



Institute for
Family Business



THE BEACON PRIZE 2010
THE BEACON FELLOWSHIP CHARITABLE TRUST

PRESS RELEASE:

CALL TO FIND FAMILY BUSINESS PHILANTHROPY PIONEER

- The search is on for the £30,000 winner of 'Nobel Prize for Charity'

The **Beacon Fellowship Charitable Trust**, in partnership with **The Institute for Family Business (UK)** has today put out the call for nominations for the **Family Business Philanthropist** category of the **Beacon Prize 2010**. The influential charity is urging people throughout the UK to nominate pioneering members of family businesses who have made a significant philanthropic contribution in giving time, money or skills to a specific cause.

With awards in a further six categories and an additional overall prize, the winners will be invited to attend a gala event in London where the overall prize winner will receive **£30,000** to donate to the charity of their choice.

Beacon's former Chair and broadcaster, **Martyn Lewis CBE** notes: "The Beacon Prize, described by the **Prime Minister, Gordon Brown MP**, as '*the Nobel Prize of the charity world*', aims to encourage a culture of giving in the UK by uncovering and recognising **extraordinary achievements in the world of charity**'.

Andrew Wates, Chairman IFB, said "Philanthropy and social responsibility are part of the DNA of family business. Family firms are often regarded as 'local heroes' supporting their communities and Beacon helps to promote these values".

Beacon has always had an overwhelming response to the Prize nomination scheme; it reveals countless stories of extraordinary individuals who have worked to make a difference both locally and on a global scale. Every single remarkable story represents the Beacon belief in the strength of innovative philanthropy. We hope that once again this year's nominations will highlight the work of many more unnamed heroes who have **given so much in the name of charity**.

Nominations close on **16th April 2010**. Nominations can be submitted via:

www.beaconfellowship.org.uk

cont.

Do you know an individual member of a business owning family who deserves a Beacon Prize?

- Do you know someone who has developed, articulated and implemented a clear family business philanthropic mission?
- Perhaps someone who has engaged owners and employees?
- Has someone you know enhanced the effect of their philanthropy on a local community or group of external stakeholders?

Whatever the story, Beacon wants to hear about it. The wide range of nomination categories means that **the Beacon Prize programme is truly unique** – it brings together a remarkable blend of individuals of different socio-economic and professional backgrounds. The fact that a grass-roots activist is as well represented as an individual who donates millions of pounds each year is in itself a great achievement, and one of the many components of a process that makes the Beacon Prize such **a powerful tool for changing the culture of giving in the U.K.**

Dame Stephanie Shirley, Ambassador for Philanthropy, shared her views with Beacon on why philanthropy matters and her personal experience of giving. *"The more I give away, the richer my life seems to become."*

If you'd like to nominate someone for the Beacon Prize 2010, please visit www.beaconfellowship.org.uk for a nomination form. Alternatively, you can email enquiries@beaconfellowship.org.uk or telephone 020 7713 9326.

-Ends-

Notes for Editors

The Beacon Fellowship is a charitable organisation set up to encourage individual contributions to charitable and social causes and to celebrate and showcase best practice in giving. Beacon awards annual prizes to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to charitable causes or to organisations that benefit the public.

An overall winner will be selected every year, who will be given a cash award of £30,000, to be invested in an innovative way by the winner in a charity of their choice. Beacon believes that by highlighting the achievements of the prize winners and showcasing innovation and best practice in philanthropy, others will be inspired and encouraged to make their own contribution.

About IFB

The Institute for Family Business is a not-for-profit membership association which supports the UK family-owned business sector through Advocacy, Education and Research. As a voice for family firms, IFB Advocacy promotes the vital contribution that long-term family businesses make to the UK economy. IFB Education (which includes the Next Generation Forum) provides a peer network for sharing best practice and knowledge. The IFB Research Foundation fosters deeper understanding of the unique issues which confront family firms.

The objectives of the Beacon Fellowship Charitable Trust are as follows:

- To run a nationally recognised prize scheme through which the charity sector can acknowledge and reward exceptional philanthropic acts by individuals (giving of time, leadership, money, skills and ideas)
- To highlight motivating role models and forms of giving to inspire and educate the next generation of donors
- To develop a Fellowship body of prize winners who, as they grow in number, are an active force in the charity sector and help raise general awareness and educate the general public

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www.beaconfellowship.org.uk

