

# CULTIVATING COMMUNITY THROUGH CULTURE & HISTORY: SERVICE-LEARNING IN BIRR, IRELAND

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SERVICE-LEARNING MISSION

> To encourage students of the CSUS Honors Program

> To engage in a reciprocal opportunity to acquire

to be active participants in their own learning process

knowledge and develop skills while providing service

through a service-learning experience and participation



# CULTURAL & HISTORICAL IMMERSION

### Birr

A center of scientific and technological advancement in a community of <6,000 people





Birr Castle Home of the 3rd Earl of Rosse: an environmental and scientific time capsule

# Clonmacnoise Monastery

6th century monastery founded by Saint Ciarán







# LABOR OF LOVE: REBUILDING A COMMUNAL CENTER AND CULTURAL SPACE

- > Rebuilt garden for use in educational programs
- > Built a high cross to educate local children on the religious and cultural significance of the high crosses seen at monastic sites









# TEACHING IRISH SCHOOL CHILDREN

Developed activity-based curriculum to help teach Irish schoolchildren early Irish history:

- > 4 primary schools total
- Handmade costumes & dressed as historic characters
- Built family shields
- Drew high cross panels





# IRISH HERITAGE SCHOOL **COMMUNITY PARTNER**

Discover and teach Irish heritage and history through archaeological excavation and research

in a corresponding seminar.

Partner with universities to develop projects which expand the worldview of the students and staff while enabling them to continue their educational mission







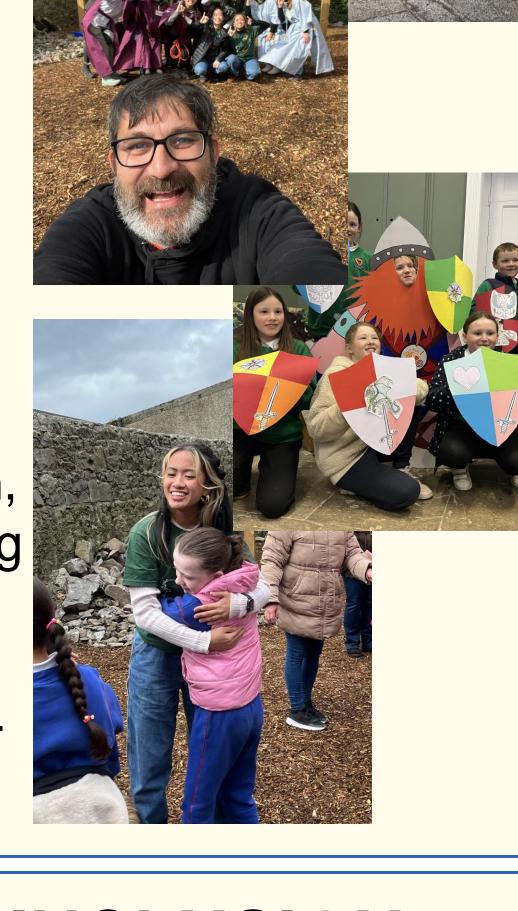
## PROJECT IMPACT

### On the community:

- Cultural & homestay programs brought people into community, which supports town economically (study abroad tourism)
- > Helped rebuild a cultural space of gathering and education
- Constructed curriculum that empowered children to learn more and appreciate the local history of their community

### On us:

- > Enhanced our cultural knowledge through interactions with the children, staying with host families, and visiting local sites
- > Strengthened team skills: strengthsbased leadership, initiative, purposedriven work ethic, social empathy



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

- > Community cultivated through the uplifting of diversity of people, present and past
- > Equity & Inclusion play critical role in the success of rebuilding a community and shared space



# THE FUTURE STEPS

> GE Honors has worked with the Irish Heritage School on historical preservation and education multiple times, and will return in following years



