

PRESS RELEASE

The HSE Community Games National Area and Volunteer Awards along with the Healthy Events Award 2013 took place yesterday (23rd November) in the City Hotel Derry

The HSE Community Games has nearly 10,000 volunteers at Area, County, Provincial and National level and every year they work tirelessly to help kick-start healthier lifestyles for every child in Ireland, through sporting and cultural activities.

This is the first year that the Awards have taken place in Ulster and with Derry being the City of Culture 2013 it was the perfect choice! Guests on the night included Martina Anderson, MEP, Mayor of Derry, Martin Reilly, Donagh Morgan Assistant Secretary General, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and Dr Nazih Eldin, Head of Health Promotion Dublin North East, HSE.

These awards are a celebration of the excellent work and dedication of the volunteers themselves and from those areas within HSE Community Games where high levels of participation have been achieved.

Speaking at the event, Dr Nazih Eldin of the HSE said that:

“The Community Games symbolise all that is good in Ireland by way of making things the best they can be for our future generation through the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteers.”

Dr Nazih stressed that with at least one in two being either obese or overweight in Ireland this situation cannot be allowed to continue. He said that children as young as 12 should not be arriving at casualty needing hip replacements because their excess weight puts too much pressure on their growing bodies. He said that by allowing children to make healthier choices through sport and promoting healthy living through projects such as the Healthy Events Award the HSE Community Games is making a real difference.

Over 50 Adult and Youth volunteers were justly rewarded on the night for their dedication and commitment.

Provincial Area Winners on the night were:

Tydavanet, Co. Monaghan

St Feichans, Co. Sligo

Cloony/Quin, Co. Clare

St. Brigids/Newbridge Co. Kildare

The best developed County was Clare and overall National Area Winner was St Brigids/Newbridge

Ends

Notes to Editor:

For more information on HSE Community Games please visit our website www.communitygamesfestival.com which goes into detail about each sport and activity featured in our Festivals.

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Weblinks:

www.communitygames.ie

www.communitygamesfestival.com

www.facebook.com/communitygames1

www.twitter.com/communitygames1

ALL PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT ARE AVAILABLE HERE:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/93382751@N06/sets/72157638000748125/>

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.