

Vision wins award for its work in raising funds for charities working with the Visually Impaired

The visual charity, Vision, joined a mountain climbing Birmingham business man, a legally blind City banker who crossed the Atlantic by row boat, freefalling fundraising parachutists and the former FA England manager Graham Taylor as some of the recipients of the first ever Sense Supporter Achievement awards from the national deafblind charity. The awards were presented on Wednesday (29th April) in the Houses of Parliament.

This new event for Sense fundraising was created to celebrate and thank supporters and each winner was presented with a specially commissioned work from the deafblind artists at Sense's Anne Wall Centre in Barnet, London.

Director of Fundraising, Jane Arnell says: "Vision Charity has strong parallels with Sense. With its foundations in the TV industry it has an extremely high profile, raising vital awareness for visual impairment. This Sense Supporter Achievement Award recognises not only the charity's direct support of Sense services with gifts totalling nearly £46,000 over a six year period mostly for holidays, but also to purchase specialist IT equipment for Anne Wall Centre at Barnet. Over 100 deafblind holiday makers will go on an unforgettable sensory holiday this year and we would not be able to commit to our holiday programme without the help of such support."

Larry Davis, Executive Director of Vision says "Vision Charity is deeply honoured to receive its first ever award for its work and it is fitting that it came from Sense a Charity with whom it has been associated for some time. It is recognition, in particular, for the hard work and dedication of its founder Peter Thompson."

The full list of Sense of Achievement Award winners is:

- **Vision Charity** - raising money for a number of charities working with visually impaired and dyslexic children, this group has shown significant support for Sense's holiday programme
- **Graham Taylor** – first ran the London Marathon in 2004 and has been an ambassador since, hosting events and writing to supporters
- **David Neale** – The Birmingham business man climbed the Matterhorn in 2008 raising £10,000 and continues to encourage other businesses to support Sense
- **Orange** – a team of employees raised £15,000 parachuting last year as part of a partnership which so far has raised over £400,000
- **Curtis Francis and Karen Edwards** – this 11 year old Bristol deafblind boy ran Sense's Vision 5K race supported by his Mum, Karen
- **Aurelio Belo** – the Southampton grandfather has run more than five London marathons as well as the New York Marathon raising almost £15,000
- **Alan Lock and Matt Boreham** – Legally blind banker Alan rowed the Atlantic in 2008 supported by his friend Matt, raising almost £50,000
- **Hugh Stubbs** – Hugh has been instrumental in the Grand Charity of Freemasons and the Merchant Taylors' Company awarding £70,000 in grants to support a number of Sense projects

The awards were presented by Sense's Chairman John Crabtree, OBE, hosted by Roger Berry Labour MP for Kingswood with a presentation by Amar Latif.

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

1. **Sense** is a national charity that has supported and campaigned for children and adults who are deafblind for over 50 years. We provide specialist information, advice and services to deafblind people, their families, carers and the professionals who work with them. We run services across England, Wales and Northern Ireland and employ 2,000 people most of whom work in services directly with deafblind people. Our patron is HRH The Princess Royal. Further information can be found on Sense's website – www.sense.org.uk
2. **Vision Charity** - Changing the Lives of Blind, Visually Impaired and Dyslexic Children
Vision Charity raises funds for the benefit of Blind, Visual Impaired and Dyslexic children. Our donations aim to maximise the potential of these children and to improve the quality of their lives and the lives of their families, teachers and carers. Vision achieves this through actively encouraging participation from it's supporters, both corporate and individuals, as well as sponsorship of it's exceptional fundraising events. You can find full details of the charity's activities on its website www.visioncharity.co.uk
3. **Deafblindness** is a combination of both sight and hearing difficulties. Some of these people are completely deaf and blind, but others have some remaining use of one or both senses.
4. **Causes of deafblindness** include premature birth and exposure to rubella during pregnancy, which can cause babies to be born deafblind. Sense therefore supports MMR which has proven to be the most effective vaccination programme against rubella. Some genetic conditions, such as Usher syndrome, can also result in deafblindness. People can also become deafblind at any time through illness, accident or in older age.