

PRESS RELEASE

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President of national accounting body to visit award-winning local charity

The National President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW), Martin Hagen and President of the Thames Valley Society of Chartered Accountants, Graeme Gordon, will visit Witney-based charity Cecily's Fund on September 24th to meet staff and Trustees. In June this year, the ICAEW and the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) awarded Cecily's Fund first prize in the Online Accounts Award for charities with an income of £100,000- £500,000.

At the time of the award, Cecily's Fund Chairman, William Powlett Smith, said "The children whom we help educate in Zambia are very grateful to ICAEW for Cecily's Fund's prize money which will be put to good use." It has done this by designing and producing a new Annual Report and Accounts for 2008/09, maintaining the same high standards as last year, and investing in further training in charity finance for Accountant, Anne Palmer.

Martin Hagen said: "These awards recognise best practice, openness and transparency in online reporting. As the ability to be more innovative has increased, charities are having to work harder to keep pace with technological innovation and change, which is why Cecily's Fund should take real pride in winning."

Cecily's Fund, which was set up 11 years ago in memory of Stonesfield teenager, Cecily Eastwood who died aged 19 while volunteering in Zambia, now helps almost 10,000 Zambian children orphaned or impoverished by AIDS, to go to school and to train as peer health educators and teachers.

The charity highly values its transparency and accountability to donors and the Zambian children it helps. Staff and trustees conduct regular monitoring visits to Zambia, working closely with Zambian partner organisations to ensure that donors' money is used as effectively as possible. Although it has a staff of only 4.5 full time equivalents, Cecily's Fund, with its partners, is now the biggest non-governmental facilitator of education in Zambia, and supports over 50% of all the orphans in school in Zambia's North Eastern town of Kitwe.

The charity's Annual Report and Accounts for 2008/09, giving the latest information about its work in Zambia, its partner organisations and the fundraising activities of its supporters, is available at www.cecilyfund.org/ar.html.

Notes for editors: Cecily's Fund

Zambia is already one of the world's poorest countries and because it relies heavily on mining revenues, the recession has hit the Zambian economy particularly hard. This has put a huge strain on basic services such as education and health care and has caused high unemployment in the mining industry.

HIV has also hit Zambia harder than almost anywhere else in the world, and the impacts of the recession will hamper efforts to counter the epidemic. The combination of poverty and HIV means that one in five of all Zambian children are orphans and tens of thousands have been pushed further into poverty by the disease. This forces them to miss out on an education because they can no longer afford the modest cost of shoes, uniforms, books, pens and any fees.

Cecily's Fund is currently supporting almost 10,000 children in primary and secondary school by providing these essentials, and is training 35 young people a year as teachers and 50 a year as peer health educators to help teach thousands of other children how to stay safe from HIV. Cecily's Fund is a UK Registered Charity number 1071660.

For more information about Cecily's Fund's work visit the website at www.cecilysfund.org or contact us.

Notes for editors: ICAEW

The Thames Valley Society of Chartered Accountants was formed initially as a branch of the London Society in 1968. It became the twenty-first District Society of the Institute in 1977. Its area includes the Counties of Berkshire and Oxfordshire and the districts of Beaconsfield and Wycombe in the county of Buckinghamshire. Thames Valley together with the Southern and South Eastern societies forms the South East Region of the ICAEW. The society currently has 6,100 members.

As a world leading professional accountancy body, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW) provides leadership and practical support to over 132,000 members in more than 160 countries, working with Government, regulators and industry in order to ensure the highest standards are maintained.

Our members provide financial knowledge and guidance based on the highest technical and ethical standards. They are trained to challenge people and organisations to think and act differently, to provide clarity and rigour, and so help create and sustain prosperity. The ICAEW ensures these skills are constantly developed, recognised and valued. Because of us, people can do business with confidence.

The ICAEW is a founding member of the Global Accounting Alliance with over 700,000 members worldwide.

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