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**Press Release**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

*Summited by: Mary Reed*

**The Second Annual**

**A Taste of HOPE** to benefit the HOPE Foundation USA

**A CROSS-CULTURAL EVENING OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM IRELAND & INDIA.**

**The annual event will take place from 6pm to 9:30pm, Wednesday February 27th at the**

**American Irish Historical Association on 5th Avenue** (80th & 5th Avenue)**.**

Thecocktail hour will be 6pm-7pm, followed by an elegant evening with a cocktail buffet, speakers and music from Ireland and India. There will be a very special silent auction with incredible items from Ireland and New York. Dignitaries from India and Ireland will be attending.

The benefit is organized by The Hope Foundation which recently launched in the USA and is headquartered in Cork, Ireland. The elegant and fun filled evening aims to raise awareness and funds for marginalized children in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India.

Honored to announce that renowned Irish humanitarian, founder and Hon. Director of The Hope Foundation, **Maureen Forrest** from Cork, Ireland, is flying in for this special evening and will speak about what the HOPE Foundation accomplishes in Kolkata, India. **Geeta Venkadakrishnan**, director of HOPE in Kolkata will traveling in from India.

**SPECIAL GUESTS OF THE EVENING ARE...**

**Meera Gandhi**was born in [Mumbai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mumbai), India to an Irish mother and an Indian father. At the age of 16, she met Mother Teresa and worked with her helping children at Asha Dan, Mumbai. Inspired, Meera Gandhi, founded the Giving Back Offices with projects in India, NY, Hong Kong, Turkey and the UK. Meera lives in NYC and runs The Giving Back Foundation.

# Richie McCarthy a full back for the [Limerick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limerick_GAA) senior hurling team, will talk about how his team captured the first All-Ireland hurling title in 45 years.

**Michael Sheldrick,**Vice President, Global Policy & Government Affairs for Global Citizen. Gave a TED talk two years ago and hails from Australia but is based in NYC.

**ENTERTAINMENT:**

The evening will also include entertainment from both countries. Recording artist, **Julie Feeney** hails from Galway. Her sell-out shows have riveted audiences all over the world including in Amsterdam, Mexico, Italy, Germany, France, China, Brazil, Canada, UD and all across the U.S.A. Radhika Vyas is a classically trained artist in the sacred ancient temple art form called Odissi, she has over 25 years of experience and we are thrilled that she is part of the evening.

**ABOUT THE HOPE FOUNDATION:**

The Hope Foundation (HOPE) was established in Ireland by Irish humanitarian Maureen Forrest in 1999 to help children, their families and the communities in Kolkata, India. It is estimated that 250,000 children are forced to exist on the streets and in the slums of Kolkata (Calcutta).

Nineteen years later HOPE now with a staff of over 500 Indian professionals provides support to over 60 projects including education, primary healthcare, child protection, children’s shelters, vocational training and drug rehabilitation. With offices in Cork, Dublin, UK, US, Germany and India, HOPE also works with local Indian NGOs to rescue thousands of children from the streets and slums of Kolkata.

The Hope Foundation is 501 (c)3 in the US, is compliant and is governed by the Dóchas Code of Corporate Governance. The HOPE Honorary Director, Maureen Forrest, does not take a salary.

**Why you should get involved:**

The New York area region is home to the largest Indian American population. New York City has the most concentrated Irish American population; 12.9 percent of its residents claim Irish ancestry. This combined effort of Irish and Indian/Asian individuals and corporations would make a tremendous impact on helping an Irish charity that recuses street children in Kolkata India.

**Tickets for the event are $250 and are limited,** funds raised from the event will benefit the street children of Kolkata, India. The tax-deductible amount is $200. Corporate sponsorship is available! **If you cannot attend, please consider sponsoring a child’s education for one year at the cost of $300.**

**To book online** [**https://hopefoundationusa.com/product/a-taste-of-hope/**](https://hopefoundationusa.com/product/a-taste-of-hope/)

Checks can be mailed to

**The HOPE Foundation USA**

**909 3rd. Ave. #687,**

**NY, NY 10150**

For more information on the event and sponsorship opportunities please contact

Mary Reed [maryreed@hopefoundationusa.com](mailto:maryreed@hopefoundationusa.com) 516-467-6030.

**For your information:**

**Venue:** The American Irish Historical Society, 991 5th Avenue, Manhattan, New York, NY

**When:** Wed 27th February 27th 6pm to 9pm

**Tickets: $250 ($200 tax deductible)**

**Contact: Mary Reed**

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