. This holistic approach helps reduce isolation, improve quality of life, and foster a sense of belonging among older residents.

The Aging Well Program also strengthens the broader community by supporting caregivers and encouraging intergenerational connections. By creating opportunities for education, outreach, and community-building, IPC is helping to ensure that Boston remains a city where residents can age with dignity and support.

What Changed This Year?

- **Expanded Case Management:** Aging Well is now fully integrated with IPC's Case Management Team, improving coordination and access to support.
- **Growing Demand for Medicare Support:** The program is seeing increased enquiries from individuals seeking help navigating Medicare and related services.
- **More Interest in Returning to Ireland:** Enquiries from older individuals considering a return home have increased.
- **Expanded Community Activities:** IPC increased social and community events to provide connection, trust and comfort amid growing concerns around healthcare, housing, immigration and access to services.
- **Transportation Increased:** Additional transportation to events was introduced in response to the importance of mobility and access for many seniors.

5,801

Total Program
Reach

1,215

Coffee Club
Attendances

2,500

Senior Connect
Calls

306

Home &
Facility Visits

1,510

Special Event
Attendances

120

Meal Support
& Care
Packages

20

SHINE
Program
Participants





DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

The IPC is proud to advance Ireland's vision for a connected, supported, and engaged global Irish community. In alignment with the Government of Ireland's new Global Irish Diaspora Strategy, we strengthen connections between Ireland and the Boston Irish community by fostering cultural identity, encouraging civic and community participation, supporting new and established immigrants, and creating opportunities for meaningful engagement across generations. Through partnerships, events, and targeted programs, the IPC helps ensure that Boston remains a vibrant and welcoming home for the Irish diaspora while strengthening the enduring relationship between Ireland and its global community.

The Irish Pastoral Centre's work aligns with the vision of Ireland's Diaspora Strategy 2026–2030: Strengthening Communities and Deepening Connections. Through a broad range of programs, services, and partnerships, the IPC supports the Strategy's priorities by promoting the wellbeing of the Irish community, strengthening Irish identity and culture, fostering meaningful connections and community participation, supporting individuals throughout their emigration journey, and collaborating with partners in Ireland and the United States to build a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient diaspora.



Local sports Team meetings and dinners



Sports Trivia Night



UMass Boston Student's Pre Ireland Trip



Historian Lecture



Irish Ice Hockey Team Breakfast



Clothing Drive Catie's Closet



St. John Paul's Neponset Campus visit



BCH Blood Drive



Community Sunrise Walk in aid of KBRT



J1 STUDENT SUPPORT

The J-1 Programme provides practical information, guidance, and support to Irish students and graduates relocating to the Greater Boston area. During the reporting period, 168 individuals benefited from J-1 Student Services, receiving assistance with employment, housing, healthcare, banking, taxation, visa compliance, and settling into life in the United States. The program also expanded its outreach through pre-departure information, orientation, graduate support, and ongoing correspondence. This year, the program responded to 610 recorded service engagements, while its J-1 Graduates & Young Professionals network grew by 41% to 575 members, strengthening a peer-support community for young Irish people in Boston. With employment and housing becoming increasingly challenging, IPC continued to work closely with J1ACCOM and community partners to provide timely information, referrals, and practical support throughout the J-1 experience.

168

J1 Students Supported

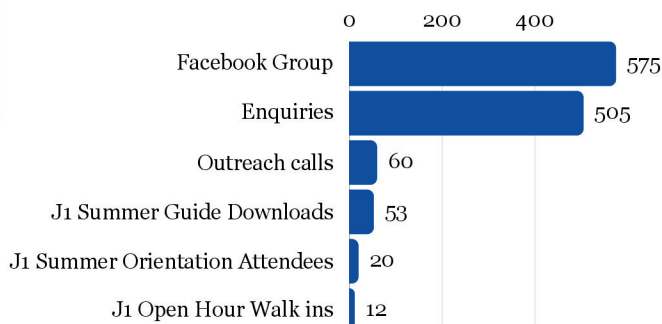
610

Support Engagements

575

Members on Facebook page

Service delivery breakdown





IPC Volunteer Callers for Senior Connect Program

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our volunteers are an essential part of the Irish Pastoral Centre and the services we provide to the Greater Boston Irish community. Throughout the year, they generously contributed their time and talents by supporting community events, providing companionship to older adults, making weekly wellbeing calls, and helping foster meaningful connections across our programs.

Their commitment strengthens our ability to deliver compassionate, community-centered services while creating a welcoming environment where people feel connected and supported. We are deeply grateful for the dedication, generosity, and spirit of our volunteers, whose contributions have a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve and on the vitality of our community.

4

**Partnered Events
with Corporate
Volunteer Program**

2,500

**Calls made to
individuals living alone
or housebound**

1,800

**Hours contributed by
volunteers across all
events and programs**



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Irish Pastoral Centre works collaboratively with a broad network of community partners to ensure individuals and families can access the specialist services, information, and support they need.

By maintaining strong relationships with government agencies, legal professionals, healthcare providers, community organisations, and Irish-based services, the Centre is able to provide trusted referrals and practical guidance across areas including immigration, returning to Ireland, ageing well, health and wellbeing, housing, employment, and social supports. These partnerships extend the Centre's capacity, enabling clients to navigate complex systems with confidence while ensuring they receive timely, coordinated, and culturally appropriate assistance.

Together, these collaborative relationships strengthen the Centre's role as a trusted gateway to resources and support for the Irish community in Greater Boston.

*Photo from May 2026 - IPC staff gathered with representatives from Irish Centres around the world in Dublin for the Global Irish Civic Forum at Croagh Park. Our national, Irish and global partners share best practices, experiences and support on Ireland's Global Diaspora Strategy that was launched this year.***



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



Árd-Chonsalacht na hÉireann
Consulate General of Ireland



THE FLATLEY FOUNDATION



THE
IRELAND
FUNDS



IRISH AMERICAN
PARTNERSHIP



Mass
Cultural
Council



City of Boston
Immigrant Advancement

AGE+

Age Strong
Commission



SAFE HOME IRELAND
DIASPORA SUPPORT SERVICE



Ireland's Diaspora Strategy

2026 - 2030

This is Ireland's third Diaspora Strategy and it shares the same commitment as its predecessors to deepen the ties and bonds between Ireland and the Irish abroad.

Based on nine months of consultations and the first ever online consultation of the Irish abroad, this strategy sets out 23 commitments across five key threads:

- Wellbeing and advocacy
- Identity and culture
- Connection and contribution
- Departure and return
- Sharing our experience



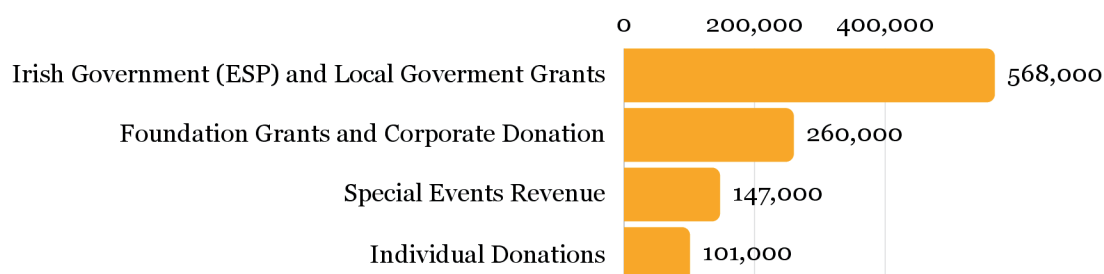
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Statement on Financial Position

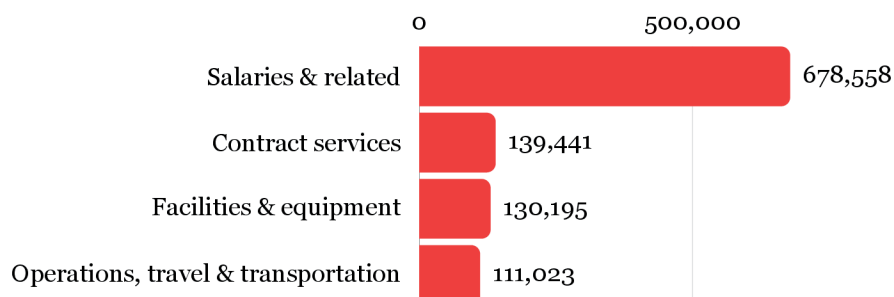
IPC maintains a stable financial position, supported by its assets, cash resources, and ongoing operations. The organization continues to meet its financial obligations while managing liabilities responsibly. Its financial performance reflects prudent resource management, adequate liquidity, and a commitment to long-term financial sustainability. Management continues to monitor financial risks and implement strategies to strengthen profitability, cash flow, and overall financial health.

We are extremely grateful to all who support our work and our Annual Reports and audits are available upon request.

TOTAL INCOME: \$1.076M



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1.059M





LOOKING AHEAD

Building on its tradition of serving "the stranger among us," IPC will expand opportunities for community connection, immigrant support, wellness and cultural engagement while preserving the rich Irish heritage that has shaped generations in Boston. Through collaboration, innovation, and compassionate service, IPC aims to ensure that people of all ages and backgrounds can find support, belonging, and opportunity in an increasingly diverse and evolving community.

Strategic Priorities

- Strengthen services for immigrants, families, and vulnerable individuals.
- Expand aging-well and wellness programs for older adults.
- Foster deeper community engagement across generations.
- Enhance advocacy, outreach, and partnership opportunities.
- Preserve and celebrate Irish culture and heritage in Greater Boston.
- Ensure long-term financial sustainability and organizational growth.
- Embrace innovation while remaining rooted in IPC's mission of welcome, support, and community.



ANSEO LE CHÉILE - HERE TOGETHER