

# The Beacon Prize Information Pack



## ➡ *What is Beacon?*

- Established in 2003, Beacon acknowledges exceptional acts of philanthropy by **individuals**. Since its inception, Beacon has been an influential commentator on the culture of giving in the UK, providing case studies of some truly amazing people.
- Beacon believes that Philanthropy should not just be defined as the giving of **Money**, but also **Time**, **Talent** and **Skills**.
- Beacon runs an annual prize scheme – **The Beacon Prize** - to recognise individuals who have made exceptional contributions to charitable causes or organisations that benefit the public.
- There are seven prize categories. From the seven category winners, an overall winner will be selected who will be given **£30,000** (donated by Russell Investments), for the charity of their choice.
- The prize scheme is focused around an annual gala awards ceremony. This year it is going to be held at the prestigious **Goldsmiths' Hall** in London.
- We are all about **recognising charity heroes**. Beacon believes that highlighting the achievements of the prize winners and showcasing innovation and best practice in philanthropy will inspire others and encourage them to make their own contribution.



### *Prizegiving*

We celebrate all kinds of exceptional individuals at our gala prizegiving event, from donors, charity workers, teachers, volunteers, celebrities and unsung heroes.

It's a fantastic opportunity to get together and see some of the inspiring work that people are doing up and down the country.

# Contact Details



For general award & administration enquiries, please contact:

Neil Wates, Beacon Fellowship Charitable Trust Manager

T: 020 7841 4385

E: [nwates@communityfoundations.org.uk](mailto:nwates@communityfoundations.org.uk)

W: [www.beaconfellowship.org.uk](http://www.beaconfellowship.org.uk)

For all media, spokesperson and case study enquiries please contact:

E: [Enquiries@beaconfellowship.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@beaconfellowship.org.uk)

T: 020 7841 4385

For more information on Community Foundation Network, and to find your local Community Foundation, please contact:

T: 020 7713 9326

E: [office@communityfoundations.org.uk](mailto:office@communityfoundations.org.uk)

W: [www.communityfoundations.org.uk](http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk)

Community Foundation Network  
12 Angel Gate, 320-326 City Road  
London EC1V 2PT



## Get in touch!

In our experience, everyone knows a charity hero. We'd love to hear about yours. Why not nominate them for a life-changing award?

[www.beaconfellowship.org.uk](http://www.beaconfellowship.org.uk)

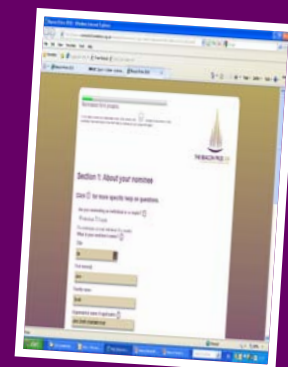
# The Nominations deadline is *April 16<sup>th</sup>*



## Nominating couldn't be easier.

- This year, the nominations process is **entirely online**. Simply visit [www.beaconfellowship.org.uk](http://www.beaconfellowship.org.uk) to find the online form and an in-depth description of all the categories. The website requires you to submit your email address. You will then be emailed a unique link and password that will allow you to login and continue the nomination process.
- All parts of the form must be completed before the nomination is valid - remember we don't know the nominee like you do, so we really want to hear as much as possible about them and their fantastic work.
- Self nomination is not permitted.
- The form will ask you to upload any supporting documents that give us the information we need to assess your nomination. These could/should include:
  - Your nominee's CV,
  - Annual accounts and/or review of the charity they are involved with,
  - Documents of endorsement.
- We need you to supply at least two endorsements from people who have direct and first hand knowledge of your nominee's activities and their effects – e.g. associates, board members, or beneficiaries of your candidate's activities. Endorsements should be available electronically, either email or scanned copies.
- NB If you are unable to upload the documents, or you do not have the information to hand at the time of nomination, remember you can save the form and return to it later, or email them subsequently to [nwates@communityfoundations.org.uk](mailto:nwates@communityfoundations.org.uk) with 'beacon information' in the subject field, stating clearly the name of your candidate.
- You can save and return to the form at any time.
- Nominating only takes half an hour but you might find it useful to prepare the answers in another document and copy them in. The questions we will ask are listed in the categories section of the website.

We've tried to make the form as user friendly as possible, and we would love to hear your feedback!



**If you need any help please contact us on 0207 841 4385**

# Who can win the £30,000 Prize?



## Who is eligible for a Beacon Prize?

Beacon prize nominees are people who have done something exceptional to make people's lives better. They must:

- Be an individual or a couple.
- Live or work in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man.
- Have made an exceptional contribution in money, leadership, creative ideas, skills and time to a charitable or social cause.
- Have taken an approach that is capable of being repeated.
- Have shown entrepreneurial spirit & originality.
- Have made their contribution voluntarily - or if they are in paid employment, their contribution must have gone beyond that expected from someone in that role.

## There are seven prize categories

- **Community builder** - Someone who has strengthened their local community.
- **Leadership** - Someone who has displayed and communicated a vision that has inspired others to take action.
- **New initiatives** - Someone who has demonstrated an original approach to a charitable problem
- **Young philanthropist** - Someone under 30 who will have successfully tackled a charitable or social need
- **Effective giving** - A donor with a great strategy for philanthropy.
- **Family business philanthropist** - A member of a family business with a great strategy for philanthropy.
- **Philanthropy advocate** - Someone great at inspiring people to get involved with charitable or social causes

**Vikki George, Beacon Young Philanthropist 2008**

23 year old Vikki George and two friends (all ME sufferers) are the founders of Post Pals, a website which invites people to send "happy post", via a secure address, to chronically ill children.



# Frequently Asked Questions



## Who is behind the Beacon Prize scheme?

The Beacon Fellowship Charitable Trust is an affiliate of the Community Foundation Network. For a full list of sponsors and partners, please visit [www.beaconfellowship.org.uk](http://www.beaconfellowship.org.uk). For further information of the Community Foundation Network, please visit [www.communityfoundations.org.uk](http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk)

## What does Beacon aim to do?

The aims of Beacon are:

- To highlight and honour contributions that have really made a difference.
- To inspire others to give.
- To set new standards of best practice in charitable work.

## Is there a need for another award scheme in this sector?

There is no other scheme like Beacon. Beacon is the only award scheme that specifically focuses on giving.

## Can anyone nominate someone for the Beacon Prize?

Yes. Charities, voluntary and community organisations, companies and the general public may make a nomination by completing an online nomination form. The online form can be found on the Beacon website from December 2009. The deadline for submissions is mid-April 2010.

## Follow us on Twitter!

[twitter.com/beaconprize](http://twitter.com/beaconprize)

(we'd love to hear what you have to say!)



## Who is eligible for the Beacon Prize?

Individuals (and couple couples) but not institutions, are eligible. Nominees must be resident in the UK, Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man. Their charitable work, however, can be based abroad.

## Is this a national awards system?

Yes, it is a national award scheme. We receive nominations from all around the UK.

### **How does the judging process work?**

All nominations are initially assessed by Beacon and a shortlist drawn up for each Prize Category, with the help of an independent panel of Scrutineers, made up of leading experts from the charity, media, financial and business sectors. The final selection is made by a panel of independent judges, at their sole discretion.

### **What are the criteria for the judges?**

In awarding the Prizes, the independent panel of judges focus on the impact that the nominees' contributions have made. They seek to acknowledge and honour candidates:

- Whose contribution can be perceived as an outstanding example for others
- Who have developed creative and original approaches to solving problems that are capable of wider imitation and replication
- Who show entrepreneurial spirit
- Who have been willing to take risks
- Who have demonstrated leadership
- Who have been unusually responsive to the needs of the charity or cause concerned
- Whose contributions are measurable, replicable, sustainable and supported by evidence

### **How many people have won?**

Over the years, there have been 6 winners, and 60 finalists, with 300 shortlisted. Beacon is quick to stress that even being nominated is an achievement in itself – it marks the fact that someone out there thinks you are amazing – and treats all nominees as achievers. For more information on the winners and the fantastic work they do, please visit our website.

### **How is the prize money to be spent?**

The Beacon monetary award is presented to the overall winner to donate to charitable causes of their choice. The money does not have to go to just one cause or be implemented immediately, but the spending plan should be in place within 90 days of the ceremony.

### **Is Beacon involved with the spending of the prize money?**

Beacon will offer help and guidance, if required, in determining the most effective use of the prize money in innovative, creative ways, which may be held up as models of best practice and new thinking.

### **What do winners receive?**

The future development of Beacon has been deliberately left as flexible as possible to allow maximum scope for the winners themselves to develop it. We will work very closely with them on this. The overall winner of the Beacon Prize will win £30,000. We ensure that all category winners receive all the pomp and recognition that the ceremony commands, as well as a great deal of press coverage (although we respect anonymity wishes).

### **Can I remain anonymous from my nominee?**

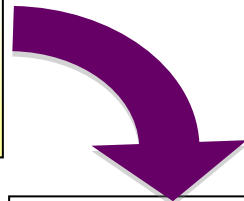
Yes. If you do not want your nominee to know who you are, you may remain anonymous from them by checking the appropriate box on the form. However, in compliance with the Data Protection Act, we are obligated to contact every nominee before we process any 'sensitive' data that we might receive. We need not necessarily divulge the name of the nominator in this case,

however. We are happy to provide more information on our data processing protocols if required. Questions must be submitted in writing to the below address.

# The Judging process



**Beacon** receives hundreds of nominations from around the UK



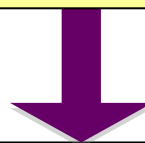
## Initial sift & due diligence

(making sure everything is accurate and complete)



## Scrutiny

A panel of expert Scrutineers identifies the shortlist for each category

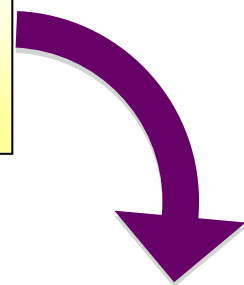


## Judging

The judging panel pick a winner for each category



Each category winner acknowledged at ceremony with award



**Overall winner receives £30,000 prize**



**Kevin Jenkins**  
Beacon Overall Winner 2008

Kevin Jenkins OBE has dedicated 31 years to placing children and young people at the heart of Newham's regeneration. Directly delivering hundreds of projects through Community Links, this exceptional East Ender has also supported numerous additional local children and youth organisations and led youth strategies for Newham.