



County: Kerry

Nominee: Christy Murray

Christy Murray, the co-founder of Kerry Community Games, is nominated for a “Golden Volunteer” award for his invaluable contribution to the Kerry games. The awards are part of a series of national celebrations marking the fiftieth anniversary of Community Games.

Christy and the late Bob Casey set up Kerry Community Games in 1972, just five years after the national movement was founded. In August 1972, they set up a committee and assembled ten areas in Tralee for the first community games athletics finals with Christy serving as chairman and athletics starter.

Over the next few years, Christy worked tirelessly to develop the organisation. He spent long evenings after work driving across the county encouraging parents to set up local committees. Between 1972 and 1975, he served as county chairman, development officer and PRO and was also an athletics starter at the national finals for two years. By the time Christy passed on his county leadership role, there were 49 areas registered in Kerry.

Christy was always available to his local area a true grassroots person and every year since 1972 he has marked out the athletic track. He is always helping with church gate collections and awards nights. Christy always wanted to acknowledge all the children in the area, whether they won county, national or just competed locally.

Margaret Culloty, Kerry Community Games secretary, said “Christy was instrumental in the success of the Kerry Games and he set a great example for all the volunteers that followed him. From the start, he could see the great significance of bringing adults and young people together in their communities.”

Christy’s great belief in the value of sport was reflected in his own love of athletics. A member of St John’s Athletics Club, he won a number of national sprint medals and continued to compete into his sixties. He is also fondly remembered as an athletics starter.

Now 81, Christy never left Community Games. He is currently president of the St Brendan’s area, where he has held an officer position since 1972. His children and grandchildren all passed through the games as competitors and his children went on to take up officer positions in St Brendan’s.

Thousands of adults and young people have benefited from Christy’s hard work and vision. On behalf of them, Kerry Community Games is proud to nominate Christy for the Kerry Golden Volunteer award and we wish him the very best at the awards ceremony on March 18th in Athlone. An Overall Golden Volunteer will also be named on the day.