

LEEDS AWARD

Hillary Wilmer: Reasons for Nomination

When Hillary first volunteered at Chapeltown Citizens' Advice Bureau her eyes were opened to the realities of life outside comfortable Britain and she was exposed to a whole world of poverty and injustice situations.

In 1986 Hillary set up the Leeds and Moortown Furniture Store to provide good quality second-hand furniture, free of charge, to those in Leeds who needed it.

The following year she responded to the need for emergency accommodation for young homeless people by setting up Nightstop. There are now 30 Nightstop Schemes across the country.

It was when Hillary first met Irene, the mum of a murdered 17 year old prostitute, that she really found her calling and they set up CROP, the Coalition for the Removal of Pimping, which was set up from an office in Leeds in a bid to help other families in similar positions. Sadly Irene died in 2000 but Hillary kept it going, securing funding from the Home Office and other organisations.

CROP, based on York Road, is the only organisation nationally that supports the parents of children who are sexually exploited and has worked with more than 400 families over the last five years. Until CROP was founded there was nowhere for affected parents to go. There are now regular parent network days when mothers and fathers from up and down the country can meet up to share their experiences.

Through hard work and determination legislation has been tightened up and grooming is now an offence that carries up to 14 years in prison.

Hillary will carry on fighting to rid our society of another of its injustices and that is why I am nominating her for the Leeds Award which is justly deserved.

Glynis Holmes: Reasons for Nomination

Over many years Glynis has been the instigator of countless good deeds for various local charities and organisations, which has resulted in her raising thousands of pounds for:

- Walked the Dales Way for 'Take Heart'
- Sponsored head shave for Comic Relief
- Fun Day at Elmfield Court for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance
- Car boot sales and market stalls to raise money for Morley Walking club, Upper Wharefdale Fell Rescue, Morley Stroke Club, Leukaemia Research, Volunteer Reading Help at St George's Crypt
- Charity cycle ride with a team of clergy for the Morley Thirukkivil – a Tsunami effected village in Sri-Lanka
- Sponsored cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats for 8 local charities (all money raised in sponsorship benefited the charities as Glynis paid all expenses, such as food and overnight accommodation, with her own money)
- Sponsored cycle/walk, in and around Lotherton Hall for the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal 2009/10 (again, in addition to the charities benefiting from the sponsorship, Glynis gave nearly £1000 of her own money, on top of more or less organising the whole event, including risk assessments, liasing with police and all other relevant agencies

In addition to fundraising, Glynis is passionate about her local community and as a member of Elmfield and Bridge Street Residents Group she has helped to organise various clean ups, litter picking, snow clearing (especially last winter), shopping for those unable to get out and generally being a good friend to her elderly neighbours.

Glynis uses her own initiative to organise events and is always willing to help any worthy cause in whatever way she can.

I am delighted to nominate Glynis for a Leeds Award and feel she has certainly changed the lives of many people.