

Profile John McCarrick

What made you want to enter the accounting profession?

During my studies, I was always intrigued by the accounting profession's practical applications: effective financial advice and expertise have the ability to shape people's, businesses' and an economy's success. A good accountant combines academic rigour and practicality, applying these skills in the real world. From a young age, I knew that this mixture of scholarly pursuits and personal know-how was a space in which I could succeed.

What advice would you give to someone considering entering the accountancy profession?

Accountancy is a profession that offers the diligent student many rewards: our skills are in high-demand from an infinite and growing range of sectors. Following qualification, it is worth thinking laterally about one's career. Accountants are needed not only to advise on matters of taxation, but are at the forefront of shaping new businesses. For example, while the technology sector has expanded enormously in Dublin in recent years, accountants will be needed to guide these businesses into financial and structural maturity.

Why is Corporate Responsibility important to you and your business?

As accountants, we can shape people's lives with sound financial and strategic advice. These skills are in great need everywhere, especially in highly-disadvantaged regions of Ireland and abroad. I believe that we have the responsibility to contribute as much as possible to society, not solely in a business-oriented perspective. By freely giving of our time and expertise, most notably with the Kenyan Child Foundation, we have seen that we can give opportunities in our practice to many trainee accountants from all over the world and to those who would have never dreamt of such.

What is The Kenyan Child Foundation and how did you become involved?

The Kenyan Child Foundation CLG is a registered charity with Charities Regulator that I founded in 2014. On a previous outreach trip to Kenya in 2013, myself and my son became acquainted with a local schoolteacher, who asked me for our help and vision. We focus on fundraising and providing first-class educational facilities

for highly-disadvantaged children in rural Kenya. In 2015, we opened our first school, St. Patrick's Primary School, in a village called Kawese. This is located about 150km south of Nairobi. Since then, the school has grown exponentially, and 180 children enter its doors each day.

We are extremely ambitious and are looking forward to seeing the foundation, and schools growing in the coming years. Earlier this year, we were enormously honoured to win Irish Accountancy Awards 2017 in the category of Corporate & Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative for our endeavours in reaching out.

What is your biggest career achievement to date?

I am extremely proud of building a successful accountancy firm over the last 26 years, John McCarrick & Associates. Not only has this offered me a wide variety of opportunities, but it is also rewarding to see my team alongside our clients grow and succeed in their careers.

I also thoroughly enjoyed a consultancy project I led with the World Bank in Beijing & Fuzhou, China. The project involved developing corporate governance in large number of state-owned banks & organisations in advance of listing publically-traded entities on the stock market. I worked closely with the executive board of the Industrial Bank Company of China to prepare for its initial public offering. While this included establishing a wide range of financial instruments, it also required a shift in corporate culture. Seeing the success that the Chinese Economy and the bank enjoys over the years today brings me a great deal of satisfaction.

What traits do you admire most in others?

Working with a team that is passionate about their work and driven to succeed is always a pleasure. Finding this combination of dedication and intelligence can be a challenge, but when I collaborate with professionals who possess these two abilities, it is hard not to admire clients, colleagues and team members such as these.

What inspires you most in business?

I am inspired by seeing my clients' businesses succeed. As an accountant, we have the unique opportunity to visibly impact our clients' business. By



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implementing new financial systems, streamlining processes and partnering with business, I am inspired by cutting through financial and legal complexity for my clients and unlocking their potential to grow.

How do you motivate the team you work with?

I am very lucky to work with a very talented team, at John McCarrick and Associates, at the Kenyan Child Foundation, at the IIPA previously and now with the CPA Ireland. I am confident that the key to successfully motivating a team is by partnering with my colleagues and giving them the opportunity to gain ownership of their work. This offers them space to grow, build their business acumen and confidence, and ultimately shape their own careers and be part of CPA Ireland an organisation that can make a real difference.

What do you do to unwind?

I have always thoroughly enjoyed athletics. From a young age, I have represented my local athletics club Dundrum South Dublin AC and Ireland in cross country, and track events. In recent years, I have still managed to have travelled to Belgium, Spain, Germany & Poland with the Irish Masters Athletic team to represent the country in 200m and 400m track indoor & outdoor events in European and World Athletic Championships.

I am also very passionate about cooking. When I return home from work, I enjoy experimenting in the kitchen to with new recipes for my family. I gain a great deal of inspiration from my travels around Asia, Africa and Europe. My wife & children are always pleased when I try something new for them to enjoy!