

Friday 15 November

# Winners celebrated at new prestigious Welsh Charity Awards ceremony

The brand-new Welsh Charity Awards took place this evening (15 November) at a prestigious ceremony in the National Museum of Wales, in Cardiff. Nominees of all ten categories travelled the length and breadth of Wales to be at the ceremony, where they were celebrated for the positive difference they have made in each of their communities, to Wales and beyond. Winners were toasted for their extraordinary achievements in each category and were met with rapturous cheers and applause.

Ruth Marks, Chief Executive of WCVA, organisers of the brand-new Welsh Charity Awards, said: 'WCVA are thrilled to have been able to throw a spotlight on the work of volunteers and organisations in the third sector in Wales. Each nominee and winner have set an exemplary standard of excellence and as a judging panel, we were blown away by their dedication and passion for the work they do in making a real difference to the lives of thousands of people.'

**On the ceremony itself, she said:** 'Our brand-new, inaugural Welsh Charity Awards have been a roaring success, and we are thrilled they've been embraced by the sector. Huge congratulations to everyone!'

The much-coveted **Volunteer of the Year** award was given to the very dedicated **Momena Ali**, the founder and president of Swansea based EYST Wales, which provides young BME people, aged 11 to 25 years, with a culturally sensitive and holistic support service.

For the past 15 years, Momena Ali has been the heart and soul of the charity, volunteering thousands of hours of her time, guiding and steering the staff and board of trustees to grow and develop EYST into the thriving organisation that it is today.

**Momena Ali said:** 'EYST is a wonderful organisation, and I'm so proud to be part of its family. We all have a responsibility to our community and volunteering is so rewarding that I can honestly say it has been my pleasure.'

**Organisation of the Year** was awarded to the entirely voluntary organisation, **Blood Bikes**, which provides a free courier service to the NHS, delivering blood supplies, plasma, human breast milk, documents and other vital items across the whole country. The service is free of charge and operates every day of the year, including bank holidays and Christmas Day.

**Blood Bikes Chair, Nigel Ward, said:** 'Our volunteers are incredible and I know NHS Staff across the country value their contribution enormously. Winning this award will raise the profile of the charity and inspire us to become even bigger and better in 2020.'

The **Change Makers award** went to **Diabetes UK Cymru** for its powerful and energetic campaigning, including the 'Know Type 1' campaign, with the Baldwin family from Cardiff, whose son, Peter, passed away aged 13 years from undiagnosed Type 1 diabetes.

**Sally Taylor-Goodwin, Communications Manager for Diabetes UK Cymru, said:** "'Know Type 1" has had a direct impact on people's awareness of the symptoms, with two mums approaching us directly crediting the Baldwin family and the campaign for their children's safe diagnosis. Our campaign is ongoing and we are honoured to work with the Baldwin family to help create a legacy for their son, Peter; the work does not stop here.'

As well as announcing the winners the awards ceremony also revealed the recipient of the Third Sector Prize, which will see winners **Cerebra** receive £10,000 worth of video production and campaign delivery. The prize is a partnership between WCVA and Cardiff based video production company, Rockadove, who will be working with the Welsh charity to promote their work supporting families across the UK with children with brain condition.

The full list of winners can be seen below, and at [welshcharityawards.cymru](http://welshcharityawards.cymru). The date for nominations for next year's Welsh Charity Awards will be announced in the New Year.

NOMINEE	LOCATION
<b>Change Makers Award (sponsored by designdough)</b>	
<b>WINNER</b> - Diabetes UK Cymru	National
<b>Runner up</b> - Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales	National
<b>Runner up</b> - The Homeless World Cup Cardiff 2019	Cardiff
<b>Outstanding Trustees Award (sponsored by Hugh James)</b>	
<b>WINNER</b> - Neuro Therapy Centre Trustee Board	North Wales (Flintshire)
<b>Runner up</b> - Antur Waunfawr	North Wales
<b>Runner up</b> - Llanharan Community Development Project	South Wales (Rhondda Cynnon Taff)
<b>Best use of Welsh Language Award (sponsored by Ateb)</b>	
<b>WINNER</b> - Y Bartneriaeth Awyr Agored   The Outdoor Partnership	National (North Wales)
<b>Runner up</b> - Clwb Gemau Fideo Menter Caerffili   Menter Caerffili's Video Game Club	Caerphilly
<b>Runner up</b> - Ffederasiwn Cenedlaethol Sefydliad y Merched   National Federation of Women's Institutes	National
<b>Volunteer of the Year Award (sponsored by Keegan &amp; Pennykid)</b>	
<b>WINNER</b> - Momena Ali	National (Swansea)
<b>Runner up</b> - Elizabeth Williams	South Wales (Rhondda Cynnon Taff)
<b>Runner up</b> - Katie Clark	Vale of Glamorgan
<b>Young Volunteer of the Year Award (sponsored by Rockadove)</b>	
<b>WINNER</b> - Laura Ann Moulding	National (Cardiff)
<b>Runner up</b> - Bethany Burrell	North Wales (Gwynedd)
<b>Runner up</b> - Catrin Sian Davies	Swansea
<b>Thriving Charity Award (sponsored by Impact Innovation)</b>	

<b>WINNER</b> - ACE (Action in Caerau and Ely)	Cardiff
<b>Runner up</b> - Carmarthenshire Youth and Children's Association	Carmarthenshire
<b>Runner up</b> - Cynon Valley Museum Trust	Rhondda Cynnon Taff
<b>Community Engagement Award (sponsored by The National Lottery Community Fund)</b>	
<b>WINNER</b> - Mal's Marauders Men's Health	South Wales (Port Talbot)
<b>Runner up</b> - Sight life (formerly Cardiff Institute for the Blind)	South Wales (Cardiff)
<b>Runner up</b> - The Outdoor Partnership	National (North Wales)
<b>Volunteer Team of the Year Award (sponsored by Print Sauce)</b>	
<b>WINNER</b> - Central Beacons Mountain Rescue Team	Bridgend
<b>Runner up</b> - Community Furniture Aid	Bridgend
<b>Runner up</b> - Hear to Help Powys	Powys
<b>Organisation of the Year Award (sponsored by Class Networks)</b>	
<b>WINNER</b> - Blood Bikes Wales	National
<b>Runner up</b> - ACE (Action in Caerau and Ely)	Cardiff
<b>Runner up</b> - Mudiad Meithrin	National
<b>Runner up</b> - Music in Hospitals & Care	National
<b>Runner up</b> - Stephens and George Charitable Trust	Merthyr Tydfil
<b>Runner up</b> - St John Cymru - Wales	National

\_\_\_ ENDS \_\_\_

**For more information, please contact Simon Dowling  
on 07796115762**

#### Notes to editors

- All members of the judging panel are listed below:
  - Ruth Marks, Chief Executive WCVA (Chair of judging pane)
  - Mike Lewis, Grant Manager Wales, Lloyds Bank Foundation
  - Jonathan Levy, Managing Director, Class Networks
  - John Rose, Acting Wales Director, National Lottery Community Fund
  - Joe Brown, Founder- Director, designdough
  - Catrin Pascoe, Editor, Western Mail

- Mrs Margaret Thorne CBE DL, Vice President of WCVA
- Rachal Minchinton, Chair, IOF Cymru
- Tahirah Ali, #iWill Youth Ambassador for Wales
- Llinos Iorwerth, Director, Ateb
- Ashok Ahir, President of the National Eisteddfod Court and Chair of the Eisteddfod Management Board
- David Notley, Impact Innovation
- Lisa Morgan, Partner, Hugh James
- **Full details can be found here:** <https://welshcharityawards.cymru>
- Free repro images from the award can be found here: <https://we.tl/t-SH89lv0Cpb>. Photos of individual runners-up will be available in due course, please contact Simon Dowling on 07796115762
- We can provide a back story for each winner and nominee – please get in touch and we can provide full details, together with free repro photograph.
- Nominations opened on 5 August until 2 October, with the shortlist announced in the week commencing 21 October and the awards ceremony taking place on 15 November.
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) is the national membership body for voluntary organisations in Wales. We exist to enable voluntary organisations in Wales to make a bigger difference together.
- For more information about Rockadove and its Third Sector Prize, visit [www.rockadove.co.uk](http://www.rockadove.co.uk) and for more details about the work of Cerebra, visit [www.cerebra.org.uk](http://www.cerebra.org.uk)

*In order for us to promote the voluntary sector in Wales and update our press contacts about relevant news from WCVA your information is recorded on our database. Please read our [privacy notice](#), available on WCVA's website, to find out how your information will be used, who can access it, the legal bases on which your information is held and your rights in relation to this information.*

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