

2013 Better Together Award Winners Announced

Submitted by [paul.meade](#) [1] on 13 December 2013 - 2:54pm

We are delighted to announce the winners of the 2013 Better Together Video Competition and Charity Hero Award (in association with the Volunteer Ireland Awards):

Charity Hero Award (in association with Volunteer Ireland Awards)

A County Wicklow man who founded and volunteered with a youth club for over 46 years has been named Charity Hero 2013, a national prize honouring individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to good causes over their lifetime.

[Albert Kerr](#) [2] was one of 10 people from across Ireland nominated for the annual award presented at Dublin Castle by The Wheel, the national representative body for community and voluntary groups, in association with the Volunteer Ireland Awards at Dublin Castle.

In 1967 Albert was approached by parents from the local community in Bray asking him to set up a youth club. Originally the Queen of Peace Youth Club was set up as a boys club, but in the late 1970s the membership was opened up to both boys and girls. The club has gone from strength to strength ever since. Albert, who will turn 72 in December, is still actively involved on a weekly basis and has been the chairperson of the club for many years. As the winner of the Charity Hero Award, Albert received €1,000 to donate to his club.

The Charity Hero Award is part of Better Together, a nationwide campaign that aims to make Ireland a better place to live by building support for charities, clubs and associations across the country.

Video Competition

Also announced were the winners of the Better Together Charity Video Competition. A hundred and thirty-seven, clubs and associations from across Ireland made short online videos to highlight the impact of their work, and the public voted for their favourite clips. Over 134,000 votes were cast on the website www.bettertogether.ie [3] between September and December, and 10 videos were subsequently shortlisted across six categories.

The following three winners each received a cash prize of €1,000:

1. [Volunteer-only Organisations: Galway Autism Partnership](#) [4]
2. [Medium-sized Organisations: UCD Volunteers Overseas](#) [5]
3. [Large Organisations: Ability West](#) [6]

Additional Awards

The Young Filmmaker Award (for young people between the ages of 13 and 18) was awarded to Dan Mcgrath, Phillip Emo, Sean O'Flaherty and Séamas Maclochlainn for their video [Work Together](#) [7]. The awardees will now receive their choice between two great professional filmmaking training packages, courtesy of Young Irish Film Makers.

Cornmarket Group Financial Services Ltd. won the Better Together Business Award with a video on the [Pink Power Breast Cancer Awareness Programme](#) [8].

People's Choice Awards were also presented for the videos that achieved the largest number of votes in each category.

They were:

- [Volunteer-Only Organisations: Rebel Wheelers \(2,162 votes\)](#) [9]
- [Medium-Sized Organisations: Beacon of Light counselling Centre \(5,146 votes\)](#) [10]
- [Large Organisations: Order of Malta - Ireland \(5,261 votes\)](#) [11]
- [Business: An Post - helping others do more \(1,396 votes\)](#) [12]
- [Young Filmmakers: No Other Choice \(720 votes\)](#) [13]

Commenting on the Awards, Deirdre Garvey, Chief Executive of The Wheel said: "The Better Together Campaign demonstrates the great value of people working together for the common good. Charities, community and voluntary groups are facing their toughest challenge yet: not only is the demand for their services increasing, but their income levels are dropping. The campaign aims to turn the tide on this and strengthen local groups by showing the public the extraordinary work happening in their communities and what they can do to help."

Congratulation to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated in this year's campaign!

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The Wheel is compliant with the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland.

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[2] <http://www.bettertogether.ie/content/albert-kerr>

[3] <http://www.bettertogether.ie>

[4] <http://www.bettertogether.ie/video/galway-autism-partnership-better-together-2013>

[5] <http://www.bettertogether.ie/video/ucdvo-developing-communities-developing-students>

[6] <http://www.bettertogether.ie/video/hop-board-best-buddies-journey>

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- [9] <http://www.bettertogether.ie/video/rebel-wheelers-0>
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