

Ulster Bank awards €87,5000 in Skills & Opportunities funding to three Irish community-based organisations

The winning organisations were decided upon by more than 600 public votes

Friday 25th May 2018: Ulster Bank has announced that three not-for-profit organisations in Ireland will share funding of €87,500 from its Skills and Opportunities fund.

An Cosán, Walkinstown Greenhills Resource Centre and the Centre for Environmental Living and Training (CELT) have been selected to receive the funding after a competitive process which saw 20 applications and 600 public votes. Today's announcement will see each of the organisations launch or continue community projects, as diverse as they are inspiring, but all with a common central focus: helping to build better lives and stronger communities through financial capability skills training and local self-employment opportunities.

Ulster Bank is strongly committed to supporting and strengthening the communities it serves and the Skills and Opportunities Fund plays an important part in this and in providing *Help for What Matters*.

Commenting on today's announcement **Damien Daly, Head of Customer Experience and Products at Ulster Bank**, explains why the Skills & Opportunities Fund is such an important part of the bank's community programme: "Through our Ulster Bank Skills & Opportunities Fund we have helped over 2,200 people in Ireland. Over the past three years we have witnessed some remarkable projects, including helping people in disadvantaged areas into the workforce. The feedback we receive from previous winners really brings home the impact of the Fund on individual lives as well as on our communities."

[Person], [position] at An Cosán, one of the successful charities, said: "We are delighted to be among the organisations to receive such vital support from Ulster Bank and its Skills & Opportunities fund, and we will use the funding to continue to deliver an accredited financial administration and digital skills programme, focused on creating tangible employment opportunities for adults in Tallaght West."

More information on the Ulster Bank Skills & Opportunities Fund, including eligibility criteria, regional priorities and case studies of previous winners, is available at: <http://skillsandopportunitiesfund.ulsterbank.com>.

To stay up-to-date with news and developments on the Ulster Bank Skills & Opportunities Fund go to: www.skillsandopportunitiesfund.ulsterbank.com or search **#skillsandopportunities** on Twitter. A further round of funding will open for applications in early September; subscribe at www.skillsandopportunitiesfund.ulsterbank.com/contact to receive updates.

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