PRESS RELEASE

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Search for the UK’s most inspirational philanthropists is on with the UK Beacon Awards

The Beacon Awards for Philanthropy has launched a search for inspirational philanthropists in the UK. Local Beacon agents Oxfordshire Community Foundation are keen to find nominees from Oxfordshire for the prestigious philanthropy awards, which will be presented in April 2015.

Beacon Awards are presented to those whose giving is creating a permanent legacy, whose giving will inspire others to give and contains useful lessons for other philanthropists. Previous winners include J.K. Rowling; Sir Bob Geldof and Zac Goldsmith. Nominations for the prestigious awards are now open and will close on 5 December 2014.

The main award is the Beacon Award for Philanthropy. In addition Beacon will also be presenting:

- Beacon Award for Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation
- Beacon Award for an Outstanding Partnership Between a Philanthropist and a Charity
- Beacon Award for City Philanthropy (sponsored by the City of London Corporation’s charity, City Bridge Trust through its project City Philanthropy – A Wealth of Opportunity)
- Beacon Award for Cultural Philanthropy
- Beacon Award for Impact Investment

Gay Huey Evans, Chairman of the Beacon Awards said: “The UK has a tradition of philanthropy to be proud of – from George Cadbury, the chocolate heir who set up the Bourneville Village Trust in the 19th Century, to Dame Cicely Saunders who laid the foundations of the modern day hospice movement in the 20th Century. The Beacon Awards honour the incredible men and women who are building on that heritage in order to inspire others to give.”

The deadline for nominations is 1800 on Friday 5 December 2014. The Beacon Awards ceremony will take place at the old City of London Boys School on 21 April 2015. For full details of the categories, eligibility and criteria or to nominate someone for an award please visit the Beacon website: www.beaconawards.org.uk.

The Beacon Awards, which take place biennially, are supported by J.P. Morgan Private Bank with additional support from the City of London Corporation’s charity, City Bridge Trust and its project City Philanthropy – A Wealth of Opportunity, and Pears Foundation. The awards are managed by UK Community Foundations.

Tracey Reddings, head of J.P. Morgan Private Wealth Management for the UK commented: “J.P. Morgan Private Bank is delighted to sponsor the Beacon Awards 2015. Our firm has a proud history in philanthropy through the work of our founding fathers, amongst them J.P. Morgan, George Peabody and John D Rockefeller. Philanthropy continues to be at the core of our business through our corporate foundation, and within the Private Bank our Philanthropy Centre team of experienced advisors is dedicated to helping our clients to fine-tune strategy and fulfil charitable goals. We are excited to celebrate and honour such an inspirational array of outstanding philanthropists in the UK, who continue to encourage others on giving back through innovative solutions across a vast variety of causes.”
The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Fiona Woolf, said: "The City of London is a hive of philanthropy where, for almost a millennium, its citizens, businesses and institutions have used their wealth and resources for public benefit. This tradition continues today, with many shining examples of wealth and resources being used to tackle some of society's greatest challenges.

"I am particularly pleased that the City of London Corporation’s charity, the City Bridge Trust, is sponsoring a special Beacon Award for City Philanthropy – and I know that the winners of this award and others will indeed be a beacon of what is possible when time, talent and treasure are used for the greater good."

Notes for editors

About the Beacon Awards

- Since 2003 Beacon Awards have been made to over 100 people. In addition to the biennial awards ceremony Beacon also runs a programme of roundtables and other smaller events that offer opportunities for philanthropists to connect with each other in order to share best practice and learn about the best philanthropic work in the UK today.

- Since 2010 the Beacon Fellowship has been managed by UK Community Foundations. UK Community Foundations’ national network of community foundations allows Beacon’s influence to spread throughout the country to reach a diverse range of communities and philanthropists.

About J.P. Morgan Private Bank

- With client assets of $992 billion, J.P. Morgan Private Bank is a global financial leader providing advice and customised solutions to wealthy individuals and their families. The firm leverages its broad capabilities in investing, tax and estate planning, family office management, philanthropy, credit, and special advisory services to help our clients advance toward their own particular goals. For more than 160 years, the Private Bank’s comprehensive and integrated approach, commitment to innovation and integrity, and focus on client service have made J.P. Morgan the advisor of choice to those of significant wealth around the world.

About City Philanthropy – A Wealth of Opportunity

- City Philanthropy – A Wealth of Opportunity is a three-year project funded by the City of London Corporation’s charity, City Bridge Trust. It aims to promote more effective philanthropy among City professionals earlier in their careers and position the City of London as a leading global centre for philanthropy. To find out more visit www.cityphilanthropy.org.uk.

About Pears Foundation

- Pears Foundation is a British family foundation rooted in Jewish values. Its work is concerned with positive identity and citizenship. Support of the Beacon Awards complements other investments by the foundation in strengthening and encouraging philanthropy, including the new philanthropy education programme First Give, fund development work with the community foundations, and the annual Foundation Giving Trends reports published by the Association of Charitable Foundations. For further information, please visit www.pearsfoundation.org.uk.

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