

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **"Keep up the good work." Says Minister Michael Ring at the HSE Community Games National Area and Volunteer Awards in Limerick on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

The HSE Community Games has nearly 10,000 volunteers at Area, County, Provincial and National level and each year they are honoured for their time, effort and enormous dedication at the HSE Community Games National Area and Volunteer Awards.

This year the Awards took place in the Castletroy Park Hotel in Limerick in recognition of it being the City of Culture 2014. Guests on the night included Minister for Sport and Tourism Michael Ring, Dr Nazih Eldin of the Department of Health, City Councillor Frankie Daly, Mary Goode of Athlone IT and members of the HSE Community Games Board of Directors.

The Awards are a celebration of the excellent work and dedication of the volunteers and the areas that they represent. Over 50 volunteers were justly rewarded on the night for their dedication and commitment.

Speaking at the event, Minister Michael Ring said that organisations such as the Community Games are doing excellent work at promoting sport and culture and that he is delighted that the volunteers are being recognised for the huge contribution they make to Irish society. He said that there are over 500,000 volunteers in Ireland and if each one were to be paid it would cost our economy 1 billion euro every year, so on behalf of the government he thanked everyone present on the night for their selfless dedication.

President of HSE Community Games, Gerard Davenport, said that although Kenmare walked away on the night with the main prize, everyone who is part of Community Games is a winner and should be very proud of the voluntary work they do year in, year out.

Provincial Area Winners on the night were:

Connaught: Athenry, Co. Galway

Leinster: Newbridge/St Brigids, Co. Kildare

Munster: Kenmare, Co. Kerry

Ulster: Bawn/Latton, Co. Monaghan

The best developed county was Tipperary and overall National Area Winner was Kenmare, Co. Kerry

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Notes to Editor:

For more information on HSE Community Games please visit our website

[www.communitygames.ie](http://www.communitygames.ie)

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**Weblinks:**

[www.communitygames.ie](http://www.communitygames.ie)

[www.facebook.com/communitygames1](https://www.facebook.com/communitygames1)

[www.twitter.com/communitygames1](https://www.twitter.com/communitygames1)

**WHAT IS THE HSE COMMUNITY GAMES?**

The HSE Community Games is an independent voluntary organisation, operating in local communities throughout Ireland. The organisation aims to provide opportunities for children and young people aged 6-16 years to develop active healthy lives in a safe environment through experiencing a wide range of sporting and cultural activities. Community spirit and co-operation is fostered and encouraged. The Organisation believes that every young person should have the opportunity to take part in sports and art in their local community and grow up understanding how good it makes you feel when you are active and healthy.

The organisation caters for children aged 6-16 years throughout 30 counties. It is not entirely sports based, there is a culture and arts section so children get an opportunity to experience a wide range of activities.

HSE Community Games has 200,000 children, 10,000 volunteers and over 1.3 million supporters in about 650 areas throughout 30 counties.

The aim of the HSE Community Games is to encourage and introduce a love of sport and culture to every child in Ireland.