

Beth Thomas receives Whizz-Kidz Skills Achiever Award

A young 19-year-old, Beth Thomas, has been given a Skills Achiever Award by the disabled children's charity, Whizz-Kidz, as part of the charity's 25th anniversary celebrations.

Beth first started coming to Whizz-Kidz three years ago when she joined the Manchester Ambassador Club. She supported other young disabled children as a Young Mentor at Camp Whizz-Kidz and has completed a Whizz-Kidz work placement at RBS Manchester. She is now a Young Leader and teaches Wheelchair Skills Training as a volunteer.

At Wheelchair Skills Training, Beth teaches techniques to young wheelchair users that helps build confidence and develops their skills. She teaches them spatial awareness; travelling in different directions and around obstacles; planning safe routes; negotiating different surfaces; getting through doorways; up and down ramps and road safety.

Jan Owen, Whizz-Kidz Regional Services Manager - North said, "Beth is such a worthy winner of the Skills Achiever Award. She makes a huge difference to young disabled people by teaching them how to get the most out of their equipment. Beth plays a pivotal role in helping them move towards reaching their full potential and independence."

The Whizz-Kidz 25th Anniversary Skills Achiever Award is sponsored by Putney-based philanthropist Charlotte Grobien OBE. Charlotte is the Founder of 'Give it Away', a company that undertakes property development and donates the profits to charity.

Charlotte Grobien OBE said, "It is so touching to see disabled young people taking on projects to help each other. Beth has made a huge difference in her local area not only by joining the Manchester Ambassador Club but by also taking on a proactive role and teaching such an important skill. It is wonderful to hear that she will continue as a young adult to support Whizz-Kidz and help with their ongoing activities. Beth fully deserves the Skills Achiever Award."

Beth is from Manchester and is being presented with her award at the Nottingham Wheelchair Skills Training day on the 12th December. This award was one of 25 that will be handed out throughout the charity's 25th birthday year to celebrate the outstanding achievements and support of those involved with Whizz-Kidz.

Whizz-Kidz aims to transform the lives of disabled children by providing them with the vital mobility equipment, skills and training they need at the right time in their lives - giving them independence and freedom to fulfil their own ambition. For more information about Whizz-Kidz's work, visit www.whizz-kidz.org.uk.

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For more details please contact Tamara Sperling at t.sperling@whizz-kidz.org.uk or 020 7798 6136.

Notes to Editors

25 years of Whizz-Kidz

- Whizz-Kidz provides disabled children and young people with vital mobility equipment, opportunities to meet and have fun, and training to help them gain skills and look forward to a brighter future.
- Whizz-Kidz has changed the lives of 25,000 disabled children since 1990.
- The right wheelchair and mobility equipment is not automatically provided on the NHS. Whizz-Kidz aims to work where possible with local NHS services, and aims to ensure that much-needed improvements are made in delivering wheelchair services for children in the UK.
- Whizz-Kidz was awarded £5.3 million in Lottery funding last year to provide 10,000 new opportunities for disabled children and young people over the next three years.
- The BIG Lottery funding will allow Whizz-Kidz to deliver more of its nationally recognised Young People's Services than ever before, improving the futures of disabled children and enhancing their lives through clubs, camps, wheelchair skills training and work placements.

About Give it Away

- Charlotte Grobien set up her company, Give it Away, in 2007, which undertakes property development projects and the total profits are donated to charities that support disadvantaged, socially excluded and disabled young people.
- Last year Charlotte reached the incredible milestone of giving away over £1 Million to charitable causes.