

(1) *25 January 2010*

LOCAL (2) YOUTH CLUB AWARDED BT COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS GRANT

Local group, (3) ***Happy Days Youth Club***, in (4) ***Bath*** has been awarded (5) ***£250*** by the BT Community Champions award scheme thanks to the voluntary work of (6) ***Joni Arnold***, a BT employee. Run by BT's corporate responsibility unit, BT Community Champions awards BT people with funding on behalf of local community groups, charities and organisations where they work on a voluntary basis.

Following the third review in 2009/10, funding has been allocated to a variety of groups who demonstrated how the award would make a difference to their group and benefit their local community. (7) ***Happy Days Youth Club*** is one of hundreds that applied for an award during review three of the scheme and impressed judges with how they would use their grant.

The group plans to use its (8) ***£250*** award to purchase (9) ***new sporting equipment***. (10) ***Richie Smith*** of (11) ***Happy Days Youth Club*** said: "We are very pleased with our BT Community Champions award. (12) ***At the moment our sports gear comprises a few old basketballs and a battered cricket set. Needless to say, our young members have lost interest in playing sports at the club, which is one of our most social activities. By updating our gear we will be expanding their range of choice, encouraging them to get outdoors while participating in a team environment and building social skills.***"

(13) ***Joni Arnold***, a (14) ***site manager for BT Global Services*** who applied for the award on behalf of the group, added: (15) ***"I have been a volunteer at Happy Days Youth Club for six years now. We are always low on resources and funding is hard to come by.***

“The BT Community Champions award scheme provides a great opportunity for community groups like ours – every contribution makes a difference. The new sporting equipment will have a huge impact on the activities run by the club. It is very positive that BT recognises the voluntary work of its people and supports the charity sector in this way.”

BT people can apply for a BT Community Champions award to receive cash grants of up to £500. Funding can be used for purchasing specific equipment or as a contribution towards a particular project. Alternatively, they can apply for a full set of sports kit – for under 18s team or for a team of adults with disabilities. For further details visit: www.btcommunitychampions.com

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About (16) *Happy Days Youth Club*

For further information about the BT Community Champions award at (17) ***Happy Days Youth Club*** please contact (18) ***Richie Smith*** on (19) ***01234 567890*** or contact the BT Community Champions Press Office on 0845 257 6792 or log on to: www.btcommunitychampions.com.

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BT consists principally of four lines of business: BT Global Services, Openreach, BT Retail and BT Wholesale.

In the year ended 31 March 2009, BT Group's revenue was £21,390 million.

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