JustGiving reveals ‘Charity of the Year’ award finalists

London, (22 October): JustGiving is proud to announce that International Animal Rescue, British Hen Welfare Trust and Reverse Rett are the three charities in the running for the prestigious ‘Charity of the Year’ accolade at the annual JustGiving Awards. The awards will be held at The Brewery in London on Tuesday, 20 November 2018.

A staggering 30,000 individuals, made up of their peers and members of the public, took part in the voting to ensure their favourite charity had a chance at taking home the coveted prize.

The award category was open to all UK charities, and is designed to celebrate their efforts to make the world a better place. The winner will be revealed at the ceremony.

Keith Williams, General Manager UK and Ireland, JustGiving, says:

“The three finalists show just how diverse and vibrant our sector is, each representing unique causes, values and ranging in size and focus. They really demonstrate the wide reach of the incredible and inspiring causes on JustGiving. And the diverse level of consumer support that exists for charities and individuals trying to make a positive difference in the world. On behalf of JustGiving, I would like to congratulate International Animal Rescue, The British Hen Welfare Trust and Reverse Rett for reaching this incredible milestone. The thousands of people who have voted for these charities is a testament to their belief, passion and desire to achieve something bigger than themselves. I can’t wait to find out who will be crowned our Charity of the Year 2018.”

Phily Kennington, Social Media and Community Fundraising Manager, International Animal Rescue, Says:

‘We are absolutely delighted and humbled to be named as a finalist for the JustGiving Charity of the Year! As a smaller charity we are dependent upon the loyal and dedicated kindness of our wonderful supporters and we know it is thanks to them that we have made it this far. Receiving nominations such as this truly means a lot to us all and we are determined to continue showing our supporters the amazing things we can achieve together.’

Jane Howorth, Company Founder, British Hen Welfare Trust, says:

“The whole team at Hen Central are simply delighted at being shortlisted for the JustGiving Charity of the Year award – there were lots of excited whoops and cheers being made in our office when the news came through! To have gotten this far is a testament to our wonderful supporters who take on all sorts of weird and wacky fundraisers in the name of hen welfare. Whether it’s abseiling down a water tower or running a 153-mile race in Greece, we are immensely proud of each and every person who raises funds to help save more hens from slaughter. We’ve now got our fingers firmly crossed for the win on 20 November!”
Andy Stevenson, Co-Founder and Fundraising Manager, Reverse Rett, says:

'We are delighted to have made the shortlist for 'Charity of the Year'. Rett Syndrome is a devastating condition and almost all the support we get are from families of people living with Rett Syndrome, their friends and connections and we are constantly amazed at their commitment and dedication to spreading the word and funding Rett research, making the shortlist is evidence of their tenacity. Most people have never heard of Rett Syndrome, so it is fantastic to have made the short list in this prestigious category as it will get the condition and the potential for treatment out there'

The JustGiving Awards celebrate some of the many amazing individuals, charities and teams who have used JustGiving in the last 12 months to change lives and make a positive contribution to a good cause.

There are a total of nine award categories – which include: Charity of the Year, Endurance Fundraiser of the Year, Creative Fundraiser of the Year, Change Maker of the Year, Fundraising Team of the Year, Young Fundraiser of the Year, Celebrity Fundraiser of the Year, Crowdfunder of the Year and Outstanding Commitment of the Year. From these, there are 27 finalists.

Voting for the awards has now closed. The winners will be revealed at the Awards ceremony.

Ends

Contact details:
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Notes to Editor

JustGiving
The JustGiving Awards was established nine years ago to celebrate the many amazing individuals, charities and teams who have used JustGiving to change lives and make a positive contribution to a good cause.

JustGiving (a Blackbaud Company) is the world’s leading online giving platform, enabling 24 million people to raise £3.5 billion for over 26,000 charities since launching in 2001. As a tech-for-good company, JustGiving develops world-class technology and innovative tools to fulfil its mission to connect people with the causes they care about. By making giving more simple, social and rewarding, JustGiving helps all causes, charities and people in need to reach more people and raise more money

International Animal rescue
At International Animal Rescue we do much more than our name suggests. We not only save animals from suffering, we also rehabilitate and release them back into the wild, as well as working to protect their precious natural habitats. We also provide a safe haven for life for animals that can no longer fend for themselves. In all that we do, we work to find practical solutions that benefit both animals and people.

Please click here to view the charity in action
**British Hen Welfare Trust**
The charity was established in 2005 by Jane Howorth MBE and is Britain’s first registered charity for re-homing laying hens.

In the UK there are approximately 16 million hens kept in colony cages. The charity has so far found retirement homes for over 660,000 caged hens, all of which were destined for slaughter. The charity has collection points across the UK and is helped by 800+ volunteers. The charity also educates consumers about caged eggs hidden in processed foods, like pasta, quiches, cakes and mayonnaise so they can make an informed choice when shopping.

**Reverse Rett**
Reverse Rett is a UK medical research charity working to speed treatments and a cure for Rett Syndrome. Rett Syndrome has already been reversed in the lab. We work to drive these promising lab developments into tangible treatments and a cure for people living with Rett Syndrome today.

For more information about the charity visit [www.reverserett.org.uk](http://www.reverserett.org.uk) to learn more about Rett Syndrome, please click [here](http://www.reverserett.org.uk).