



25th November 2010

Winners of Better Together! Video awards and Ireland's charity hero 2010 announced

The winners of the first Better Together Awards were announced in Dublin today. The awards, hosted by RTÉ presenter Mary Kennedy, marked the culmination of the Better Together! campaign, an online initiative aimed at encouraging people to get involved in their communities and voluntary activities

The Better Together! campaign was initiated by The Wheel, a national umbrella body representing 860 community and voluntary groups, in partnership with the EBS Building Society.

Over 200 charities, clubs and community groups from across Ireland produced and submitted videos to the campaign website, bettertogether.ie where members of the public can locate, and engage with organisations, clubs and groups in their area.

Three winners were announced in the Better Together! Video Competition.

Blarney Community Council scooped the award in the category for volunteer organisations. Local residents of the Co Cork village established the organisation in 2009 to improve local facilities and to build a sense of community spirit.

Dublin Youth Theatre won in the category for medium sized organisations with their video entitled "Through the Green Door".

The third prize went to Longford Women's Link who took the prize in the category for larger organisations.

Each of the winners were awarded a €3,000 cash prize.

Speaking today Aidan Power, Head of Marketing at EBS Building Society, said: "EBS is delighted to have supported this campaign and would like to commend the 200 charity groups that submitted entries – they are of a very high quality and demonstrate the range and scope of the Irish volunteering sector. It is important that this work is championed and the organisations and individuals that give their time and energy to volunteering are recognised."

Commenting on the quality of the videos, Deirdre Garvey, Chief Executive of The Wheel said: "These videos capture the energy, vibrancy and diversity of Ireland's community and voluntary sector. They entertain, move and - above all - inspire."

In a separate competition, the public nominated individuals who have gone to extraordinary lengths to support a good cause. Over 40 nominations were received through Facebook.

Mercy Fleming, a volunteer with Outreach Moldova (ORM), was chosen as Ireland's Charity Hero of 2010. For the past 10 years, Mercy has lived up to her name by providing care, love and inspiration for not only the 600 children that ORM care for, but to over 1500 volunteers that have traveled to Moldova to provide their time, skills and attention to help children in need.

The winning videos can be viewed at bettertogether.ie.