



social businesses
and charities

03 February 2010

SPOWE-UGANDA IS BIG LIFE GROUP CHARITY OF THE YEAR

A new charity which works to better the lives of orphans, widows and the elderly in the Ugandan city of Kampala has been named The Big Life group's Charity of the Year 2010.

SPOWE-Uganda was set up by a Big Life group former employee, Andrew Sutherland, who worked for the group's Big Issue in the North Leeds service.

The charity has registered offices in Uganda and works directly with orphans, widows and elderly and people who have had their lives turned upside down by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The Big Life group, which is a group of five social businesses and three charities working across the North of England, chooses a charity each year for its staff to raise funds for.

CEO of the Big Life group Fay Selvan said: "SPOWE Uganda is a new charity which works directly with some of Kampala's most vulnerable people. It provides a support network and delivers HIV awareness seminars to communities as well as providing relief materials, support for microenterprise and school education days on a range of extra-curricular topics."

Andrew Sutherland, UK Co-coordinator for SPOWE-Uganda said: "Being chosen as the Big Life group's Charity of the Year is a great development as we are a relatively new charity. It will help us to raise awareness about the difficulties faced by these groups of people in one of the world's poorest cities.

"Just £3.50 raised can buy a mosquito net to help prevent the spread of malaria, and £30 would buy a 4 month supply of medication for a person infected with HIV so it is amazing that a little can help us to do a lot of good in Kampala."

Fay added: "SPOWE-Uganda was a good choice of charity for us as its aims and values are very similar to those of The Big Life group, while helping people to help themselves and working with the most marginalized members of society."

For press information please contact Dawn Bunnell, Communications Officer on 0161 227 0205 or email dawn.bunnell@thebiglifecompany.com

Notes to Editors:

The Big Life group is made up of five social businesses and three charities that are working together to change the world. Our mission is to bring about social justice for the most excluded in society - due to health, housing, education or skill – and to create a new way of working and a new way of living.