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Young Lives vs Cancer named UK charity of the year by the Access Group

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<u>The Access Group</u>, a leading provider of business management software to mid-market organisations in the UK, Ireland, the US, and Asia Pacific, has announced that it will be partnering with <u>Young Lives vs</u> <u>Cancer</u> as its charity of the year in the UK for the financial year 2024/25.

The Access Group will be supporting the charity in its mission to provide children, young people, and their families with the emotional, financial and practical support needed. This helps them find the strength to face whatever cancer throws at them.

Every year, The Access Group employees nominate causes they'd like to support, and an employee vote decides which charity partner the business raises for globally through a calendar of events. The Access Group then matches every pound raised and the charities receive an additional grant from the Access Foundation.

During the last financial year, the business and its employees raised almost £1m for <u>Magic Breakfast</u>, a charity that works to deliver free breakfasts and support to over 200,000 UK schoolchildren in disadvantaged communities who face hunger every day.

Megan Rogers, project manager at The Access Group, commented on the new charity of the year: "I am absolutely thrilled with this announcement. This charity is very close to my family's heart, as my younger sister Hannah was diagnosed with grade four terminal brain cancer two years ago. Young Lives vs Cancer has supported both Hannah and our family. We are delighted that this partnership will help the charity raise awareness and funds so they can continue supporting others."

Rachel Kirby-Rider, chief executive at Young Lives vs Cancer, said: "We are delighted The Access Group



has chosen Young Lives vs Cancer as its next UK charity partner. We look forward to working together over the coming year to help raise vital funds for children and young people and their families facing cancer. The team already has so many incredible fundraising ideas, so we're looking forward to seeing all the events and challenges staff take on.

"This will not only be an incredible opportunity to raise much-needed funds but our partnership with The Access Group will bring opportunities beyond fundraising as they bring their expertise to work with us and share their knowledge to develop our systems and processes, which helps us build the best experience for children and young people with cancer and their families."

The Access Group is committed to positively impacting the lives of the communities it works in worldwide. In addition to Young Lives vs Cancer, the business will support charities across the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Romania, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the US and Malaysia.

These charities include <u>The Alzheimer Society of Ireland</u> – the leading dementia-specific service provider in Ireland. The ASI works across the country in the heart of local communities providing services and support, advocating for the rights and needs of people living with dementia and their carers.

The Access Group will also support the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD). NORD is a charity in the US that builds a community to create lasting impact by improving the health and well-being of people with rare diseases and driving advances in care, research, and policy.

NORD's President and Chief Executive Officer, Pamela Gavin, said: "I want to share my gratitude to The Access Group for selecting the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) as its 2024-2025 US charity partner. At its heart, NORD is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of the 30 million Americans who are impacted by one or more of the 10,000+ known rare diseases. That equates to one in ten of us, making rare disease a public health issue in every community. We are grateful to The Access Group for recognizing this. There are so many exciting advancements on the horizon and NORD's goal going forward is to ensure that the impact of that progress in policy, research, and care is felt by all, and that no one gets left behind.

"Over the next year of this partnership, we look forward to working together to support patients and families living with rare diseases not only through your generous donations, but also by offering opportunities for The Access Group's team to volunteer with us and spread awareness about rare diseases in the US and beyond."

In Vietnam, the chosen charity is <u>Blue Dragon Children's Foundation</u>. The charity aims to end the trafficking of Vietnamese people by rescuing children from the dangers of the streets. Once they are safe, the charity provides counselling, accommodation, health care and long term educational and vocational support for them to heal, rebuild their lives and thrive.

In Sri Lanka the chosen charity is <u>Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind</u> which was established in 1912 under the ZENNA Mission. Since its inception, the institution has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing free education and comprehensive amenities to visually, speech and hearing-impaired students.

The Access Group will also be supporting <u>Beyond Blue</u> in Australia, <u>SUKA Society</u> in Malaysia, <u>Sir John</u> <u>Kirwan Foundation</u> in New Zealand and <u>United Way</u> in Romania.



Anderson Selvasegaram, Executive Director at SUKA Society said: "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to The Access Group for choosing us as your 'Charity of the Year!' Your support is invaluable to our mission of protecting and preserving the best interests of children. We look forward to welcoming your team to partner and collaborate with us on our various projects, including those involving indigenous children, trafficked survivors, and unaccompanied and separated minors. We believe that this partnership will profoundly impact the children we serve and provide a meaningful and enriching experience for your team. Thank you for your commitment to making a difference."

For more information on the charities, visit: <u>https://www.theaccessgroup.com/en-gb/not-for-profit/giving-back</u>