



PRESS RELEASE

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RECORD NUMBERS AND GLOBAL WINNERS AT THIS YEAR'S IFC

This year's International Fundraising Congress (IFC) saw the highest ever number of delegates through its doors, attracted by an outstanding programme of events and debates focused on the key issues facing fundraisers today and led by the sector's most inspirational speakers. Nearly 1,000 delegates attended, taking advantage of the opportunity to learn from the best in the sector and to network with colleagues from all over the world.

One of the highlights of this year's programme was the Resource Alliance Global Awards for Fundraising which drew together the winners of 10 countries' national awards schemes to compete to become the 'Winner of Winners'. This is the second year of the Global Awards, launched at the IFC last year and supported by fundraising associations around the world. Four categories make up the Awards – two for organisations (Big Idea, Small Budget and Innovative Fundraising Campaign) and two for individuals (The Global Fundraiser and the Outstanding Volunteer).

An organisation which champions poverty reduction strategies and natural resource management - **Living Earth, Uganda** - won the Big Idea, Small Budget Global Award. The judging panel (made up of five eminent fundraising professionals) cited it as "an excellent example of mobilizing local resources in what has developed into a thriving local enterprise". And the Innovative Fundraising Campaign Award went to a **Diakoni, Frankfurt** - an organisation which helps people living with disability, in isolation or facing other life crises. The judges described this campaign as "inspirational" and "creating an emotional connection which everyone can connect to".

The individual awards presented the judging panel with a difficult decision which resulted in their selection of two joint winners of The Global Fundraiser Award. – **Melissa Smith of the RMIT University in Australia and Jonathan Irwin of Jack and Jill Children's Foundation in Ireland**. The judges praised Melissa's personal commitment to social change which they

said “secured a gift not only of such magnitude but also from a very new market, earning her a place in the history books of Australian philanthropy”. When it came to Jonathan Irwin, whose organisation provides care and support for children with severe neurological development issues and their families, the judges noted his work as “an outstanding example of a passionate response backed up with the vision to make a big and sustained impact”. They were impressed with the way in which Jonathan “has grown his organisation, taking it from strength to strength with his pioneering approach to fundraising”.

The Outstanding Volunteer Award went to **Ada Banks a volunteer with the Cancer Council in Queensland, Australia**. She won the Award, in recognition of her “15 committed years during which Ada has become connected by head, heart and spirit to the Cancer Council”.

All the winners were announced at a special ceremony on 19 October, during the IFC.

For Neelam Makhijani, Chief Executive of the Resource Alliance, organisers of IFC, this year’s event has set a new standard in terms of the record number of delegates, the quality of the programme and the success of the growing Global Awards. Neelam and the team are looking forward to receiving entries for the Global Awards from even more countries next year and countries which do not yet have a national fundraising awards programme can talk to the Resource Alliance for support in setting one up. She says: “We really have raised the bar again for this event. Its success is a testament to the global fundraising community and its sustained commitment to learning and sharing experiences in order to improve performance and face the challenges we all have to deal with in the current climate with innovation and creativity.”

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Notes to Editors

About the Resource Alliance

- Established in 1981, the Resource Alliance is an international charity headquartered in London whose mission is to be the global network for fundraising, resource mobilisation and philanthropy, building skills and knowledge and promoting excellence within civil society

- With regional offices in Asia (India), South America (Brazil) and Africa (Uganda), the Resource Alliance's vision is a strong and sustainable worldwide civil society
- The Resource Alliance organises and runs the annual International Fundraising Congress (IFC), now in its 31st year, which brings together fundraising professionals from around the world
- To help organisations increase their fundraising capabilities, the Resource Alliance provides a range of services and resources, including conferences, international and regional workshops, accredited in-depth courses in Fundraising and Communications, tailor-made training and mentoring, research, publications and newsletters and award programmes
- These courses and events help to fund the work of the Resource Alliance which is also supported by many institutional agencies, INGOs and corporates, as well as by the income generated by its tailored training and mentoring services
- Working closely with its regional offices, the Resource Alliance also runs two events to help raise fundraising capabilities in the global south – an International Workshop on Resource Mobilisation and the Global Awards For Fundraising
- The Resource Alliance is led by Chief Executive, Neelam Makhijani, who was appointed in April 2010 having worked for the organisation for over six years
- **To find out more about the work of the Resource Alliance, visit www.resource-alliance.org**

About the International Fundraising Congress (IFC)

- Established in 1981, the International Fundraising Congress regularly attracts close to 1,000 participants from over 60 countries
- Bringing together fundraising professionals from all over the world, the IFC is renowned for its outstanding learning and networking opportunities, and is recognised as the world's leading fundraising congress
- The IFC 2012 will take place in The Netherlands from 16-19 October
- The IFC is organised and run by the Resource Alliance, an international charity with headquarters in London and regional offices in Asia, Brazil and Africa whose vision is a strong and sustainable civil society
- **To find out more about the International Fundraising Congress (IFC), visit www.resource-alliance.org/ifc/**

For further information or to arrange interviews with Neelam Makhijani, speakers or Global Award winners, please contact Maggie Young at The Good Agency on +44 (0)20 7738 1900 / +44 (0)7985 912817 / maggie.young@thegoodagency.co.uk.