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Shortlist revealed for annual GSK IMPACT Awards 2016

Submitted by [gackermann](#) [1] on 5 October 2016 - 5:14pm

Nurture, HIV Ireland, Smashing Times Theatre Company, Traveller Counselling Service, Dyslexia Association of Ireland, Cork Mental Health Foundation, Sensational Kids, Amen Support Services, Anam Cara, and Move4Parkinson's  have all been shortlisted for the **GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards**. Up to five winning Irish charities will receive €10,000 each in unrestricted funding through the awards, while five runner-up charities will receive €2,000 each. In addition to the prize money, winning charities will also receive a video and photography package to use in promoting their work and services.

The GSK Ireland IMPACT winners will be presented with their awards at a ceremony in Dublin on the 13th of October 2016. There will be over 100 guests in attendance at this highly anticipated event which will be an excellent opportunity for each charity to raise awareness of their worthwhile work and services.

Claire Taaffe, Communications Director for GSK said: *‘I’d like to congratulate all the wonderful charities who have made the final shortlist in this year’s Impact awards. We received close to 100 entries this year which made it very difficult to whittle it down to the final 10. Healthcare charities tackle some of society’s most difficult, often overlooked challenges. GSK wants to champion these charities, so many of whom are at the heart of Irish health and wellbeing, and support them in continuing their great work.’*

The awards, in their second year, are designed to recognise and reward community-based small charities who contribute to the improvement of people’s health and wellbeing in Ireland, as well as acknowledge the positive outcomes these charities have on patients and local community. This year’s shortlist represents an inspirational mix of healthcare heroes who are making a real difference to the lives of their communities.

The GSK Ireland IMPACT awards have been running in the UK and USA for nearly 20 years and due to the success of last year’s awards is now a firm calendar event for the charitable community in Ireland. Charities are required to undertake a lengthy and strict entry process for the awards, which includes a review and presentation of their financials, governance, services and membership growth over the previous twelve months allowing judges to understand the worthy service and care they provide along with their commitment to transparency, patient focus, integrity and respect – all values that mirror GSK’s culture.

CEO of The Wheel, Deirdre Garvey and judging panel member commented: *‘Right across Ireland, there are hundreds of small charities who are making a real impact to their communities. Very often, it is these small charities who are struggling for resources. The GSK Ireland Impact Awards will give these groups a great opportunity to apply for much-needed funding but also to get the recognition they so rightly deserve.’*

Sinead Grennan, CEO of Sonas APC, one of last year’s winners commented: *‘Winning a GSK Impact award was fantastic recognition for us and the work that we do but it even more importantly allowed us expand this and bring our services to an even wider group of people who live with dementia and their care partners.’*

The Impact Awards 2016 are judged by a multidisciplinary panel of professionals which includes Maurice Pratt, Chair of Barretstown., Barry Andrews, CEO Goal, and Deirdre Garvey, CEO of the Wheel.

The 10 Irish healthcare charities on the GSK IMPACT Awards 2016 shortlist are:

- **Nurture** ? a nationwide charity which provides professional counselling and supports surrounding pregnancy and childbirth and maternal mental health illnesses to women, partners and their families.
- **HIV Ireland** ? a nationwide charity which works to improve conditions for people living with HIV and AIDS, their families and their caregivers, while actively promoting HIV and sexual health awareness in the general population.
- **Anam Cara** ? a nationwide charity which provides support services to bereaved parents and families.
- **Move4Parkinson's** ? a non-profit organisation whose aim is to help people with Parkinson's achieve a better quality of life through education and empowerment.
- **Amen Support Services** ? a nationwide voluntary group providing a confidential helpline, support service, and information for male victims of domestic abuse.
- **Sensational Kids** ? a Kildare based charity that provides family centred therapy and educational services for children of all abilities in a state of the art occupational therapy centre.
- **Cork Mental Health Foundation** ? promotes positive mental health within the community and provides social housing to those who have experienced mental health difficulties.
- **Dyslexia Association of Ireland** ? a nationwide organisation which works with and for people affected by dyslexia, by providing information, offering appropriate support services, engaging in advocacy and raising awareness of dyslexia.
- **Traveller Counselling Service** ? an independent, culturally appropriate counselling service for Travellers in the Greater Dublin Area
- **Smashing Times Theatre Company** ? a professional theatre company that has designed an arts based approach to positive mental health promotion and suicide prevention.

For more information, please visit <http://ie.gsk.com/ie/responsibility/health-for-all/gsk-ireland-impact-awards/> [2]

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