

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Gwynedd Whizz-Kidz receives Outstanding Achievement Award**

Gwynedd resident, 25-year-old Aaron Plemming has been given an Outstanding Achievement Award by the disabled children's charity, Whizz-Kidz, as part of the charity's 25th anniversary celebrations.

Aaron first started coming to Whizz-Kidz in 2011. He was feeling isolated after leaving school and did not interact with his peers. Aaron wanted to meet new people and have new experiences so he joined the Whizz-Kidz local Ambassadors Club in Bangor.

He's gone onto become a Young Leader for the charity, which includes taking a role in leading activities at his club such as preparing and developing quiz activities for the group, working with the Regional Co-ordinator to plan and take the lead in the running of the evening meet ups in Caernarfon Coffi Club and supporting other young people who are attending.

At the age of 25, Aaron is now looking forward to being a Whizz-Kidz volunteer. He will be supporting new young people, to enable them to participate in the activities Whizz-Kidz has on offer including wheelchair skills training, camps and work placements.

Jo Fashan, Whizz-Kidz Regional Manager Wales said, "Aaron is such a worthy winner of the Outstanding Achievement Award. He has done so much for his local Ambassadors Club and is a great mentor. He doesn't let his disability get in the way of living his life. He has a passion for live music and regularly travels to both Manchester and Liverpool to see live shows."

The Whizz-Kidz 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Outstanding Achievement 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 and Aaron has made a huge difference in his local area not only to himself by joining the Bangor Ambassador Club but by taking on a proactive role in its running. It is wonderful to hear that he will continue as a young adult to support Whizz-Kidz as a mentor and to help with their ongoing activities. He fully deserves this Outstanding Achievement Award."

Aaron is being presented with his award at the Bangor Ambassador Club on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. This award was one of 25 that will be handed out throughout the charity's 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk).

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## **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.