

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vaughan Hospitality Group Named 2026 IN Spirit Award Honoree by Ireland Network Chicago

Ireland Network Chicago is proud to announce that Vaughan Hospitality Group has been selected as the 2026 IN Spirit Award Honoree, recognizing nearly four decades of extraordinary leadership, service, and cultural impact within the Chicago Irish community.

ABOUT THE IN SPIRIT AWARD

Each year, Ireland Network Chicago presents the IN Spirit Award to an individual or organization whose contributions have significantly strengthened the Irish community in Chicago. This honor reflects sustained commitment, leadership, and service that embody the Network's mission of fostering connection, culture, and community for the Irish in Chicago. The award is presented annually at the Ireland Network Ball, held each February, before an audience of members, partners, and supporters.

HONORING A LEGACY OF IRISH HOSPITALITY AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Vaughan Hospitality Group—long considered a cornerstone of Irish hospitality in Chicago—has shaped the Irish cultural and social landscape of the city since opening Vaughan's Pub on Milwaukee Avenue on the Northwest Side in 1987. Vaughan Hospitality Group was founded by Dan Joe and Bina Vaughan, who emigrated from Newmarket, County Cork in 1984 with 7 of their 9 children. It was a family-run neighborhood pub that championed community, culture, connection, and Irish hospitality.

With the second generation—brothers Eamonn and Kevin Vaughan and Kevin's wife Kristan, Vaughan Hospitality Group grew into a respected collective of 7 establishments known for warmth, authenticity, and service. Eamonn sadly passed away in 2023. Today, under the leadership of Kevin and Kristan, the group operates six well-loved Chicago venues, employing more than 300 people and serving as a welcoming home for both locals and visitors.

The group's longstanding dedication to Chicago's Irish community is profound: from supporting GAA clubs, Irish charities, and cultural organizations (including Ireland Network Chicago), to providing opportunities for hundreds of J-1 visa students, Vaughan Hospitality Group has consistently strengthened the bridge between Chicago and Ireland.

Their commitment extends beyond the Irish diaspora, supporting and helping to lead neighborhood programs, youth sports, local chambers, and the Illinois Restaurant Association.

A WELL-DESERVED HONOR

“Ireland Network Chicago is delighted to recognize Vaughan Hospitality Group with the 2026 IN Spirit Award,” said Ireland Network Chicago President Craig O’Halloran. “The Vaughan family’s decades-long dedication to hospitality, community, and Irish culture exemplifies the very essence of this award. The Vaughan establishments have been a home away from home for the Irish in Chicago, including many Ireland Network Chicago’s events and meeting. Their impact on Chicago’s Irish community—past, present, and future—is immeasurable.”

The award will be formally presented at the [2026 Ireland Network Chicago Ball](#).

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