

Yorkshire Charity Celebrates Being Crowned UK's Best Small Company for Second Year

Bradford-based debt counselling charity, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), was today celebrating following news that it has scooped the prestigious award of Sunday Times Best Small Company to Work For 2009, following its success the previous year.

In an unprecedented development, the charity fought off stiff competition from nearly 1000 other companies to claim the award, meaning that it is the first small company to win two years in a row since the Best Small Companies awards were launched six years ago.

The accolade comes shortly after the charity opened an additional 13 debt counselling centres across the UK, bringing to 92 the total church-based centres now in operation in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

CAP, which was founded in Bradford in 1996, won the award based on responses to anonymous questionnaires that were sent to all employees. Responses to questions surrounding many aspects of working environment, including ongoing training, career prospects and quality of leadership placed the Christian charity above the competition.

97 per cent of employees felt proud to work for CAP, with 93 per cent also stating that working for the charity was good for personal growth. In addition, 99 per cent felt that the company made a positive difference to the world we live in.

Matt Barlow, UK Chief Executive, said: "To win this award last year was a fantastic achievement, but to win two years in a row is simply breathtaking. Our staff are on the frontline of dealing with society's biggest problem so creating a fantastic working environment is the least we can do to support them as they change lives.

“The results we got from the anonymous questionnaires have given us much to celebrate but most of all we’re proud that a Christian charity, and one based in Yorkshire, has come out tops.

“Christian organisations need not be amateurish and this award is proof that we can offer a world-beating service, whilst still holding fast to the beliefs that caused us to be founded in the first place. Hopefully this will show others that you don’t need to be in London to be at the forefront of all that is good in the workplace too.”

For more information visit www.capuk.org or call 0800 328 0006

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Notes to editors:

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Further information

About Christians Against Poverty

CAP aims to show God’s love in action by providing sustainable poverty relief through debt counselling, advice and practical help. CAP’s unique ‘hands on’ approach empowers people to help themselves out of poverty and be released from the fear, oppression and worry generated by overwhelming debts. Vital financial and budgeting life skills are developed through our services, thus ensuring poverty relief is sustainable.

The charity operates through a growing network of centres based around the UK, all opened in partnership with a local church. Over the last ten years, the charity has grown from one man working from his home with a donation of £10, to a national charity with 92 centres across the country and an annual turnover of £5 million.

CAP’s vision is to answer the national problem of debt in the UK by having at least one CAP centre operating in every major town and city by the year 2021.