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YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS OF THE YEAR IRELAND AWARDS 2017

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Thank you!

A huge thank you to the educators, the YSI Guides, Principals, staff, parents, friends, and others who have supported and facilitated our wonderful teams. The encouragement and support of those around us really makes a difference. You are a big part of why we are able to celebrate our young social innovators.

We are grateful to our Awards Partner, Ulster Bank, for its support and the help of so many volunteers over the year at our 16 regional Speak Out events and Awards Ceremony. You have made YSI's reach and impact grow to an unprecedented level.

We thank also our lead public partner, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government as well as all our public and private partners listed in this book. Thank you for investing in innovation that changes the world.

We thank all our volunteers, panelists, judges, associates and friends. We will work together, with everyone's help, to bring social innovation education into 50% of second-level schools by 2020, giving half of our young people an opportunity to innovate for social good.

Joe O'Flynn, Chairperson, Young Social Innovators

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Official Partner of Young Social Innovators 2017

With thanks to our lead public partner

An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

Design by **Alan Hatton**
Photography by **Derek Speirs & Aileen O'Hagan**

©**Young Social Innovators**
Dublin, Ireland, 2017

I am very pleased to support Young Social Innovators and its great work in firing young peoples' passion to change the world for good. We know all too well the huge resourcefulness of young people and we are happy to provide opportunities to empower them to engage in social innovation in communities throughout Ireland.

Thanks to this support and the work of Young Social Innovators, we are developing young innovative and entrepreneurial minds who are tackling real issues in communities. These young social innovators bring new insight, passion and innovative actions to many of the difficult challenges we face today. Social innovation can be used well to tackle the many challenges we face locally, regionally, nationally and globally. We need to enable and empower each and every citizen to actively engage and build not only a strong economy, but a fair society.

I have seen many of the youth-led social innovations first hand and I wish to congratulate all involved. I give particular acknowledgement to the wonderful YSI Guides and to the integral role of forward-thinking schools, organisations, education bodies, community and local groups, businesses, public and private bodies and individuals who support young people and their social innovations.

Ireland is unique in promoting social innovation and entrepreneurial learning amongst teenagers. This is largely due to the work of Young Social Innovators. The benefits of social innovation and entrepreneurial learning and practice from an early age will inevitably mean that we as a country will continue to become increasingly confident, innovative, aware and resilient in our efforts to create a fairer, more sustainable and inclusive world.

Simon Coveney TD
Minister for Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government

Congratulations!

Our partnership with Young Social Innovators is one of the many ways Ulster Bank makes a difference to the communities we live and work in. In recent years, financial education, entrepreneurship and innovation have been key focus areas for us - areas where we have core strengths. We now have an opportunity to lead change and to add long-term value to our communities and economy.

Education has the capacity to transform the lives of individuals and societies. Nowhere is this more evident than in social innovation education. The projects captured here are testament to young people's desire to tackle social issues. Innovation skills are vitally important to designing effective solutions for social problems. But they are equally vital in many other aspects of life, including in the workplace and in organisations such as ours. Our sector, like so many others, is experiencing rapid transformation, and there has probably never been a time when innovation skills are more essential to survival and success.

These innovation stories are a powerful testament to the impact of educators and young change-makers in Ireland. It is our privilege to partner with Young Social Innovators and to know that our support helps them reach and encourage more young people to change the world for good.

Gerry Mallon, CEO
Ulster Bank

7,300 young people created 456 social innovations in Ireland this year. Congratulations to each of you for taking part in this vast movement of young people who are shaping Ireland's future. This is what Young Social Innovators is about. Please know that each and every one of you is appreciated for what you have done.

Some challenging issues such as human trafficking, refugees, integration, suicide, substance abuse, services and facilities, safety and protection, environmental issues, gender equality, sexual consent, homelessness, human rights, sustainable living, and physical and mental wellbeing were addressed this year and some really innovative ideas and actions were developed.

Please continue to follow your passions and continue to work for a fairer, more inclusive and just society. Don't stop now. We hope that, through YSI, you know that what you do and indeed, don't do, really matters.

We are pleased to present some of the stories of the YSI Awardees of 2017. These show how creative, inspiring and entrepreneurial you all are. We can see that, given the opportunity, young social innovators can and do develop impactful innovations which add value to communities and society.

We ask that local services, businesses, schools, parents and communities right around Ireland celebrate, recognise and harness the passion of the young social innovators among you.

Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy and Rachel Collier
Co-Founders, Young Social Innovators

YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS OF THE YEAR IRELAND AWARDS 2017

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The Young Social Innovators of the Year Awards were introduced to promote and celebrate youth-led social innovation.

This year, over 7000 young people took part in Young Social Innovators tackling important social issues in creative and inspiring ways.

Every team of young people deserves to be applauded and recognised for their innovative efforts to bring about positive social change and to create a fairer and more equal Ireland.

These Awards recognise those teams whose actions have been judged to be the most innovative and impactful.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in 2017!

"The YSI programme provides a unique opportunity for young people to be an active force in our country's social, political and economic development and wellbeing. I am delighted to support this important initiative and I wish to congratulate all involved in the Young Social Innovators of the Year Awards 2017."

Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

Join the conversation!

@YSInow #UBYSI

AWARDS CEREMONY SCHEDULE
9.50am - 12.45pm

Opening Ceremony

MC Mary Kennedy, RTÉ
PERFORMERS XOD
GUEST SPEAKERS Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government; Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy, Co-Founder, Young Social Innvovators

2017 Challenge Award Presentations

MAKE OUR COMMUNITY BETTER
Presenter: Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

MAKE OUR WORLD GREENER
Presenter: Anita Fitzgerald, Higher Executive Officer, Department of Education and Skills

STEP UP
Presenter: John Hammond, Acting Chief Executive, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

MAKE OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
Presenter: David Logan, Youth Affairs Unit, Department of Children and Youth Affairs

MAKE OUR COUNTRY MORE INCLUSIVE AND POVERTY FREE
Presenter: Helen Faughnan, Assistant Secretary, Department of Social Protection

MAKE OUR WORLD HEALTHIER (MENTAL HEALTH)
Presenter: Hugh Duane, Research Assistant, National Office for Suicide Prevention

MAKE OUR WORLD FAIR AND JUST
Presenter: Catherine Allen, Partner, Mason Hayes and Curran

MAKE OUR WORLD HEALTHIER (PHYSICAL HEALTH)
Presenter: Sarah O'Brien, National Lead, Healthy Eating and Active Living Programme, HSE Health Promotion Unit

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUAL HEALTH
Presenter: Helen Deely, Head of HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme

MAKE OUR WORLD ONE WORLD
Presenter: Mary McCarthy, Programme Director, WorldWise Global Schools

MAKE OUR WORLD SAFER
Presenter: Grace Kelly, Head of SHEQ (IRL/UK) & Compliance, Actavo

2017 Spotlight Awards

MOBILE FOR GOOD AWARD
Presenter: Anne Carroll, IT Delivery Programme Manager, Vodafone Ireland

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARD
Presenter: Doireann Garrihy, Presenter, Spin1038

YSI FUN-RAISING AWARD
Presenter: Caroline McHale, Team Leader, Post-primary Subjects and Programmes, LCVP & TY, Professional Development Service for Teachers

SOCIAL INNOVATION AND STEM AWARD
Presenter: Robert Love, Head of Communications, AbbVie

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS AWARD
Presenter: Terence O'Rourke, Chairperson, Enterprise Ireland

2017 YSI Legacy Awards

HIGH IMPACT AWARD

LET THEM SHINE EDUCATOR AWARD
Presenter: Joe O'Flynn, Chairperson, Young Social Innovators

2017 Young Social Innovators of the Year Announcements

2017 GOLD JUNIOR AWARD
Presenter: Rachel Collier, CEO and Co-Founder, Young Social Innovators

JUDGES REMARKS
Donal O'Callaghan, Judge's Chairperson, Board Member, Young Social Innovators

2017 BRONZE AWARD, SILVER AWARD, GOLD AWARD
Presenters: Gerry Mallon, CEO, Ulster Bank; Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy, Co-founder, Young Social Innovators

YSI Judging Panel 2017

Donal O'Callaghan, *Judge's Chairperson, YSI Board Member,*
Aidan Clifford, *Former Director, Curriculum Development Unit*
David Erixon, *Head of Digital & Customer Innovation, Ulster Bank*
Niall Muldoon, *Ombudsman for Children, Ombudsman for Children's Office*
Sharon Murray, *Education Support Worker, South Dublin County Partnership*
Jane Hayes Nally, *President, Irish Second-Level Students' Union*

YOUNG
SOCIAL
INNOVATORS
OF THE YEAR IRELAND
AWARDS
2017

Challenge Awardees

These eleven projects are recognised as being outstanding in their category.

They are being awarded for their innovative efforts to bring about positive social change and one of them will become the 2017 Young Social Innovators of the Year.

Make Our Community Better

DEAL WITH THE WHEELS

St. Mary's Secondary School
Convent of Mercy, Ballina
Co. Mayo
@Dealwthewheels

Having set up a focus group with people who use wheelchairs, these innovators wanted to make their hometown more wheelchair-friendly and to raise awareness about the difficulties that people who use wheelchairs face.

They also identified a lack of awareness of the frustrations and obstacles that people who use wheelchairs face, such as unauthorised parking in wheelchair spaces.

Hosting a 'Wheel Chair Day', the team asked local people to use a wheelchair to make their way around Ballina. They also hosted a wheelchair awareness week in their school.

> "We were inspired to make a change in our local community because no person should have to experience a time when they are treated unequally."

The group met with local businesses and politicians to discuss their project. Keen to take a positive approach to the problem, they used messaging that applauded the presence of existing facilities while also advocating the need for improvement and increased awareness.

A website is currently in design by the team featuring a detailed map of Ballina highlighting all wheelchair-friendly spots in the town making it easier for wheelchair users to plan their journeys.

They will put forward a motion to the district council to set up a panel of people with disabilities that would assess buildings on how accessible they are.

They received excellent publicity, participating in a discussion on Mid-West Radio that aired to 50,000 people and gained support from local TDs, councillors, and businesses. They also met with the town engineer to discuss the design of future facilities.

Deal with the Wheels has empowered the people of Ballina to make a positive difference to the lives of people who use wheelchairs.

YSI Guide: Denise Mulherin

Highly Commended
This Ability
Ursuline College, Finisklin, Co. Sligo

Make Our World Greener

DITCH YOUR CARBON CUP PRINT

C.B.S. Charleville
Bakers Road, Charleville
Co. Cork
@DitchYourCCP

The world's coffee culture is having a detrimental impact on the environment with one million paper cups a minute being discarded in landfill sites each year.

The idea for Ditch Your Carbon Cup Print was sparked when students noticed huge quantities of paper coffee cups in their school's bins.

The team's aim was to reduce carbon emissions locally and nationally by promoting the use of reusable coffee cups.

The Charleville team organised the first ever 'Ditch Your Carbon Cup Print' week in the town of Charleville, where consumers were encouraged to use their own cups instead of paper ones when buying take-away drinks.

In order to encourage people to use a reusable cup, local businesses gave a discount to those who supplied their own cup.

> "We began to think about the individual's carbon footprint associated with this daily habit. We decided to research the cost to the environment from the use of and disposal of the paper cup."

The team created and distributed informational material and the campaign received extensive local media coverage in The Corkman and The Limerick Leader.

The young people contacted politicians for advice on how to expand their project including Minister Micheál Martin, and the Minister for the Environment, Denis Naughten. Their research led them to contacts in the US who have designed a reusable, collapsible cup which the team feel may increase convenience for consumers and therefore the potential impact of their project.

The team are eager to present their model to the Department of the Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency to instigate a national rollout of this campaign.

YSI Guides: Carol Merrick and Mary Mulroe

Highly Commended
Wild Atlantic Waste
Sligo Grammar School, The Mall, Co. Sligo

Step Up

GLOBAL CITIZENS MAPPING THE FUTURE

Portmarnock Community School
Carrickhill Road
Co. Dublin
@GlobalCitMTF

In recent years, Portmarnock Community School used humanitarian mapping to successfully map the Kingdom of Lesotho in southern Africa.

This year's team wanted to develop a practical solution that empowers people in developing countries who find themselves in emergency situations.

The team focused on creating a mobile app that utilises mapping data. They consulted with the Ambassador to Lesotho, H.E. Mr. Paramente Phamotse, who provided them with valuable support and advice.

'Mobile Emergency' is a mobile app that uses geolocation mapping for emergency services. When a user needs emergency services, they receive their GPS coordinates at the click of a button. They can then relay these coordinates to a dispatcher for the emergency services.

> "Our school is twinned with Hlalele High School in Lesotho. This link compelled us to commit to meaningful support, and humanitarian mapping emerged as such support."

The team also continued the work of previous years through Mapathons - sessions of intensive digital mapping that adds to existing mapping data of Lesotho.

The innovators have worked with IBM, Dublin Fire Brigade, Irish Aid and with the Senior Planner at Fingal County Council. Their network was expanded this year by an introduction made through the YSI Den to University College Dublin. They also have plans to work with the geographical department in Dublin Institute of Technology.

The team is working to bring their app offline, and to add a 'Help Yourself' feature. This will allow users to input information about the emergency they find themselves in and receive advice.

YSI Guide: Colette Cronin

Highly Commended
URAC (Uniting Race and Creed)
Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Make Our World a Better Place for Young People

Award Sponsored by

An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children and Youth Affairs

NASCADH LE CHÉILE

Heywood Community School
Ballinakill, Portlaoise
Co. Laois
@NascadhLeCheile

"Young people themselves have so much information and wisdom about the issues and concerns that affect them and their peers. They need to be supported to be involved in developing solutions that help to make the world a better place for young people."

Bernie McNally, Assistant Secretary, Department of Children and Youth Affairs

According to the Central Statistics Office, only 16.8% of 15-24 year olds volunteered in Ireland in 2013. The team carried out a survey in their school, contacted charities and carried out secondary research to learn more about why so few young people volunteer. They found that, although young people are interested, information on volunteering is not very accessible.

> "Our main aim is to connect the skills and enthusiasm of today's young people with the needs and wants of society."

In response, they set up *www.teenagevolunteer.org*, which includes a database of volunteering opportunities and fundraising events. They developed social media and poster campaigns, and hosted events in their efforts to promote volunteering initiatives for young people.

> "Recognising the amazing contribution young people can make in society, we decided to create an online platform to connect students with the opportunity to make this contribution."

To incentivise students, they introduced a Student Volunteer of the Year Award in their school. They teamed up with charities including the Lyons Club, the Simon Community, Cara Rescue Dogs, Pieta House, St. Vincent de Paul, Amnesty International, GOAL, and Concern. The team received mentoring from Volunteers Ireland after pitching to the YSI Den.

The innovators plan to expand their Student Volunteer of the Year initiative and Nascadh Le Chéile to all secondary schools in Laois and their ultimate goal is to expand the project nationwide.

YSI Guide: Fiona Brennan

Highly Commended
All About Maria
St. Fintan's High School, Dublin Road, Sutton, Dublin 13

INTERCULTURAL BOOK EXCHANGE

St. Aidan's Community School
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Make Our Country More Inclusive & Poverty Free

Award Sponsored by

An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection
www.welfare.ie

"The Department of Social Protection is proud to support Young Social Innovators. This programme contributes to our shared goals of the eradication of poverty and a more inclusive society. We value the work undertaken by young people which has impacted on the communities where they live and provides a deeper understanding of current social challenges."

Helen Faughnan, Assistant Secretary, Department of Social Protection

As avid readers, this team of school journalists felt that books should be available to everyone in their community, no matter what language they speak.

Their school community includes parents and grandparents from different countries who speak many different languages. Their project aimed to acquire books that community members could read in their native language and share through an Intercultural Book Exchange programme.

> "Books and stories have so much to offer people of all ages and every generation. We thought that if we could unite people through books we could tackle several real world issues."

They worked closely with their Home School Liaison Officer, school librarian, Chaplain, school parents' group and student council. They promoted their project in the school newsletter and website. With support from the YSI Den, the team set up a designated library and reading space with books in different languages to support people to read in their native language.

> "Reading, community, equality and friendship are what we are trying to promote."

The team holds monthly coffee mornings and invites members of the community to take part in the Intercultural Book Exchange. Through these coffee mornings the team is fostering inclusion among the various nationalities that are represented in their school and community.

Through this project, these challenge winners have used their passion for reading as a vehicle to create a more inclusive community.

YSI Guide: Suzanne McVicker

Highly Commended
HEAR SAY
Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School, New Ross, Co. Wexford

MEND A MIND - IT'S A DISORDER NOT A CONDITION

Largy College
Clones
Co. Monaghan
@LargyYSI16_17

Make Our World Healthier (Mental Health)

Award Sponsored by

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

"Encouraging our young people to be aware of and look after their mental health is a priority within our national suicide prevention strategy, Connecting for Life. *Giving them platforms to explore and talk about mental health issues will ultimately help mental health awareness and stigma reduction."*

Sarah Woods, Communications Manager
National Office for Suicide Prevention

Concerned about the stigma and secrecy associated with mental health issues and the impact these have on preventing those affected seeking help, these inspirational students embarked on a journey to deliver a strong message; that there is no shame in talking about mental health.

Working with a wide range of organisations, individuals and professionals in the area of mental health, these young people undertook a multitde of activities to promote their message.

> "We wanted to be a beacon of light for our family and friends who are in a dark place."

Their community 'Lighting Up the Darkness' event attracted 500 walkers and every house along the walking route supported the initative by placing a candle in their window to show solidarity with people living in darkness.

A second community event promoting physical activity, good nutrition, relaxation and socialising as key factors contributing to good mental health received huge support from local businesess, clubs and organisations. It featured guest speakers, cookery, yoga and meditation demonstrations, comedy performances, a bounceathon, and a tearoom promoting and encouraging conversation over a cuppa.

The team's original video illustrating the impactful poem 'Explaining My Depression to My Mother' reached over 27,000 people online and was shortlisted for St Patrick's Mental Hospital's video competition.

> "Mental Health issues affected everyone in the group, some directly and personally and the rest identified because of family and friends."

A positive mental health calendar, a strong social media campaign, the delivery of workshops for primary and secondary students, and a range of other creative school and community-based activities have all combined to achieve significant impact.

YSI Guide: Sascha Cumiskey

Highly Commended
Depression: A Struggle Within
Youthreach, Moynehall Industrial Estate, Ballinagh Road, Cavan

Make Our World Fair and Just

Award Sponsored by

MASON HAYES & CURRAN

NO LIMITS

St. Joseph's College
Lucan
Co. Dublin
@NoLimits1234

The No Limits has team has produced two original storybooks that promote an important message; people with disabilities have abilities and talents and should not be treated differently. This is a meaningful issue for the team as some of their family members have experienced discrimination.

> "Through their representation in fairy tales, we wanted to make all children feel included and accepted. Our ultimate goal was to improve their under-representation in children's literature."

The innovators wrote and produced two inspirational children's books; one involving a superhero in a wheelchair and another about a mermaid with epilepsy.

Working with fellow student and illustrator Kelly McCarvill, the team added colourful imagery to the stories. They worked closely with a local printer and Councillor Vicki Casserly to promote the books. The students sought guidance from organisations including Barretstown, Enable Ireland, Blossom Ireland, The Irish Wheelchair Association, Epilepsy Ireland and Down Syndrome Ireland.

> "We want to show children with disabilities or special needs that nobody, including themselves, should ever put limits on their abilities and talents."

With support from the YSI Den, the team is developing a third book. They have already received orders from South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and Dublin City University Sport. They have also been asked to participate in SDCC's Social Inclusion Week, as well as National Accessibility Week.

The team are not only bringing joy to young people, they are educating all of us with their beautifully produced books.

YSI Guide: Catherine Bligh

Highly Commended
No One Comes Knocking On My Door
Holy Family School for the Deaf, Navan Road, Cabra, Dublin 7

Make Our World Healthier (Physical Health)

Award Sponsored by

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

BREAKING THE BORDERS AROUND EATING DISORDERS

Eureka Seconday School
Kells
Co. Meath
@BBED_YSI

"Active, engaged and innovative young people are the key to creating a healthy future for all. The Health Service Executive is delighted to sponsor this award to support and recognise the valuable contribution students and teachers across Ireland are making to Healthy Ireland."

Sarah O'Brien, National Lead: Healthy Eating and Active Living Programme, HSE

A survey of students conducted by this team in their school discovered 77.2% of their peers think there is a stigma surrounding eating disorders, while just 38.5% said they had received education on the topic.

The team wanted to discard this perceived stigma and encourage open discussion on this subject.

> "We wanted to change the way people address and discuss eating disorders. We're tired of this topic being ignored. If we don't act now, then who will?"

They team spread their campaign message to local media including LMFM and The Westmeath Examiner. They also produced an awareness-raising video on speaking out on eating disorders and promoted it through social media. The video received over 5,000 views in just two days, and reached a global audience, with messages of encouragement coming from as far away as Australia.

> "Most of the class knew different individuals who had suffered from an eating disorder yet nobody felt comfortable talking about it."

Minister for Mental Health, Helen McEntee spoke to the team and invited them to the Dáil to discuss their project.

The team is working towards the introduction of a wellbeing programme to be used in schools to encourage students to speak out about eating disorders.

The National Parents Council Post Primary has also expresssed an interest in helping the team to advance their plans to produce a resource for parents on the issue.

YSI Guide: Martin Devine

Highly Commended
Brainstorm
Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Mission Nutrition
Mount Mercy College, Model Farm Road, Co. Cork

Relationships and Sexual Health

CONSENT MATTERS
St. Angela's College
St. Patrick's Hill
Co. Cork
@_ConsentMatters

Award Sponsored by

HSE Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte Health Service Executive
crisis pregnancy programme

"The HSE Sexual Health Crisis Pregnancy Programme is proud to support this award and we commend and congratulate all schools and young people who participated this year. For further sexual health guidance and support young people, teachers and parents can access youth friendly sexual health information by visiting www.b4udecide.ie*."*

Helen Deely, Head of the Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme

The team from St. Angela's College consulted with the Sexual Violence Centre, their local Sexual Assault Treatment Unit, An Garda Síochána, politicians and young people to improve their understanding of consent.

> "People our age were never taught about consent, so we decided that a central aim of our project should be to educate young people."

They came to the conclusion that young people need to be educated so that they are informed when making decisions around safety and sexual health.

They invited students from schools in their local community to 'Tea Parties'; events where the offering of tea was used as a metaphor for consent, and where experts gave talks on the issue. A survey was taken by attendees before and after the sessions. The results were overwhelming postitive, with the vast number of particpants stating that they knew more about consent following the sessions.

> "We think the best way to go about clarifying the meaning of consent is by educating teenagers and giving them correct information, so that they are informed when making decisions."

The team want to see consent classes introduced in schools. They contacted politicians and met with An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny. Working with journalists, they gained extensive coverage in local media.

They continue to develop a number of exciting initiatives, including the development of a text helpline for the Sexual Violence Centre, which will allow users to contact the centre via text message.

They have educated hundreds of young people about this important social issue.

YSI Guide: Shelly Whelan

Highly Commended
The S Test
Ardscoil Mhuire, Corbally, Co. Limerick

Make Our World One World

Award Sponsored by

Irish Aid
WorldWise Global Schools

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Our Lady's College
Greenhills, Drogheda
Co. Louth

"Making sense of the world we live in, and finding meaningful ways to respond to issues of inequality and injustice, is what this award is all about. When we think and act as global citizens, it increases our knowledge about how the world works, our ability to analyse issues critically, and our sense of solidarity and interconnectedness with others."

Mary McCarthy, Director, World Wise Global Schools

According to a 2015 report by the Department of Justice and Equality, there were 91 new human trafficking investigations initiated in Ireland by An Garda Síochána.

Disturbed by the facts around human trafficking in Ireland, this team endeavoured to gain insight into the issue by contacting The Immigrant Council of Ireland, 'Turn Off The Red Light', Ruhama and Stop the Traffik.

The aim of their project was to increase understanding of the issue of human trafficking and to fundraise in a way that would also spread awareness about the issue.

> "We have been quite vocal and have used our art skills to grab people's attention."

The creative students used art as an innovative campaign messaging tool to highlight the issue in their school and local community by creating stunningly visual communications in the form of hand-drawn posters and cards. Through research they discovered 'zines', self-published mini-magazines, which they embraced to help spread their message.

They promoted these through an inspiring social media campaign and distributed them throughout their school and local community.

The team wanted to encourage people to respond to the problem in a practical way. They asked staff at their school to provide photographs of themselves as thirteen year olds (the average age a child is trafficked). In an innovative fundraising effort, these were displayed in the main hall, and students had the opportunity to pay to 'Guess the Teacher'.

The young social innovators raised much needed money for Ruhuma, which works on a national level with women affected by sex trafficking. Representatives from Ruhuma indicated that, because the team members are a similar age to many of those who are trafficked, their project demonstrates solidarity that may help raise the self-esteem of those affected by trafficking.

YSI Guides: Aine Curran and Sarah O'Neill

Make Our World Safer

Award Sponsored by

Actavo

THINK SAFETY, FARM SAFELY

Tullamore College
Tullamore
Co. Offaly
@TCTY1

Each year, more than 1,000 injuries occur on farms, according to the Irish Farmers Association.

Moved by personal experience, as well as by stark statistics, the young social innovators in Tullamore felt compelled to develop a practical and innovative response to farm safety.

Having spoken with experts, including Teagasc and local farmers, the team identified a life-threatening problem; the failure of tractor drivers to close doors correctly, which regularly leads to falls and accidents.

> "Our group feels very passionately about this issue because we have all known someone that has been in a farming accident."

Working with their YSI guide and industry experts, the team designed a solution; a door sensor for tractors. This device can be installed to a tractor door and will light up and sound an alarm when the ignition switch is on, indicating to the driver that the door is not properly secured.

Both experts and the local farming community confirmed the need for the product and this led to the production of a prototype.

The team are in contact with the Midlands Research and Innovation Centre at Athlone Institute of Technology and the Offaly Enterprise board to discuss future plans to manufacture their product.

They then plan to sell the product at marts, factories, and machinery retailers.

The enterprising spirit, achievement and ambitions of this team are hugely impressive.

YSI Guide: Paul Quirke

YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS OF THE YEAR CHALLENGE 2017 SHORTLIST

MAKE OUR WORLD HEALTHIER CHALLENGE (PHYSICAL HEALTH)

Breaking the Borders around Eating Disorders (Winner)
Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath

Brainstorm (Highly Commended)
Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Mission Nutrition (Highly Commended)
Mount Mercy College, Model Farm Road, Co. Cork

Blood 4 Good
Coláiste Bríde, New Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

LymeLight
Beara Community School, Castletownbere, Beara, Co. Cork

Concussion Discussion
Christian Brothers Secondary School, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork

MAKE OUR WORLD HEALTHIER CHALLENGE (MENTAL HEALTH)

Mend A Mind - It's a Disorder Not a Decision (Winner)
Largy College, Analore Road, Clones, Co. Monaghan

Depression: A Struggle Within (Highly Commended)
Youthreach, Moynehall Industrial Estate, Ballinagh Road, Cavan

One Step At A Time
Comeragh College, Greenside, Carrick-On-Suir, Co. Tipperary

It's Not Just Physical...Get Your Head in the GAAme
Moate Community School, Church Street, Moate, Co. Westmeath

Dear Stress, Let's Break Up!
St. Declan's Community College, Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford

Calm Cubed
Bishopstown Community School, Bishopstown, Co. Cork

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Consent Matters (Winner)
St. Angela's College, St. Patrick's Hill, Co. Cork

The S Test (Highly Commended)
Ardscoil Mhuire, Corbally, Co. Limerick

Let's Talk About Sex
Loreto Secondary School, Spawell Road, Co. Wexford

Operation Consent
Ramsgrange Community School, New Ross, Co. Wexford

No Excuse for Emotional Abuse
St. Mary's Secondary School, Convent Of Mercy, Mallow, Co. Cork

MAKE OUR WORLD SAFER

Think Safety, Farm Safely (Winner)
Tullamore College, Riverside, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Man O' Warning
Beara Community School, Castletownbere, Beara, Co. Cork

Safe Acres
Castleisland Community College, Tonbwee, Co. Kerry

Safe Farm, No Harm
Coláiste Choilm, O'Moore Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

WATER WISE
Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School, New Ross, Co. Wexford

MAKE OUR COMMUNITY BETTER

Deal with the Wheels (Winner)
St. Mary's Secondary School, Convent of Mercy, Ballina, Co. Mayo

This Ability (Highly Commended)
Ursuline College, Finisklin, Co. Sligo

Against the Odds
Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee, Co. Kerry

DPS - Disabled Parking System
C.B.S. Thurles, O'Donovan Rossa St, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

STEP UP

Global Citizens Mapping the Future (Winner)
Portmarnock Community School, Carrickhill Road, Co. Dublin

URAC (Uniting Race and Creed) (Highly Commended)
Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Planet Savers
Castleisland Community College, Tonbwee, Co.Kerry

It's The Yes, Not The Dress
Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath

MAKE OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Nascadh Le Chéile (Winner)
Heywood Community School, Ballinakill, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

All About Maria (Highly Commended)
St. Fintan's High School, Dublin Road, Sutton, Dublin 13

BET you never knew
Coláiste Muire, Harmony Row, Ennis , Co.Clare

ABC Anti Bullying Community
Rosses Community School, Dungloe, Co. Donegal

Transforming Society
St. Joseph's College, Lucan, Co. Dublin

MAKE OUR WORLD ONE WORLD

Human Trafficking (Winner)
Our Lady's College, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co.Louth

The Red Light Project
Gorey Community School, Esmonde Street, Co. Wexford

Street Children of Bucharest Awareness
Meanscoil Gharman, Coill an Bhrúnaigh, Inis Corthaidh, Wexford

Global Goals
Beaufort College, Trim Road, Navan, Co. Meath

MAKE OUR WORLD FAIR AND JUST

No Limits (Winner)
St. Joseph's College, Lucan, Co. Dublin

No One Comes Knocking On My Door (Highly Commended)
Holy Family School for the Deaf, Navan Road, Cabra, Dublin 7

GEMinar Maryfield
Maryfield College, Glandore Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Universal Design
Ursuline College, Finisklin, Co. Sligo

MAKE OUR WORLD GREENER

Ditch Your Carbon Cup Print (Winner)
C.B.S. Charleville, Bakers Road, Charleville, Co. Cork

Wild Atlantic Waste (Highly Commended)
Sligo Grammar School, The Mall, Co. Sligo

The Next Generation - Global Warming
Bailieborough Community School, Bailieborough, Co. Cavan

MAKE OUR COUNTRY MORE INCLUSIVE AND POVERTY FREE

Intercultural Book Exchange (Winner)
St. Aidan's Community School, Brookfield, Tallaght, Dublin 24

HEAR SAY (Highly Commended)
Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School, New Ross, Co. Wexford

Dyslexia Awareness Bunch
Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

The Helping Hands
Loreto Convent, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

2017 Gold Junior Award

#DOGDEFENDERS

St Farnan's Post Primary School
Prosperous
Co. Kildare

CONGRATULATIONS to the first title-holders of the Young Social Innovators of the Year Junior Award!

Six out of seven of the #DogDefenders team own dogs and the entire group was horrified by the idea of a dog being mistreated.

They decided to increase awareness about the prevention of dog abuse and to collect vital funds for the Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA).

> "We as a group think that dog abuse or any animal being mistreated by humans should be stopped right away. Making people aware of the situation in our local community helps to achieve our goal."

The team were keen to educate children about the problem and developed a teaching resource for use at primary level. A bake sale was organised in aid of the DSPCA, raising €220. The innovators invited a representative from the society to give a talk at the school and organised a hamper collection asking students to donate dog supplies for rescued dogs.

The team worked with teachers, staff members, students, and the DSPCA to progress their project. They raised awareness about the issue and informed students of their events through intercom announcements and specially-designed posters.

> "Our advocacy campaign aimed to increase awareness about dog abuse in primary schools, and in our school."

Thanks to the efforts of this creative and innovative team, students in their school are learning and talking about the prevention of dog abuse like never before.

YSI Guide: Rachelle Ward

YOUNG
SOCIAL
INNOVATORS
OF THE YEAR IRELAND
AWARDS
2017

Spotlight Award Winners

Each year, young people across Ireland tackle a variety of social issues in the most innovative of ways.

These Awards cast a spotlight on projects using STEM, social media, and mobile technology and on others who demonstrate strong entrepreneurship and innovative fun-raising.

CONCUSSION DISCUSSION

Christian Brothers Secondary School
Mitchelstown
Co. Cork

Social Entrepreneurs Award

The students involved in this project had a clear goal. They wanted to raise awareness about the dangers of concussion and to create a safe sporting, school, and work environment through the production of a concussion pack.

The idea came about when they recognised how ill-equipped amateur coaches were when dealing with suspected cases of concussion.

The team worked with sporting and medical professionals in the production of their pack. Their work was sponsored by several businesses and clubs in the area and they received endorsement from a local GP.

> "We felt passionate about this issue because many of us play contact sports such as rugby and hurling and we have seen first hand the effects of concussion and the long term issues associated with concussion."

As well as the production of the pack which features: ear plugs, foil blankets, a sick bag, a medical torch, and a set of concussion testing cards, the team contacted and presented to many clubs, schools and businesses.

They sold kits to 15 of the top 50 construction companies in Ireland and also contacted leisure centres and sports arenas to gauge interest. They have been in touch with all of the GAA clubs throughout Cork, Limerick and Tipperary and plan to approach pharmacies and medical supply firms to have their product stocked.

Having sought advice from the local enterprise board, the ambitious innovators plan to upgrade the product's packaging to increase marketability.

It it this enterprising and entrepreneurial spirit that earned this team the Social Entrepreneurs Award.

YSI Guide: Carmel Ryan

IT'S THE YES, NOT THE DRESS

Eureka Secondary School
Kells
Co. Meath

#

Social Media Award

Follow the team on social media:

@YesNotTheDress
@ItsTheYesNotTheDress
@YesNotTheDress

This project was a continuation of last year's Challenge winning project by the same team. The goal of this Step Up project was to educate young people nationwide on the issue of rape culture, its prevalence and how it can be combatted. The team wanted to highlight the importance of sexual consent no matter what the situation and to provide information on this issue in a more modern and interactive way.

Through a series of national peer to peer workshops, the team has been educating students in schools and colleges on the importance of sexual consent and the issue of rape culture. They recognised a need for accessible programmes that teach young people about rape culture and consent and, working with Athlone Institute of Technology through support from the YSI Den, the innovators are in the process of creating a website, yesnotthedress.ie, that will provide consent workshops in an interactive digital format.

> "The lack of basic education around consent among our peers is what strived us to progress the project further."

Following on from their successful poster campaign launched in May 2016, the team plan to launch a further series of posters focussing on consent in both heterosexual and LGBTQ relationships.

These young innovators embraced social media in a big way to bolster their awareness raising efforts. They used Christmas and Valentine's Day to launch two online campaigns; #12DaysOfConsent and #Let'sGetConsensual. In March, their #HeMustConsent campaign was implemented directly targeting young men. They also produced an awareness-raising video, 'Locker Room Talk', which reached almost 15,000 people on Facebook.

The project has been widely featured in Irish mainstream and digital media.

This team's professional approach to social media in support of their overall awareness campaign demonstrated their superlative understanding of the medium and their target audience.

YSI Guide: Jacqueline Glynn

Mobile for Good

Award Sponsored by

Vodafone Ireland Foundation

LYMELIGHT

Beara Community School
Castletownbere
Co. Cork
@LymeLightYSI

Lyme disease, or 'Borreliosis', is a bacterial infection passed to humans through a tick bite. It is currently the world's fastest growing vector-borne disease. Studies report the Republic of Ireland as having one of the highest rates of Lyme disease in Europe with counties Kerry, Wicklow, and Galway being identified as particular hotspots.

The young innovators from the Beara peninsula wanted to raise awareness of Lyme disease and the risks associated with tick bites for those living in their area and for the many tourists that visit each year. They were keen to educate people on the symptoms, which often mimic other illnesses, and they wanted to explore ways of preventing mis or late diagnosis in patients.

> "We feel we have highlighted the severity of the disease, the rising incidences of diagnosis and the many complex issues around the disease in Ireland and internationally."

They liaised with medical professionals and organisations both in Ireland and abroad including Scotland, Germany, the USA, Canada and Australia. They spoke first-hand with disease sufferers and their carers and found Tick Talk Ireland a particularly useful partner. Using the information gathered, the team produced resources and materials for homes, schools, and communities. Their pre-school, primary and post primary school education packs include lesson plans, resources and cross-curricular material on Lyme disease and ticks. They also designed a tick removal pack for First Aid boxes.

The students presented their work to officials in both Cork and Kerry County Councils and the Office of Public Works and sent details of their research, findings, and recommendations which they invited the officials to forward to relevant national bodies.

Promotion through social media channels, the production of videos and advertisements for TV and radio and, in particular, the development of an Android App made this team of innovators stand out as the winner of the Mobile for Good Award.

YSI Guide: Marie Murphy

Social Innovation and STEM Award

Award Sponsored by

abbvie

MAN O' WARNING

Beara Community School
Castletownbere
Co. Cork
@manowarning

"A key objective for AbbVie across Ireland is to help transform, promote and support STEM-related projects, so we are delighted to support this exciting new award category. Our aspiration is to help Irish students better see the potential that undoubtedly exists for successful, fulfilling careers utilising STEM disciplines in Ireland, with locally-based companies such as AbbVie."
Caroline McClafferty, HR Director, AbbVie

2016 saw one of the largest infestations of the Portuguese Man o'war jellyfish in Ireland in over 100 years. The influx prompted Irish Water Safety to issue warnings, advice and instructions to water users throughout Ireland's western seaboard. A sting by a Man o'war is particularly strong and can cause anaphylactic shock or seizures. In some cases it can be fatal.

The large levels of media reporting on the issue prompted this group of students, who were interested in beach safety, to focus their energies on educating the public on the dangers that these jellyfish posed.

> "Beaches around the world are seeing huge increases in jellyfish "bloom" activity as a result of overfishing and changing water temperatures."

Having contacted specialists, local authorities and national bodies, the innovative team carried out a range of actions to raise awareness and to keep people safe.

A jellyfish inspired colouring competition was created for primary school students and information display boards were designed for placement on local beaches. The team are currently working with the Tidy Towns Committee and the Council to have these erected. They are also working with the Irish Water Safety Authority and an expert from NUIG to develop information on how to treat a Man o'war sting which they hope will benefit beach users this coming summer.

Furthermore, the industrious students manufactured jellyfish keyrings out of recycled materials in their school and, in an effort to educate children through a fun activity, the team came up with the idea of a buzz game inspired by the jellyfish 'sting' as the buzz. They sourced materials and manufactured the game themselves. It is hoped that the keyrings and the buzz game can be distributed to other coastal schools as a stepping stone to increase awareness and impact.

These creative responses harnessing techology and engineering have earned this team the STEM & Social Innovation Award.

YSI Guide: Aoife Buckley

YOUTH ACTION FOR LIFE

Newtown School
Newtown
Co. Waterford

YSI Fun-raising Award

Every 3 minutes in Ireland someone gets a cancer diagnosis. Every hour someone dies from cancer. Incidence of cancer is growing and by 2020, 1 in 2 of us will get a cancer diagnosis in our lifetime.*

This team of young people wanted to reduce the anxiety and fear that is associated with cancer and its diagnosis and to encourage people to adopt healthier lifestyle choices to reduce their risk of developing the disease, while acknowledging that "clean living" does not not necessarily guarantee good health.

They developed close links with Solas Cancer Support Centre, a Waterford-based orgnisation providing a wide range of supports and services to cancer patients, their carers and families.

> "Cancer was a word that intimidated us, and rather than letting it get under our skin, we decided to turn our fear into positives."

The team promoted and participated in a wide range of community events to promote health and fitness and to raise funds for Solas including a Run for Life, Strides for Life, Youth Dance for Life and a Cycle for Life, which took place in the school sports hall and involved participants cycling on stationary bikes to power the film.

An inspired idea by the team saw them develop their own fundraising initiative called Laces for Life. They worked with a Donegal-based company to design bright orange laces (the colour associated with Solas), packaging and an information card. The laces sell for €3 with proceeds going to the Centre, and the buyer, through making the purchase, is committing to exercising for 30 minutes a day. Solas has agreed to continue the initiative indefinitely to help raise its €400,000 annual running costs.

The group have estimated a projected fundraising total of €14,988 however, it was the range of activities that the team engaged in to raise awarness as well as funds that earned it this YSI Fun-raising Award.

Furthermore, Bank of Ireland has invited the team to showcase, speak out and fundraise at the upcoming Ardkeen Enterprise Village and the bank has also committed to matching any funds raised by the group at the event.

YSI Guide: Karen Keogh

**1 in 2 by 2020 projection based on current NCRI data. It allows for variables: aging population, lifestyle, etc, and is in line with projections for other countries, e.g. the UK. - https://www.cancer.ie*

CAST FILM FESTIVAL

Collinstown Park Community College
Clondalkin
Dublin 22

YSI Legacy Awardee

High Impact Award

"CAST is a wonderful example of how young social innovators can develop a local innovation which can go on to have widespread national impact."

Rachel Collier, CEO and Co-Founder, Young Social Innovators

We are delighted to present the inaugural High Impact Award to CAST Film Festival in recognition of the significant difference it has made to thousands of young people involved in the festival over the past 6 years.

> "Positive mental health is something we can all help to promote and we feel that the message works best when it is delivered to young people by young people."
> **Rebecca Walsh, Founding Team Member, CAST**

CAST (Caring About Society Together) began life in 2011 as a small youth-led YSI project in Collinstown Park Community College, and has grown to become an established national film festival. It provides a creative outlet for teams of young people to challenge, present and communicate their thoughts on mental health through the medium of short film.

CAST has had positive impact on the filmmakers involved, the communities in which they live, and the audiences that see the films produced as part of the festival.

CAST Film Festival Timeline

- **2011** Prompted by the issue of suicide in their community, the 'First Aid for the Mind' YSI team produces a short film about real world problems facing teenagers. The film is shown throughout the school leading to powerful conversations among students, staff and school community.
- **2012** Students host the first CAST Film Festival to be held during World Mental Health Week. They put a call out to young filmmakers to 'Break the Mould' and produce a film which sheds light on the issue of mental health. The first CAST Film Festival Awards event is attended by over 500 people.
- **2013-2017** The festival goes from strength to strength gaining support from many organisations including the National Office for Suicide Prevention. CAST now recognises achievements in a wide range of categories and across a range of genres including drama, documentary and animation.

To date approximately 12,000 young people have been involved in the programme with 2,100 finalists being awarded over the past 6 years.

We are truly proud to honour CAST's achievements as part of our Young Social Innovators of the Year Awards 2017.

YSI Guide: Noel Kelly

BRENDAN O'BRIEN
St. Anne's Community College
Killaloe
Co. Clare

YSI Legacy Awardee

Let Them Shine Award

Year on year, we are increasingly impressed by the creativity and innovation demonstrated by the teams of young people that take part in our programmes. Behind these teams stand the educators that support and guide them through their YSI journey.

We would like to acknowledge these inspirational people, who not only guide our young social innovators, but who promote social innovation within Ireland's education system and who provide opportunities to thousand of young people each year to have a voice on the social issues affecting them.

We are extremely grateful to all of the Guides* that enrich the YSI experience for all.

> "Being a YSI Guide is that unique educational experience which inspires both my students and I to improve our community for the benefit of all. We learn and grow together through a shared desire of wanting to make our world a better place to live in."

The Let Them Shine Award, designed by John Rocha, is presented to YSI Guides in recognition of their dedication to facilitating youth-led social innovation education.

In 2017, we are delighted to present a gold Let them Shine Award to Brendan O'Brien for his engagement in and commitment to YSI over the past 10 years.

Brendan is a teacher of Religion, History and Citizenship Education at St. Anne's Community College, Killaloe, Co. Clare and has been involved with Young Social Innovators as a YSI Guide since 2007.

Since then, he has facilitated 12 YSI teams and supported 236 young people to tackle a range of social issues including body image, cancer awareness, mental and physical health and teenage pregnancy, amongst others.

As well as facilitating youth-led social innovation, Brendan has been a constant support for newer YSI Guides and is always available to offer advice and guidance to educators involved with YSI.

It is our honour to recognise Brendan and to celebrate all that he has contributed to Young Social innovators, to young people, and to his community over the past decade.

**YSI Guide – Educator trained in YSI's social innovation methodologies*

Thank you!

Ulster Bank volunteers from all over Ireland gave 342 hours of their time across 20 events in 13 locations during 2017.

Their tireless dedication and hard work ensured our Speak Out Tour events were a huge success.

We couldn't have done it without you!

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Thank you for coming with us on the YSI Speak Out Tour 2017

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