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### **Leeds charities call on local businesses to keep recognition alive**

Two Leeds-based social enterprise organisations joined the Yorkshire Biz Awards to host an event last week encouraging local businesses to support the 2010 ceremony.

The Biz Awards celebrates the region's most inspirational SMEs which have triumphed over adversity and recognises organisations which would otherwise go unnoticed.

After winning Best Social Enterprise at the 2009 Biz Awards, Leeds-based Just Coffee People joined 2008 winners Create to host the sponsors showcase by sharing their challenging experiences and the benefits of winning the awards to the invited guests.

Just Coffee People is a charitable organisation which manufactures and supplies ethically produced coffee, reinvesting its profits to help the disadvantaged and disabled people of Leeds become more socially included through meaningful employment.

Kerrie Barr, Managing Director of Just Coffee People, took centre stage with team member Rob, saying: The awards have given ourselves and many other life-changing organisations recognition for the hard work and difficulties we have faced and overcome . these are the sort of intangible successes that would otherwise go unrecognised in such a competitive region.

Not only has winning a Biz Award given our staff motivation and pride in the work they do but it has given us the credibility to grow - all thanks to the support and commitment of sponsors who have given something back to the growing business community.

Leeds-based social enterprise company Create, which provides training and employment opportunities for people who have been homeless, marginalized or vulnerable, came forward at Bradford's Great Victoria hotel to share its inspiring

story. Since winning a Biz award in 2008 Create has now opened a Bradford operation which provides on and off site catering and employs over 35 people in West Yorkshire.+

Managing Director of Create, Gary Stott, said: %The Biz Awards is the region's only celebration of SMEs which have survived in business despite all the odds being stacked against them. After winning an award back in 2008 we have experienced considerable success and much of which is down to the confidence, credibility and boost that the Biz Award gave us.

%We are now joining with other past winners to call out for new sponsors to ensure the Biz Awards sees another year. Supporting and recognising fellow businesses who are just starting their journey is a very visible way of offering invaluable encouragement and ultimately, helping to safe guard the future of Yorkshire's business economy.+

Gary added: %We are calling for any Leeds businesses who want to give something back to our local economy and help recognise and celebrate the region's smaller and start up businesses, to find out more about the difference the awards have made and the ways to sponsor.+

To register your interest and opportunities for involvement, visit [www.thebizawards.co.uk](http://www.thebizawards.co.uk) or contact Charlotte Booth or Becky Armstrong at Approach PR on 01274 722552 or [charlotte@approachpr.com](mailto:charlotte@approachpr.com).

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**For more information about the Biz Awards, please contact Charlotte Booth or Becky Armstrong at Approach PR on 01274 722552 or email [charlotte@approachpr.com](mailto:charlotte@approachpr.com)**