

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Ali Rice, arice@iicenter.org

Irish International Immigrant Center celebrated 30 years of service and advocacy at annual Solas Awards event

BOSTON, October 11, 2019- Viewed as Boston's Welcome Center for immigrants and refugees, the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) celebrated 30 years of supporting families from around the world at its annual Solas Awards last night. During this time of unprecedented anti-immigrant policy change, it was more important than ever for political, business, and community leaders to gather and demonstrate welcome and support for immigrants. The event honored: Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, Irish Prime Minister, Leo Varadkar, and Tony Rodriguez, a Boston Public Schools student. Surrounded by community support, the Awards raised a total of \$725,000 for the IIIC's vital work, and through the contributions and pledges of our 500 guests, we raised over \$80,000 on the evening.

"Looking back over thirty years of helping more than 40,000 immigrants on their journey to new beginnings, I am deeply grateful for all the staff, volunteers, supporters, partner organizations, and Board members who have made all of this possible. We look forward to continuing to work toward a society where all are welcomed and valued."

-- Ronnie Millar, executive director of the IIIC

"It's a privilege to have the opportunity to play a role in recognizing the extraordinary track record of such a special organization. The work of the IIIC has always been critically important, but never more important than during these most challenging times."

-- Robin G. Jones, Solas 2019 Host and John Donohue, Co-Chair of the IIIC Advisory Board and Solas 2019 Host

The IIIC empowers immigrants and refugees from more than 120 countries by providing the legal, wellness and educational support they need to build successful lives. Immigrants benefit from receiving our services and engaging more deeply in their new communities, and we understand that our existing communities benefit just as much when immigrants are safe, welcomed, and able to fully participate in society. Building on its Irish roots of welcoming others and advocating for social justice, the IIIC helps newcomers find community and stands up for immigration policies that are humane and just. See www.iicenter.org for more information on the IIIC's ongoing work to support immigrant families in Greater Boston.

The IIC hosted this special Solas Awards event and welcomes members of the press to share the organization's work with the Boston community.

###