

PRESS RELEASE

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Novas short listed for Charity of the Year Award

Novas is pleased to announce that it has been shortlisted for the Charity of the Year Award in this year's Charity Times Awards, with the winner to be announced in September.

The Charity Times Awards recognise outstanding achievement in the varied fields of management, honouring the individuals and teams who set the professional standards by which our peers can benchmark themselves.

Maria Donoghue-Mills, Chief Executive of Novas, says,

'It is a real achievement to be short-listed for the Charity of the Year Award, particularly since the other organisations short-listed in this category are mostly large well-known charities. Being short-listed for this award is a recognition of our successful transformation into an organisation at the cutting edge of tackling social disadvantage. Congratulations to everyone at Novas for their contribution to delivering this transformation.'

The winners will be announced in at an event on 12 September 2007, at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Hyde Park, London.

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Novas is at the cutting edge of tackling social disadvantage through creating inclusive employment in social enterprises, providing flexible community based support services to vulnerable people and offering quality art and cultural programmes, which involve the wider community in understanding complex social issues.

Novas was established in 1998 and over the last three years the organisation has transformed itself from predominately a provider of large hostels for homeless people to be at the cutting edge of tackling social disadvantage through social enterprise, innovation and positive impact.

We aim to change lives through arts, enterprise and community support, developing opportunities for individuals and communities through community support, education, training, employment, art, culture and regeneration. We have developed a strong reputation for the delivery of quality community-based services, and for new and innovative approaches together with people who experience inequality, exclusion and discrimination.

We run a cutting edge designer clothes shop; contemporary urban centres offering integrated arts, performance, small business development and community activity; community support services working together with 6,000 people a year with customer input at every level; a translation and interpreting service utilising the skills of over 200 Black and Refugee people, and coffee shops offering fair trade and organic produce.

Our initiatives positively change the lives of people, including those experiencing homelessness, health issues, prejudice and isolation; and they all contribute to bringing communities together. All profits are reinvested back into Novas learning and development programmes for disadvantaged groups, and at least 50% of all jobs created are targeted for these groups.

We develop innovative community empowerment strategies that integrate our services and those that face deep exclusion to be at the centre of our communities, not on the margins. We are currently remodelling many of our large hostels to raise the living standards for people who are homeless, within buildings that will become a part of their local communities through business, market space, cultural quarters, performance spaces, retail and restaurants.

These projects will also offer learning, cultural and enterprise space for a wide range of individuals and communities who experience exclusion.

We have many case histories of how disadvantaged people have successfully turned their lives around, and are successfully contributing to their communities. We can also set up media interviews with them.