



Four Dublin students nominated for the Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards

Ireland's Top Youth Volunteers for 2019 Announced for The Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards

Dublin, Wednesday, 6th February 2019: Four outstanding young people from Dublin have been recognised for the exemplary volunteer work they've carried out in their communities. The local students were revealed as Pramerica announced its twenty finalists for the 2019 Spirit of Community Awards (SOC), the only all-Ireland youth initiative of its kind.

Benat Broderick from Blackrock was nominated for his voluntary efforts with Cystic Fibrosis Ireland. Castleknock native, Adara Garcia has been involved with her local youth group, Localise Ireland, since a young age. She has also raised much needed money to help combat homelessness. Lena Goumaa from Crumlin was nominated for the work with the Islamic Foundation of Ireland. Working with Child-Vision, Ciara McKenna was nominated for her work with assisting with the educational and therapeutic needs of children with various disabilities.

The SOC programme, which is run in partnership with the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) and the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI), honours post-primary students for outstanding acts of volunteerism and the positive contribution they make in their local communities.

*"Year after year, I am so impressed by the incredible drive and passion shown by our participants. 2019 is no different. The volunteer work carried out by teenagers and young people in towns and villages in Ireland is truly having an impact and making a difference," says **Andrea McBride, vice president, Pramerica Systems Ireland.** "From caring for the elderly and supporting mental health awareness, to helping people with learning disabilities, motor impairments, and blindness, so much of the volunteering activities that young people are involved in is going under the radar. Our awards programme aims to shine a light on these dedicated students by applauding their achievements and encouraging others to give back to their hometown."*

The twenty students will be presented with €500 and an engraved silver medallion at the awards ceremony on 28th March at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin. The top two Junior Honourees will also receive an additional €500 for their chosen charity, and two of the twenty students will be named All-Ireland Youth Volunteers of the Year. These two awardees will receive €1,000, a gold medallion, a crystal trophy for their school and an all-expense paid trip to the United States in May to participate in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards ceremony.

This year's ceremony will feature keynote speaker Richie Sadlier, a former professional footballer, psychotherapist and mental fitness teacher. Sadlier will share his own insights into volunteer work and his experience with working in the mental health sector.

"It is great to see the high-calibre of young people from across Ireland who have been nominated for the Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards," says Sadlier. "The voluntary efforts of these young people have such a positive lasting effect on those they help. It also allows them to develop important life skills that

will only benefit them and those around them as they get older. I'm delighted to be involved in an event that celebrates the selfless work of these honourees."

Follow the Pramerica Spirit of Community on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat (@Pramerica_SOC) or visit spirit.pramerica.ie.

The 20 finalists are:

Benat Broderick, Stepside Educate Together Secondary, Co. Dublin

Kayla Canning, St. Cecilia's College, Co. Derry

Maura Carroll, Newtown School, Co. Waterford

Ruth Conlon Oates, Mercy College, Co. Sligo

Dominic Cronin, Patrician Academy, Co. Cork

Adara Garcia, Castleknock Community College, Co. Dublin

David Giles, Ardscoil Ui Urmoltaigh, Co. Cork

Lena Goumaa, St. Paul's Secondary School, Co. Dublin

Katie Graden, Glenlola Collegiate, Co. Down

Eimhear Hardy, St. Louis Grammar School, Co. Antrim

Gerard Heneghan, Glenamaddy Community School, Co. Galway

Christopher Magee, Our Lady And St. Patrick's College, Co. Antrim

Kira McDonnell, St. Dominic's High School, Co. Antrim

Kai McHugh, St. Eunan's College, Co. Donegal

Ciara McKenna, St. Mary's Secondary School, Co. Dublin

Elaine Nagle, Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra, Co. Kerry

Ciara O'Malley, Loreto Secondary School, Co. Donegal

Teresa-Maria O'Shea, St. Angela's College, Co. Cork

Lorcan Tuohy-Donnelly, Borrisokane Community College, Co. Offaly

Mary Wilson Reilly, Holy Family Secondary School, Co. Kildare

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About Pramerica:

Pramerica provides a vast range of business and technology services to our parent company, Prudential Financial, Inc., which provides financial products and services to retail and institutional customers in over 30 countries. The organisation aims to enhance Prudential Financial's business performance by bringing forward strategic, innovative and cost effective solutions. Learn more at <https://www.pramerica.ie/>

About Pramerica Spirit of the Community Awards:

The Pramerica Spirit of the Community Awards recognises and rewards post-primary/secondary-level students for volunteer work carried out in their communities through this exciting initiative, which provides recognition and rewards to finalists. Each year twenty outstanding finalists are chosen to attend the Spirit of Community Awards, and two are named All-Ireland Youth Volunteers of the Year. This programme was launched on an all-Ireland basis in 2006 and, since then, has honoured more than 2,500 outstanding volunteers from over 300 schools across Ireland. For more information, please visit <http://spirit.pramerica.ie/index.html>

About GTCNI:

Established under the auspices of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, The General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI) is the independent professional body for teachers in Northern Ireland. It is dedicated to enhancing the status of teaching and promoting the highest standards of professional conduct and practice. The National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) represents Principals and Deputy Principals at post-primary level. The Association aims to provide a united voice nationally for Principals and Deputy Principals on issues of common concern in the Republic of Ireland.

About NAPD:

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