

Business matters

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RENFREWSHIRE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ROCCO
RENFREWSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS AWARDS 2010

RENFREWSHIRE WIDE CREDIT UNION



THE Renfrewshire Wide Credit Union provides Credit Union Financial Services, Products and Education for everyone who lives or works in Renfrewshire.

Renfrewshire Wide Credit Union Ltd was born from local people with a desire to help others in their local community, to becoming a social enterprise with six full time staff members and three part time staff, over 40 volunteers, a one million pound turnover and influence and leadership that extends across Scotland and the UK.

Alison Dowling – Communications and Development Manager said: "The School Credit Union Project aims to successfully establish school credit unions across every nursery and school in Renfrewshire, taking young people aged three to 18, taking an early intervention approach to preventing transitions into high-interest debt. We've

taken a pioneering approach to develop and deliver a major educational initiative within schools which makes a direct link to the Curriculum for Excellence, building on a "skills for life and employment" approach. Karen Graham – Operations Manager said: "We are incredibly proud to have been shortlisted for this prestigious award. "Just to be in the running is excellent but obviously we're in it to win it!"

"At a time when everyone is feeling the pinch the RWCU has really gone that extra mile to help build community empowerment to aid in alleviating financial hardship by offering low cost, ethical financial services and products.

"Receiving such high profile recognitions is a phenomenal boost of confidence to the entire staff and volunteers, some of whom have give 30 years unpaid service."



STEPPING STONES FOR FAMILIES

IN the running for the award for Social Enterprise is Stepping Stones for Families - national voluntary organisation based in Paisley.

Originally part of the Scottish Pre-School Play Association it began operating independently in October 1988.

Their vision is that all children and young people have an enjoyable life in a healthy, fair and safe environment where they are respected and supported to achieve their full potential.

The company firmly believe people have the potential to make positive changes to their lives with the right opportunities and support.

Staff work alongside local people and in partnership with other agencies in the public, voluntary

and private sector and their key focus is on community regeneration, family support and development, pupil support to sustain children in mainstream education, income maximisation, rural transport, childcare and community development to transform disadvantaged communities.

Any income that is generated from the services are used to further subsidise services or to improve them and local staff are also employed on each project which brings the knowledge only community members can have.

A spokesperson for Stepping Stones for Families said: "We felt that having had our base of operations in Renfrewshire for so many years and has led to strong relationships with other organisations in the area and has benefited our

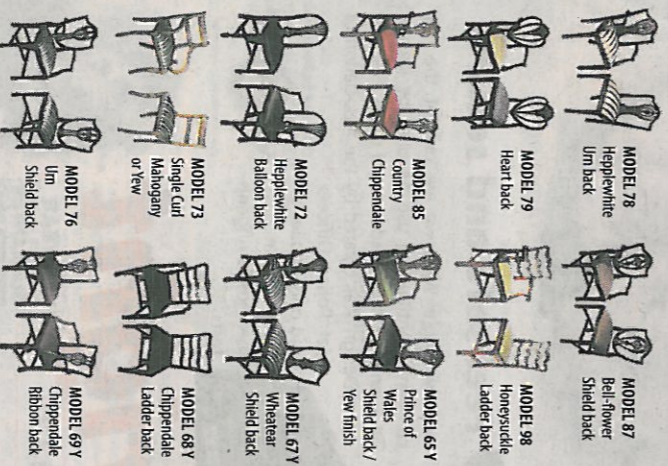
organisation greatly. "Winning this award would mean a lot to Stepping Stones for Families.

"To be recognized as a social enterprise when our activities have always been, in one way or another, socially enterprising, is entirely gratifying for all our staff who put so much hard work into helping families and communities and making a difference in areas where changes are needed.

"It would also be another achievement that we would be so proud of."

"All our staff are very excited about the awards and can't wait to find out the results for the social enterprise of the year category. All our staff are very proud of the work that we do and are so happy just to be nominated."

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KIBBLE EDUCATION AND CARE CENTRE

A NOMINEE in the award for Social Enterprise is the Kibble Education and Care Centre.

Elizabeth Kibble created the centre 150 years ago as she was determined to make life better for disadvantaged young people in Scotland.

Kibble is one of Scotland's leading social enterprises turning around the lives of some of the most troubled and troublesome young people in Scotland.

Working in partnership with local and Scottish Government, Kibble's specialist services have been designed to ensure they are offering efficient and effective provision for young people, including those posing significant challenges to mainstream services.

Displaying a complex mix of social, emotional, educational and behavioural problems, the young people have experienced early childhood neglect, abuse and trauma and slipped through the safety nets provided by a range of early intervention programmes.

In 1996, 100 per cent of government grant funding was withdrawn and since then Kibble has reinvented itself and invested over £20m in its services, facilities and staff.

It is a strong community anchor organisation, generating independent income whilst delivering social, economic and



environmental impacts, led by a committed board of local voluntary trustees, and a highly experienced senior management team.

In addition KibbleWorks and KibblePLUS have created a portfolio of social enterprises to provide work experience and training for 16 to 24-year-olds.

The enterprises offer warehousing and distribution, general trades, market gardening, ICT, marketing, support services, event management and promotional goods and around 80 young people are currently gaining valuable employability skills.

Graham Bell, chief executive, said "We are delighted to have been short-listed for the ROCCO award as social enterprise of the year. Kibble really does "go the extra mile" to support our young people, our staff, our volunteers and our Board.

"Our partnership with Renfrewshire Council and Renfrewshire's Workforce Plus has allowed us create a wide range of employability opportunities for local 18 to 24-year-olds and deliver a strong community benefit and economic impact".

More ROCCO Award nominees on page 14