

SMALL CHARITY BIG IMPACT 2019 AWARD WINNERS

Small and local charities and community groups are making a huge impact in the lives of millions of individuals in communities across the UK and across the world.

In Small Charity Week, **Small Charity Big Impact** day gives us an opportunity to celebrate their **IMPACT**

Small Charity Big Impact Awards is sponsored by **PolicyBee** 

Contents

Foreword	1
What good looks like	3
Lorna Young Foundation (income under £50,000)	5
A Partner In Education (income between £50,001 - £150,000)	6
Raising Futures Kenya (income between £150,001 - £250,000)	7
Dandelion Time (income between £250,001 - £500,000)	8
Grapevine Coventry and Warwickshire (income between £500,001 - £1million)	9
Runners Up and Highly Commended Listed	10
Runners Up	11
Highly Commended	12
Benefits	13

With thanks to the Small Charity Big Impact Awards sponsors



And hosts of the Small Charity Big Impact Awards ceremony



Foreword

The Glue Holding Society Together

Small can be both beautiful and impactful

Small and local charities and community groups are each day working to improve the lives of those who are the most vulnerable in society.

We are fortunate in the UK to have a vibrant, tenacious and effective small charity and community group sector, all 163,000 of them scattered across the country, all working hard to support those in our society who are least able to support themselves. Supporting those who for, whatever reason, have found themselves in a position that they cannot get out of or cope with, without help.

They are at the very heart of communities. They are campaigning and fighting for causes that will educate, relieve poverty, protect our planet, bring relief and ease the burden in times of disaster, and ensure the wellbeing of millions of men, women, young people and children across the globe. They are at the centre of making our world a better and safer place for all.

But sharing stories, being able to demonstrate incredible outcomes is equally as important. We have to know that what we are doing is the right thing, the most needed, the most impactful, and the most beneficial so that we can be absolutely certain that we are using our resources in the very best interest of our beneficiaries.

After reading all of the hundreds of applications for the Small Charity Big Impact Awards, we have chosen one winner, one runner up and one highly commended from each of the five categories who have shown that they understand and can demonstrate their impact. Through this book we want to share with you their work and their stories and, if you are not already measuring your impact, encourage you to start.

I want to say a massive thank you to all of the charities who entered and it was fantastic to read and hear about the work you have been doing. But there are always winners and so I'd also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our winners: Lorna Young Foundation, A Partner In Education, Raising Futures Kenya, Dandelion Time, and Grapevine Coventry and Warwickshire. You were all outstanding.

So for the young and the old and the vulnerable, for our environment, for those in our own country and for those across the globe, small charities are telling their stories, demonstrating their impact as they deliver their mission to help others.

Through the Small Charity Big Impact Awards we salute the dedication, and determination of these organisations.

Emma Harrison, CBE

Pauline Broomhead, CBE

The Foundation for Social Improvement

What good looks like

Plan

1. Involve stakeholders
2. Know what impact you want to have and have thought about how best to achieve it
3. Have decided what information to collect and how

Do

1. Collect data using a range of approaches
2. Collect a mixture of qualitative and quantitative data
3. Collect outcomes data as experienced by different stakeholders

Assess

1. Undertake regular analysis of data for each activity
2. Have scheduled check points and debriefs for each activity
3. Undertake an annual assessment across the whole organisation

Review

1. Share stories and impact externally through a variety of methods
2. Share stories and impact internally through a variety of methods
3. Use findings to improve services and achieve greater impact

2019 Winners

	Under £50k	£51k-£150k	£151k-£250k
	Lorna Young Foundation	A Partner In Education	Raising Futures Kenya
Plan	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Do	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Assess	✓ ✓ ✗	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Review	✓ ✗ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
	£251k-£250k	£500k-£1M	
	Dandelion Time	Grapevine Coventry and Warwickshire	
Plan	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	
Do	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	
Assess	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	
Review	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	
Runners-Up	LUV+	Highly Commended	
	Xplode Magazine	HOBY UK	
	The Rainbow Centre	VITAL for Children	
	Raw Material Music and Media Education	Eczema Outreach Support	
	The Green House	upReach	
		Age Exchange	

Disclaimer: Our assessment of whether a charity met or did not meet the criteria was based on the information supplied with their application to the Awards. We expect that as we undertake the impact review, as part of each winner's prize package, that we will identify further examples of good practice.

Income under £50,000

Lorna Young Foundation

Case Study

Safura, a farmer listener, recently told us how the Farmers Voice Radio programme on rainwater collection and storage had impacted her life. “The radio programmes told me about water harvesting. We harvested during the raining season and did not have to buy water. We also did not have to walk long distances for water. We had enough water”. Another farmer, Peter, explained, “Before (hearing the radio programmes) I used to plant my maize in the month of July-August and when I harvest, I get about 12 maxi bags. But after the training, I decided to plant early in the month of June, when I harvested, I had about 19 maxi bags”. Community leaders told us that they were very pleased with the radio programmes, “the whole community listens and this is changing the way that things are done’. Farmers Voice Radio brings the whole community together to find appropriate solutions to the issues they face.

Key Statistics

- In the last year Farmers Voice Radio has reached up to 10,000 smallholder farmers in northern Ghana
- Smallholder farmer listeners reported increases in crop yields of over 50% as a result of applying improved agricultural knowledge and practices
- The University of Reading's Walker Institute, a leading international research body in the field of climate change, has endorsed Farmers Voice Radio as a an effective medium for communicating climate and agriculture information at community level

About

The Lorna Young Foundation (LYF) was set up in 2006, in memory of the late ethical trade pioneer. LYF aims to reduce poverty in developing countries by improving smallholder livelihoods, through better access to information, expertise and markets. We work with farmer organisations in developing countries to improve agricultural production, manage land more sustainably and facilitate access to markets. Over the last 8 years, we have developed a methodology for using radio to reach the most isolated smallholder farming communities in Africa, many of which experience poverty, poor nutrition and ill health. Radio is the most affordable and accessible media in these contexts: it is trusted, inclusive and quickly reaches thousands. LYF's Farmer Radio uses community-based Listener Groups, multi-stakeholder committees and text messaging, to provide current agri-business information and a space to discuss pressing community issues. The programmes are broadcast on local community radio stations, in the farmers' voice using local language, to hundreds of thousands of listeners.



Income between £50,001 - £150,000

A Partner In Education (APIE)

Case Study

Agrippine Umugwaneza is the Deputy Headteacher and SEN Coordinator at Umubano Academy and a parent of a child on the Autistic Spectrum. Agrippine's son, Ganza, has attended Umubano for 5 years. “As a parent of a child with Autism I used to worry about how my son would be able to do anything for himself. We were given his diagnosis when he was 3 years old and were told that there was no support service available to help us in Rwanda. At Umubano Academy there is a policy of including all learners. APIE worked with teachers to develop different ways to support learners with special educational needs using resources and short practical activities that interest the child. Through APIE, Ganza is given lots of support and we get ideas from specialists - you do not find this in other schools in Rwanda. Now I have hope that Ganza will be able to do something in the future. Every day I see small improvements in him. Many parents choose Umubano Academy because they know the school will help their child. Teachers from other schools come to Umubano Academy for training and advice, especially when they have a child who needs special support. It makes me feel so proud when I see a child with special needs making progress and achieving their targets – it is so important that Umubano continues to share this learning as widely as possible.”

Key Statistics

- Last year, APIE trained 17 teachers at Umubano Academy, and 4 teachers, 4 librarians and 4 headteachers in outreach programmes.
- 94% of teachers at Umubano Academy were graded as very good or outstanding in end of year lesson observations by headteacher.
- 97% of students attending Umubano Academy achieved the top two divisions in primary leaver exams in 2018, impacting a total of 7642 children.

About

In 1994, over 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu people were murdered in the Rwandan Genocide. This terrible event was the culmination of years of ethnic tension and colonial rule, and its effects continue to run deep. However, Rwanda is committed to moving forward, and in the past 24 years has made great strides towards building a stable future. Reconciliation is a critical part of this process, of which a cornerstone is inclusive, accessible, high quality education. APIE was first established in response to a request for help to increase access to education in Rwanda, but in consultation with local stakeholders, this mission evolved to focus on improving the quality of education. Many government primary school teachers start young, have low levels of education and have never observed best practice in action, and there are now critical concerns about Rwanda's ability to meet some of its key educational targets. Research shows that being able to observe and learn from good practice is critical for teachers to develop their own skills, and our aim so far has been to develop a model of excellent, Rwandan-led and child-centred education within the local context.



Plan	✓	✓	✓
Do	✓	✓	✓
Assess	✓	✓	✓
Review	✓	✓	✓



Income between £150,001 - £250,000

Raising Futures Kenya

Case Study

Sarah* graduated from our Nairobi vocational training centre with a qualification in Fashion and Dressmaking in November 2018. She is one of seven siblings, her mum died when she was six so her dad sent her to live in Nairobi with an aunt and uncle. Between the ages of 15-16 Sarah was sexually abused by her uncle. She fell pregnant and was thrown out of the house. She had just enough time to finish secondary school before giving birth to twins. After secondary school, Sarah struggled to make ends meet, with no practical skills or opportunities for further education or training. A friend of Sarah's told her about our vocational training centre in Nairobi so she came to meet our team – Sarah was welcomed to the Fashion and Dressmaking course and was supported to finish her training by our teaching staff, who would provide additional support for Sarah so she could learn around her two children. Less than three months after graduation, Sarah was employed doing sewing and repairs at the company she did her work experience. She is able to support her two children and is saving money each month to start her own business. Sarah joins hundreds of other graduates, over 90% of whom are employed, self-employed or in further education after completing one of our courses.



Key Statistics

- Over 800 young people trained in vocational and business skills or mentored by a Raising Futures graduate.
- 91% of the graduates from our vocational training programme are employed, self-employed or in further education.
- Over 90% of our vocational training graduates are satisfied with their experience and would recommend to a friend.

Plan	✓	✓	✓
Do	✓	✓	✓
Assess	✓	✓	✓
Review	✓	✓	✓

About

Raising Futures Kenya was founded in 2001 to provide practical support in the areas of education and training, health and emotional wellbeing for Kenya's most vulnerable children and young people. Over the past 18 years the charity has worked collaboratively and in close partnership with local Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and a registered Kenyan NGO to deliver sustainable impactful projects in vulnerable communities. Over the past 18 years the charity has supported a variety of programmes from Early Childhood Development (ECD), a football and informal education project in the Nairobi slum community of Kibera, a programme of deinstitutionalization at two children's homes leading to 63 children being re-introduced to family based care, and the establishment of two specialist education schools for children with disabilities. In recent years our strategic focus has been in the provision of holistic community vocational training centres for vulnerable young people who have not been able to access or engage with mainstream education.



Income between £250,001 - £500,000

Dandelion Time



Case Study

Age 6, Ben had experienced life no child should have to endure. Ben witnessed extreme levels of violence and abuse, deprived of the love and security every child deserves. Ben arrived at Dandelion Time with his adoptive mother Sally; a detached, withdrawn little boy unable to trust and connect with anyone. Ben struggled emotionally and physically; recoiling from touch and refusing eye contact, only displayed emotion when playing computer games. Guided by our therapists, Sally and Ben began to build a connection so absent in Ben's previous life. Spending time with our baby guinea pigs Sally showed Ben how to make them feel safe and secure. Ben began to hold the tiny, soft babies in his arms, feeling them snuggle up for warmth and security while feeding them dandelion leaves. We saw Ben develop a sense of empathy caring for these new lives. He even made their hutch, providing a "comfy, cosy nest" to sleep in and stay warm. Ben and Sally gradually worked to bring down the barriers Ben had installed to protect himself. Sally said that for the first time since Ben's adoption, she "felt hope" for their relationship and Ben's future. At the end of their time with us Ben had taken some huge steps forward. He was more engaged at home and school and began to trust the people around him. His relationship with Sally has gone from strength to strength and Sally recently said that Ben hugs her for the first time in his life.

* This is a composite case that is indicative of our work, names and the images have been changed.

Plan	✓	✓	✓
Do	✓	✓	✓
Assess	✓	✓	✓
Review	✓	✓	✓

Key Statistics

- 112 children and their families attended our intensive family support programme
- 85% of children attending Dandelion Time showed improved emotional well being
- 96% of parents said Dandelion Time has a positive impact on them and their wider family

About

Dandelion Time was established in 2003 by a local GP concerned about the absence of services for growing numbers of children presenting mental health difficulties. The charity was started to support these children, as there were no services offering a family approach to tackle the health and social welfare issues that had led to their difficulties. They provide therapeutic programmes for children and families struggling with serious emotional and behavioural difficulties. They engage children and families in a varied programme of therapeutic activities to help them overcome complex emotional issues. Children care for the farm's animals and gardens, take part in natural crafts, and prepare meals using food they have grown and harvested on the farm. Our purpose is to support them to overcome past trauma, develop in confidence and self-esteem, have stronger relationships with those who care for them, and be better equipped to engage well with school, at home and in the community.



Income between £500,001 - £1 million

Grapevine Coventry and Warwickshire



Case Study

An early Spring evening in Coventry, the last Saturday of March. Crowds arrived for a gig at a former coal storage bunker in the city's Canal Basin, now a thriving music and arts venue. But this was no ordinary gig – it was months of hard work come to fruition to take one troubling statistic and make inroads into changing it. It was the first Coventry Youth Activists (CYA) #CYASaturdays gig, a campaign aiming to challenge the fact that one in three young disabled people spend less than an hour outside their home on a Saturday.

The story behind the statistic tells how for some of these young people logistics are the problem – wheelchair access for example – and for others, fear of the unknown, not knowing how to find the place they want to go to and what to do once they get there, stop the fun before it even starts. So Grapevine's youth democracy group set about doing something about it and everyone, CYA included, was amazed by its success.

#CYASaturdays Presents – featuring three live music acts - SOLD OUT with over 100 gig-goers of all abilities coming to the event. Young people came from all over the city. Some with family, others with friends and some had never been to a gig before. One Mum commented that her son enjoyed the gig and for her “it was important as it provided an opportunity for him to be a 14-year-old.” And that's the whole point really.

Key Statistics

- 1024 people helped last year
- On average isolated or vulnerable people add 2 new friends to their network as a result of Grapevine's help
- The average 'service satisfaction' score for Grapevine is 8.5 out of 9

Plan	✓	✓	✓
Do	✓	✓	✓
Assess	✓	✓	✓
Review	✓	✓	✓

About

Thirteen years ago Grapevine was a small, traditional charity protecting Coventry people with learning disabilities from isolation and abuse. Then in 2008 recession struck and austerity began. To keep meeting people's needs with less money they would have to find new ways to focus on the root causes of people's problems. Now their work helps all groups of vulnerable people get the hope, insight and supportive relationships they need to take control, turn their lives around and realise their potential. They do this by offering guidance, advocacy and support centred around the person, delivered to an exceptional quality, with an emphasis on connecting. They also help people build collective power to tackle problems by sparking social movements for change. Three principles guide our work:

BOTTOM UP They believe people should be in the lead of improving their lives and communities. So they listen to, learn from, act on and facilitate what they say matters to them. **CONNECTING** Services can't always be there, but other people can. So they help people develop strong relationship networks. **DREAMS AND ASSETS** When they recognise and trust in people's strengths and aspirations, hope and confidence blossom. They realise their potential, take opportunities and deal with challenges.



Runners Up

LUV+ (Income under £50,000)

Xplode Magazine (Income between £50,001 - £150,000)

The Rainbow Centre (Income between £150,001 - £250,000)

Raw Material Music and Media Education (Income between £250,001 - £500,000)

The Green House (Income between £500,001 - £1 million)

Highly Commended

HOBY UK (Income under £50,000)

VITAL for Children (Income between £50,001 - £150,000)

Eczema Outreach Support (Income between £150,001 - £250,000)

upReach (Income between £250,001 - £500,000)

Age Exchange (Income between £500,001 - £1 million)

Runners Up

LUV+ (Income under £50,000)

LUV+ implements income generating projects in leprosy communities in southern Africa. It was founded in 2008 and initially worked improving the lives of the residents of Malawi's largest leprosy community in Utale, central Malawi. LUV+ believes that all people disabled by leprosy living together in small communities in sub-Saharan Africa deserve the chance to gain economic self-reliance which in turn increases their low self-esteem and decreases the stigmatisation they still encounter.



Xplode Magazine (Income between £50,001 - £150,000)

Xplode Magazine is a youth-led charity which helps Greater Mancunians up to the age of 22 increase their employability. They produce a magazine circulated across the region that focuses on giving disadvantaged young people something to do, life skills to develop and valuable experience in a professional environment. In addition to this, they deliver employability training where young volunteers, once trained by industry professionals, deliver employability training to their peers in schools across the region.



The Rainbow Centre (Income between £150,001 - £250,000)

The Rainbow Centre was established in 1994 in response to their founder being diagnosed with cancer and finding that our rural area had no local support groups. Initially they ran a day centre from a disused ward of Penley Polish Hospital, today they have a purpose-built community hub delivering a range of interventions including Day Opportunities, Social Prescribing, Community Outreach, Befriending, Social Interest and Exercise Groups, Community Transport and Volunteering.



Raw Material Music and Media Education (Income between £250,001 - £500,000)

Raw Material is a music and media education charity based in London. Their mission is to improve the lives of young people and vulnerable adults, with focus on their economic position, opportunities, progression and development. They provide a range of training, mentoring and professional arts projects with embedded support for special educational, mental or physical health needs.



The Green House (Income between £500,001 - £1 million)

The Green House is a Bristol-based charity dedicated to helping people affected by rape and sexual abuse. They provide free quality counselling for survivors of all ages and backgrounds with the aim of improving their health, wellbeing and resilience. Originally born out of the feminist movement of the 1970's, they have been pioneering therapeutic provision in the city for over 30 years, developing an excellent reputation for the quality and impact of their work.



Highly Commended

HOBY UK (Income under £50,000)

HOBY UK runs leadership workshops and seminars for 14-18 year-olds, organised and led by our young volunteers. The aims are to build confidence, develop leadership skills and to inspire young people to start volunteering. HOBY UK started as a project set up by a Warrington school in 2006, and now runs a four-day residential seminar on a university campus, one-day workshops in local communities in the North West, and a one-day workshop in London.



VITAL for Children (Income between £50,001 - £150,000)

VITAL provides education, healthcare and protective services to underprivileged children across Kolkata. VITAL's projects provide supplementary educational support; counselling services, recreational activities and creativity inputs; empowerment through advocacy concerning child protection; and community based initiatives for stakeholder engagement.



Eczema Outreach Support (Income between £150,001 - £250,000)

The team of Eczema Outreach Support has been working with families dealing with the day-to-day struggle of childhood eczema since 2012. The charity now helps over 1,300 families in Scotland with the many practical and emotional aspects of the condition through a full range of services. In September 2018 the charity expanded its membership to families from all over the UK.



upReach (Income between £250,001 - £500,000)

upReach is a social mobility charity, founded in 2012 on the premise of fairness, and a vision of a society in which everybody has an equal opportunity to realise their full career potential, regardless of social background. They help young people achieve their career potential by providing an intensive programme of personalised, long-term employability support, and influence hiring behaviours of top organisations so they value socioeconomic diversity and commit to equal opportunity.



Age Exchange (Income between £500,001 - £1 million)

Age Exchange is the national centre for Reminiscence Arts. Established in 1985, Age Exchange has unparalleled expertise in utilising Reminiscence Arts to improve health and wellbeing. They run a thriving community hub which helps to combat loneliness and isolation through bringing generations together, providing 700 hours of activities for older people a year, running a community library and a not-for-profit café and volunteering opportunities to promote active ageing (100+ volunteers).



Benefits

Category Winners

- Short film for the winner's website to highlight the impact of their work.
- Impact Audit carried out by the FSI team supporting the charity to identify areas where they are performing well, and areas which they should focus on in order to improve impact planning, measurement, evaluation and management.
- Recognition for the charity's valuable work through participation in the Awards.

First Runner Up

- 90 second recorded interview/piece to camera, with addition of the charity's archive materials (stills and moving images).
- Animated logo.
- Recognition for the charity's valuable work through participation in the Awards.

Highly Commended

- 60 second recorded interview/piece to camera.
- Animated logo.
- Recognition for the charity's valuable work through participation in the Awards.

All charities are invited to attend the Awards Ceremony.

All benefits are provided by the Foundation for Social Improvement (FSI)



The Grayston Centre
28 Charles Square
London
N1 6HT

020 7324 4777

www.thefsi.org

Charity Registration Number 1123384