

# HEALTHCARE CHARITIES CONTINUE TO MAKE AN IMPACT

Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team and Irish Community Rapid Response are two of ten healthcare charities to have been honoured at the 2019 GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards, which recognise and reward healthcare charities who're making a real difference within their communities.

**F**ive winning charities – AsIAM, HIV Ireland, Ruhama, Walkinstown Greenhills Resource Centre and Vision Sports Ireland – will each receive €10,000 in unrestricted funding, while five runner-up charities will each receive €2,000, also as unrestricted funding.

Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team and Irish Community Rapid Response – two of the five runners-up in this year's GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards – are set to each receive €2,000 in unrestricted funding.

The GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards, now in their fourth year, are designed to recognise and reward community-based charities who continue to contribute to the improvement of people's health and wellbeing in Ireland. The awards also acknowledge the positive outcomes these charities have on patients and their local community.

## CRITICAL SERVICES

There are hundreds of small healthcare charities all over the country providing critical services, which are filling a gap in healthcare support or provision. The GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards is unique in that the winning charities are selected for how their organisation is managed and run, as well as the services they deliver.

It goes to show that small organisations with limited resources can deliver excellent services professionally and efficiently and, most importantly, make a huge impact on Irish communities. In addition to the €10,000 prize money, each winning charity also receives a video and photography package for their use in promoting their work and services.

### The five winning charities named at the 2019 Awards:

**\*AsIAM** – AsIAM (short for Autism Spectrum Information Advice and Meeting Point) was founded in 2014 by Adam Harris, a young man with Asperger's Syndrome. Today, Adam is CEO of the charity, a company limited by guarantee with CHY status from Revenue. The organisation is a 'one-stop-shop' for all autism issues. <https://asiam.ie/>

**\*HIV Ireland** – Operating at local, national and European level, the principal aim of the organisation is to improve, through a range of support services, conditions for people living with HIV and AIDS and/or Hepatitis, their families and their caregivers



Representing the five winning charities for 2019 – Niall Mulligan of HIV Ireland, Joe Geraghty from Vision Sports Ireland, John Davis from Walkinstown Resource Centre, Sarah Benson of Ruhama and at the front Adam Harris of AsIAM.

while further promoting sexual health in the general population. <https://www.hivireland.ie/>

**Ruhama** – The Dublin-based organisation supports women affected by prostitution and sex trafficking on a national level in Ireland. The services offer a multifaceted approach to improve the positive mental health of women exploited through prostitution and trafficking. Ruhama assists women to access services and supports to enhance their physical health, including sexual health, person-centred case work, education and development programmes and resettlement assistance. <https://www.ruhama.ie/>

**Walkinstown Greenhills Resource Centre** – The mission of this community-based voluntary organisation is 'to empower and support the people of Walkinstown and Greenhills to work in solidarity to tackle the causes and symptoms of substance misuse and in so doing, develop responses to meet the needs of the local community'. WGRC provides a range of services to those with alcohol/substance misuse problems, those indirectly affected by substance misuse and those with broader mental health difficulties. The aim is to provide a safe and confidential



**DWMRT provides a 24/7/365 emergency (999/112) search, rescue and recovery service in the Dublin Mountains, Wicklow Mountains and Cooley Mountains in Co. Louth.**

environment where the service user has an opportunity to work towards living a more satisfactory and productive life. <http://wgrc.ie/>

Vision Sports Ireland – This is the only organisation in Ireland solely dedicated to promoting sport and recreation for blind and vision-impaired people, so that they will enjoy the health benefits derived from regular participation in sport and recreational activities of their choice. Their mission is to enable blind and vision impaired people to participate fully in sport and recreational activities of their choice. <http://visionsports.ie/>

**Five runners-up will each receive €2,000 as part of the GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards:**

**\*Irish Community Rapid Response – ICRR** is tasked by, and works alongside, the National Ambulance Service to provide swift pre-hospital emergency care in the case of road traffic accidents, heart attacks, strokes, babies ‘born in a hurry’, etc. it also engages in other work that prepares communities to deal with arising emergencies. <https://www.icrr.ie/>

**\*Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team** – The Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team provides a 24/7/365 emergency (999/112) search, rescue and recovery service to all those who visit and live in the wilderness areas of the Dublin Mountains, Wicklow Mountains and Cooley Mountains in Co. Louth. <https://www.facebook.com/DWMRT>

**\*Children at Risk Foundation Ireland (CARI)** – CARI provides a continuum of services for children who have been affected by child sexual abuse, their families/carers and their communities. The ‘road to recovery’ comprises a telephone helpline, a forensic accompaniment service with aftercare, pre-trial preparation/court accompaniment/post-trial support, and therapy for children directly affected, their siblings and non-abusing parents/carers (this includes therapy for children up to the age of 12 who present with sexualised behaviours: an increasingly common phenomenon). CARI also engages in some awareness raising, training and lobbying. <http://www.cari.ie/>

**\*Galway Autism Partnership** – Galway Autism Partnership strives to ‘bridge the gap’ between the needs of those with autism/their families and the services available to these people, which are generally acknowledged to be lacking. GAP raises awareness of autism, offers information/advice/support to families, runs extracurricular activities for children, organises family events, and engages in some training, research and lobbying activities. <https://www.galwayautismpartnership.com/>

**\*Galway University Arts Trust** – This charity offers a very comprehensive multi-disciplinary arts programme to benefit hospital patients, visitors and staff. <https://www.facebook.com/guharts/>

**MAKE AN IMPACT**

The GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards 2019 were judged by a multidisciplinary panel of professionals that included former Tanaiste Mary Harney, well-known businessman Maurice Pratt and Deirdre Garvey, CEO of the Wheel.

According to Deirdre Garvey: “Community-based healthcare charities play a vital role to tackle the underlying issues that result in poor health outcomes and support those most affected. The GSK IMPACT Awards are an opportunity to give these organisations the recognition they deserve and assist them to help as many as possible in their communities.”

Claire Taaffe, Communications Director for GSK, said: “We’re very proud to support these local healthcare charities and



**John Kearney, CEO of ICRR, pictured with Ireland’s first-ever charity air ambulance, which touched down at Kerry Airport on 21 September 2018.**

helping people do more, feel better and live longer. This year’s winners have all made an immense contribution to Irish health and society.”

To be eligible for the GSK IMPACT Awards, which have been running in the UK and USA for nearly 20 years, charities must undertake a lengthy and strict entry process. This includes a review and presentation of their financial records, governance, services and membership growth over the previous 12 months, to provide a understanding of the services and care they provide, along with their commitment to transparency, patient focus, integrity and respect.

For more information visit <https://ie.gsk.com/ie/about-us/partnerships/gsk-ireland-impact-awards/>