



12 June 09

## FORCES CHARITY PICKS UP TOP NATIONAL AWARD

A charity which provides homes for the families of severely injured servicemen and women so that they can be close to their loved ones whilst they are receiving treatment, has won one of the most prestigious accolades to be awarded in the charity sector at the **Charity Awards 2009**, the UK charity sector's most prestigious award scheme which celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

**SSAFA Forces Help** beat The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign and the sight loss charity Visibility to pick up the award in the Disability category. It was chosen for its 'SSAFA Norton Homes' - two 'homes from home' set up close to the main military treatment centres at Headley Court in Surrey and Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham, where the families of wounded servicemen can stay whilst visiting the hospitals and where support and advice is available from a dedicated on-site team. Chief executive Major General Andrew Cumming picked up the coveted award at a glittering award ceremony in London last night.

Hosted by Jeremy Vine, the ceremony was attended by an impressive line up of celebrities including Lauren Laverne, John Culshaw, Duncan Bannatyne, Ken Livingstone and Mel Geidroyc, who presented awards in 10 separate categories.

**SSAFA Forces Help** was presented with the Disability award for the speed and efficiency with which it worked to purchase and refurbish its two 'homes from home' to help the families of servicemen and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and for the quality of the

The Charity Awards

15 Prescott Place, London SW4 6BS | Tel: 020 7819 1200 | Fax: 020 7819 1210 | Email: [info@charityawards.co.uk](mailto:info@charityawards.co.uk) | Website: [www.charityawards.co.uk](http://www.charityawards.co.uk)

Hosted by

**plazapublishing**

Overall sponsors

**CAF** Charities Aid Foundation

**THE LEADERSHIP TRUST**  
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



service both homes offer to those staying. Named after Captain Peter Norton, a serviceman who suffered appalling injuries in Iraq and whose family inspired the project, both houses have been in constant use since opening their doors - over 200 people have stayed at Norton House, Hedley Court since February 08 whilst Selly Oak was put to immediate use on the day it opened earlier this year and has continued to help families of servicemen in all three services since then.

Other winners included environmental charity BTCV, NoiseFestival.com - an arts festival based in Manchester, and Leap Confronting Conflict, a charity which works with young people to help combat gang violence, which picked up the top award of the night for Overall excellence in charity management. Michael Brophy, former chief executive of The Charities Aid Foundation, picked up the Outstanding leadership award.

The annual Charity Awards ceremony is the highest-profile event in the charity calendar. Since launching ten years ago, the awards have honoured hundreds of charities, large and small, from across the UK, acknowledging their outstanding work and achievements and the tireless commitment of the people behind them.

Daniel Phelan, organiser of the Charity Awards 2009 comments:

“Over the last ten years many wonderful charities have been recognised by the Charity Awards, showing how much fantastic work takes place within the sector.

What the winning charities all have in common is their ability to turn innovation, passion and vision into an effective project or organisation demonstrating considerable impact. It's vital that we acknowledge these achievements, which is why I'm delighted SSAFA Forces Help has won the Disability award. It is a fantastic

The Charity Awards

15 Prescott Place, London SW4 6BS | Tel: 020 7819 1200 | Fax: 020 7819 1210 | Email: [info@charityawards.co.uk](mailto:info@charityawards.co.uk) | Website: [www.charityawards.co.uk](http://www.charityawards.co.uk)

Hosted by

**plazapublishing**

Overall sponsors

**CAF** Charities Aid Foundation

**THE LEADERSHIP TRUST**  
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



organisation and the award is thoroughly deserved. I congratulate everyone involved."

The Charity Awards programme is organised by *Charity Finance*, the leading business publication for the voluntary sector.

**For more information about SSAFA Forces Help please contact:**

Lucy Walters, PR Officer on 020 74639258 [lucy.w@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:lucy.w@ssafa.org.uk)

[www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

**For more information about the Charity Awards 2009 please contact:**

Theresa Osen at Origin Communications on 020 7278 0068 [theresa@originuk.com](mailto:theresa@originuk.com)

[www.charityawards.co.uk](http://www.charityawards.co.uk)

**The Charity Awards**

15 Prescott Place, London SW4 6BS | Tel: 020 7819 1200 | Fax: 020 7819 1210 | Email: [info@charityawards.co.uk](mailto:info@charityawards.co.uk) | Website: [www.charityawards.co.uk](http://www.charityawards.co.uk)

Hosted by

**plazapublishing**

Overall sponsors

**CAF** Charities Aid  
Foundation

**THE LEADERSHIP TRUST**  
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT