

# JustGiving chief executive promoted to Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to business and charity

## **PRESS RELEASE – Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

The co-founder and chief executive officer of JustGiving, Zarine Kharas, has been recognised in the Queen's birthday honours list for the major contribution she has made to business and charity in the United Kingdom.

Kharas co-founded JustGiving with Anne-Marie Huby in 2001 to make charitable giving easier and more effective through the power of digital technology. Since its launch, JustGiving has transformed the way people give to good causes and under her leadership the platform has raised over £2bn for more than 20,000 across the globe.

Zarine Kharas, said: "In 2001, Anne-Marie and I set out to build a sustainable business that was mission led and had social values at its core. JustGiving has been investing and innovating on behalf of good causes ever since and we're both enormously proud of its achievements in connecting people to the causes they care about. None of it would have been possible without the trust of our charity partners, the 24 million people who have given through JustGiving over the years and the hard work of our 170-strong team."

Richard Taylor, executive director of fundraising and marketing at Cancer Research UK, said: "JustGiving was a pioneer of online fundraising that transformed the way people give to charitable causes in this country and has raised a huge amount of money for important causes, including ours. Thanks to Zarine and Anne-Marie's vision and leadership and continued investment in world-class technology, charities of all sizes can simply use JustGiving and keep their focus on raising more money, and the entire sector is stronger for it."

Meredith Niles, head of fundraising innovation at Marie Curie Cancer Care, said: "Zarine Kharas and Anne-Marie Huby were truly visionary in creating JustGiving. Their commitment to investing and innovating in digital technology and infrastructure on behalf of all charities has revolutionised fundraising and been transformational for the third sector. The amount of money JustGiving has been able to generate for great causes is unparalleled and the long-lasting social value the business has created under their leadership is inspirational."

In 2009 Zarine Kharas joined previous recipients, Sir Tim Berners-Lee and Professor Stephen Hawking, in being [awarded the RSA's Albert Medal](#) for "democratising fundraising and technology for charities."

In her acceptance speech Kharas asserted her belief that "a company needs to serve all its constituents in a balanced way" and "long-term sustainability requires shareholders to understand that sometimes decisions that may have a negative impact on immediate profits may have longer-

term value". She believes "that business and ethics, rather than being incompatible, actually go hand in hand", and challenged corporate leaders "to adopt new forms of behaviour".

She holds a BA in law from Cambridge University and before launching JustGiving worked for City solicitors Lawrence Graham and Linklaters & Paines, specialising in corporate and financial law; Credit Suisse First Boston; MC Securities and Simmons & Simmons.

**-ENDS-**

**Further information:** Helen Dagley / [helen.dagley@justgiving.com](mailto:helen.dagley@justgiving.com) / +44 (0) 207 067 0963 / (0)78 4028 2116

**Notes to editors:**

## **About JustGiving**

Voted Best Giving Platform by the charity members of the Institute of Fundraising in 2014 and 2015, JustGiving is the world's social platform for giving, enabling over 24 million people across 164 countries to raise more than \$3 billion since 2001.

As a tech-for-good company, JustGiving charges a small fee on donations, all of which is re-invested into the development of world-class technology and innovative tools to fulfil its mission to connect people with the causes they care about.

More recently JustGiving has used its unique understanding of people's giving behaviour to enhance the personalisation of its service so that people can not only donate to friends on JustGiving, but discover further opportunities to support people and charities in aid of the causes they care about. For more information: [blog.justgiving.com/welcome-to-the-new-social-justgiving](http://blog.justgiving.com/welcome-to-the-new-social-justgiving)

In 2014 JustGiving broke new records in its donation volumes to process a donation every single minute. At peak times traffic volumes can increase to four donations per second.

Some examples of JustGiving fundraising pages:

- Stephen Sutton's fundraising page for Teenage Cancer Trust has raised £4,555,230.05 to date - <http://www.justgiving.com/Stephen-Sutton-TCT>
- Manchester Evening News fundraising appeal for the Manchester Dogs Home following a devastating fire raised £1,473,911.40 - <http://www.justgiving.com/ManchesterDogsHomeMEN>
- The DEC Appeal following the earthquake in Nepal raised more than £3 million - <http://campaign.justgiving.com/charity/australianredcross/vanuatu-appeal>
- Jamie and Luke rowed across the Atlantic in aid of Breast Cancer Care and raised £314,861.00 - <http://2boysinaboat.com>
- Ten year old Savannah shaved her head to raise £1636.00 for Cancer Research UK in memory of her dad - <http://www.justgiving.com/Savannah-Pell>

## JustGiving Crowdfunding

In November 2014 JustGiving opened its platform to enable anybody to take direct action by raising money by the causes they care about: <http://crowdfunding.justgiving.com>

To date individuals have pledged over £3m for thousands of crowdfunding pages to support people in need, fund projects in their local community and improve the local environment.

Some examples of successful crowdfunding pages funded:

- saving lives in a local community with the purchase of a defibrillator - <http://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/help-a-heart>
- starting a mentoring programme for young people - <http://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/promisefoundation>
- funding a gold medal winning Paralympic team - <http://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/yimby/londontosochi>
- helping a dog called Lola to walk - <http://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/lolaslegs>