

**the  
wheel**

Stronger Charities.  
Stronger Communities.



# **charity impact awards 2020**

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**Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland**

Brought to you by the Department of Rural  
and Community Development

# PROGRAMME

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**16.30** Welcome, Tara Flynn MC

**16.40** Deirdre Garvey, CEO of The Wheel

**16.45** Minister of State for Community Development and Charities  
Joe O'Brien, TD

**16.47** Awards Presentation  
*Impact Awards*  
*Social Enterprise of the Year*  
*Trustee of the Year*  
*Community Hero Award*

**17.25** Paul O'Sullivan, Chairperson of The Wheel

**17.30** Close

\* Special guests will be making an appearance throughout the programme, and there will be a musical interlude during the awards presentation.

# MEET YOUR HOST

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**Tara Flynn** works extensively as an actor and writer in theatre, radio and TV in Ireland and the UK. Her one woman show Not A Funny Word (with The Abbey Theatre and This Is Pop Baby), played to sold-out crowds. She is known for satirical videos such as Racist B&B and Armagayddon. A popular host and MC, she did stand-up comedy for many years and was a core member of Dublin Comedy Improv. TV includes Moone Boy, Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle and Line of Duty. As part of Amnesty International's global She Is Not a Criminal campaign, Tara publicly shared her own story of having to travel for an abortion and became a vocal campaigner for reproductive rights and the need to repeal Ireland's 8th amendment. She received Amnesty Ireland's award for Outstanding Contribution to Human Rights 2018. She will soon host Between Ourselves, an in-conversation series with Marian Keyes, for BBC Radio 4.





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# AWARD CATEGORIES

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## **Impact Award**

This award celebrates the work of community and voluntary organisations, clubs or groups that have brought about positive change. This award has three sub-categories: small (voluntary / no paid staff); medium (paid staff and annual turnover of up to €1 million); Large (paid staff and annual turnover over €1 million).

## **Social Enterprise of the Year**

This award recognises the impact of social enterprises. Social enterprises are social-mission focused organisations that engage in trading activity in a way to achieve their social mission.

## **Trustee of the Year**

This award celebrates the work of Trustees - those dedicated volunteers who share their time and expertise to bring about positive change.

## **Community Hero Award**

The 2019 Community Hero Award (in association with the Volunteer Ireland Awards) is a lifetime achievement award honouring a volunteer who has made an extraordinary contribution to a good cause.



# IMPACT AWARD

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## SMALL ORGANISATIONS FINALISTS

### Blood Bikes East

“Blood Bikes East (BBE) was set up with the simple aim of providing emergency medical transport services to our public hospitals and care homes in Dublin. This means that they can redirect the savings made on medical transport (using taxis, etc.) directly to patient care and thus manage their fixed HSE Budget efficiently.”

### The Haven Club

“The Haven Hub was set up to address the issue of suicide in Limerick. Our suicide prevention trained volunteers support people in distress specifically late at night when other services are closed.”

### Irish Haemochromatosis Association

“The Irish Haemochromatosis Association is a life-changing patient health and advocacy charity, set up over 20 years ago to support patients with haemochromatosis, or iron overload. Our aim is to educate, inform and advocate for patients to ensure that no one in Ireland is left undiagnosed. By promoting early diagnosis, we can save lives and prevent ill-health and disability.”

### Serve the City

“Serve the City supports elderly, marginalised and vulnerable people by implementing practical volunteering assignments to improve their way of life. Through our mission, vision and strategic plan we fulfil a unique role in the community by improving the day-to-day life of our clients and tackling key issues such as social exclusion and helplessness.”

### Secret Street Tours

“Secret Street Tours is a non-profit social enterprise that trains those affected by homelessness to become walking tour guides of their neighbourhoods. We aim to empower our guides to take back control of this narrative and offers the public an accessible and friendly channel to engage with this critical social issue.”

# IMPACT AWARD

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## MEDIUM ORGANISATIONS FINALISTS

### Engaging Dementia

“Engaging Dementia was set up to address the isolation and despair that dementia can bring. Our founder, a Speech and Language Therapist, developed a therapeutic activity for people with moderate to late dementia, which she called Sonas (the Irish word for joy).”

### Immigrant Council of Ireland

“We promote participation and inclusion of migrants across all aspects of Irish life, and provide opportunities for migrants to educate themselves in areas including politics and community activism.”

### Senior Line

“SeniorLine was established in 1998 as a national confidential listening service for older people provide by trained older volunteers. It is: Ireland’s only such peer-to-peer telephone service for seniors; a Freefone service; open 365 days; from 10am to 10pm. We have been successful in reaching our cohort and had 10,000 calls last year, the constant underlying theme was loneliness.”

### Specialisterne Ireland

“Specialisterne Ireland is a not-for-profit specialist recruitment agency, committed to supporting individuals on the Autism Spectrum, or who experience similar challenges to obtain and maintain employment. In Ireland 85% of individuals with Autism are under or unemployed.”

### Wexford Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service DAC (Wexford Rape Crisis)

“Wexford Rape Crisis (WRC) is a client-centered support service for those who may have been affected by domestic, sexual or gender-based violence, including women, men, young people and all persons of different sexual or gender identities.”

# IMPACT AWARD

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## LARGE ORGANISATIONS FINALISTS

### Barretstown

“Childhood stops for seriously ill children. At Barretstown, we Press Play on childhood. Barretstown was founded in 1994 by the late actor and philanthropist, Paul Newman, provides life-changing Residential and Outreach Programmes for children affected by serious illness and their families in a safe, fun environment, supported by 24-hour on site medical and nursing care, all free of charge.”

### LauraLynn Children's Hospice

“There are over 3,800 children in Ireland living with a life-limiting condition. More than 1,900 of these children have palliative care needs and up to 720 at any one time are classed as unstable, deteriorating or at end-of-life & in immediate need of hospice care. LauraLynn is the only Children's Hospice in the Republic of Ireland. We provide essential support to families at the toughest of times.”

### Saint Joseph's Shankill

“At Saint Joseph's we cannot change the devastating effects dementia has on people and their families. But we can and have changed the way we care for people. To achieve excellence in dementia care, the best outcomes have been proven that people living with dementia should live in their own homes, supported by adequate care.”

### Threshold

“Threshold's vision is of an Ireland where everyone has access to affordable, secure, suitable and good quality housing for future generations. Founded in 1978, Threshold is continuing to prevent families from ever experiencing the nightmare of homelessness. Truly a frontline service, Threshold works to protect the homes of the most vulnerable in Ireland.”

### 50808

“50808 is a first of its kind for Ireland: a free 24/7 text service, providing everything from a calming chat to immediate support for people going through a mental health or emotional crisis - big or small. From breakups or bullying, to anxiety, depression and suicidal feelings, our Crisis Volunteers are available 24/7 for anonymous text conversations.”



# SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR

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## **Airfield Estate - Community Meals Initiative**

“We give people tools and knowledge to make better food choices through food classes, workshops and demonstrations. All of our activities are based around our GLAS principals (Go with the seasons, Local for produce, Avoid food waste and Sustainable business) and they have been accessed by over 1 million people in the last four years through physical interactions and since Covid, online/blended.”

## **COPE Galway - Meals4Health**

“Meals4Health supports older people to live independently at home for as long as possible with home delivered meals which combine great taste with nutritional support. Menus can be viewed and ordered on our age appropriate website or over the phone. All meals can be modified to suit medically related dietary needs.”

## **Foodcloud**

“FoodCloud offers two solutions to redistribute surplus food to a network of over 700 charities across Ireland: A technology solution that connects over 500 Irish supermarkets with surplus or excess food directly to local charities. In the UK, FoodCloud works in partnership with Food Redistribution NGO FareShare, to connect over 2,900 stores directly with over 7000 local charities across the country.”

## **MyMind**

“MyMind provides face to face and online counselling and psychotherapy services for mild to moderate mental health issues to adults, children, adolescents, couples and families. We have a team of over 100 mental health professionals who provide services in 15 languages using a variety of therapeutic methods.

## **Spraoi agus Spórt**

“In 2010, friends Helen Nolan, Ailbhe Hickey, Louise Grant, Helen Doherty and Kathleen Gallagher were young mums in Donegal who were desperately in need of a social outlet, as were many of their friends. We dreamt of a family hub and in June 2010, we made that dream a reality.”

# TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

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**Paddy Doherty**

**Leave No Trace Ireland**

“At Board level Paddy gives strength and support to other Board members by focussing on processes and people, enabling the Board to function as a decision-making body. “



**Tara Farrell**

**AONTAS**

“Tara (Chairperson) embodies the values of the organisation by leading through a social justice framework: creating a participatory, democratic process in Board meetings; offering respectful constructive challenge; and overseeing organisational compliance...”



**Kevin Gregory**

**Irish Penal Reform Trust**

“Kevin’s careful stewardship of the organisation’s finances allows IPRT to give assurance to funders and donors to ensure their continued support, which in turn allows IPRT to pursue our work towards a fairer and more equal Ireland.”



**Donal Kavanagh**

**Jack and Jill Children’s Foundation**

“Our nominee, Donal Kavanagh, a Jack & Jill Board member for 18 years, the last 4 as Chairman, has advanced our purpose by sharpening our Vision to 2023 and testing it right across our nursing and fundraising team.”



**Anne-Marie Taylor**

**Irish Hospice Foundation**

“Anne-Marie joined our board after years of volunteering on various programmes. Her Board inputs are astute, strategic, compassionate and considered.”

# COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

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## Noelle Fitzsimons Victim Support at Court

Noelle has been volunteering since the 1990s by providing support to victims of all types of crime. It started out with her local priest asking her to help a victim of crime by chatting to them and then going with them to court when the time came. She volunteered with Victim Support Ireland for many years before becoming a founder member of Victim Support at Court (V-SAC) in 2005. She supported victims of crime in the Four Courts, courts in the Dublin Metropolitan area and other courts around the country. It was due to Noelle's

love for the Tallaght Community that she eventually based herself in Tallaght District Court on a daily basis and always on a voluntary basis. When Tallaght court was open for business, you could be guaranteed that Noelle would be there.



She is well respected by the judges presiding over proceedings, An Garda Siochana, legal professionals and other support agencies. Always at the forefront of Noelle's mind are the victims she meets and she is a great ambassador for V-AC. She was awarded the V-SAC Outstanding Contribution Award in 2018 in recognition for her dedication and commitment to the victims and the charity.

Noelle's presence in court every day meant that victims arriving to court would be greeted by Noelle's smile and calming nature. Most victims have never set foot in a court before and would be incredibly nervous of the formal setting and of the prospect of seeing the accused. Noelle would chat to the victim over a cuppa in the small victim support room within the courthouse and explain what to expect when their case was called. Noelle's knowledge of the criminal justice system and her gentle way with victims empowered them to enter the courtroom with some confidence, knowing that Noelle was there just for them every step of the way.

In 2019 alone, Noelle gave 163 days of her own time to providing much needed support to over 200 victims and victims' families of such crimes as domestic violence, theft, burglary, murder, sexual abuse, among others. Noelle is looked up to by all V-SAC's staff and volunteers. Noelle has a positive effect on everyone she encounters and has a great sense of humour, which is a great asset when dealing with serious issues on a regular basis.

# ABOUT THE WHEEL



Stronger Charities.  
Stronger Communities.

The Wheel is Ireland's national association of community, voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises. We are a representative voice and a supportive resource that offers advice, training, influence and advocacy for the sector. Visit [www.wheel.ie](http://www.wheel.ie) for more information.

## WITH THANKS

The Wheel would like to acknowledge the contribution of all those who gave their time and support to the Charity Impact Awards including: Alma Curran - Medtronic, the judging panel, Jim Boyle from Clann Credo, Chris Gordan from the Irish Social Enterprise Network, Liz Hughes from Charities Institute of Ireland, Andrew Madden from Carmichael, Gaby Murphy from Boardmatch and Amy Woods, Volunteer Ireland and our independent adjudicator Ruth Powel.

We are indebted to you all.

We would also like to pay considerable appreciation to our partners without whom this could not have happened.

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