

Grand Opening for Venture Trust Charity Operations Centre

On 25 June 2015, Venture Trust an Edinburgh based charity, will open the doors to its new National Participant Centre in Stirling. The newly refurbished building will be the main hub from which critical Venture Trust work takes place.

Venture Trust supports a wide range of young people with disadvantaged or challenging backgrounds, to get back on their feet. It does this through intensive wilderness expeditions and life skills development support, with the aim being to give the participants the tools to make positive changes in their lives. That could be anything from finding a home, gaining skills to enable them to get a job, going to college, or getting help with addiction. The new centre in Stirling will provide a base from which to operate these wilderness expeditions.

Mark Bibbey, Chief Executive, Venture Trust, explains, "We are really excited about the opening of our National Participant Centre. Although not purpose built, it has been refurbished solely with Venture Trust activity in mind. The facility will enable us to undertake a greater number of expeditions and in turn, to help more young people in need of support."

He continues, "We would not have been able to have this great new facility if it wasn't for our fantastic partners, Wooden Spoon, LandAid and St James's Place Foundation. All have donated time and much needed funds towards the centre, and support the work we do here at Venture Trust. It is a reassuring boost to know that these great organisations, that do so much good work themselves, believe in Venture Trust and really want the charity to continue to develop.

This new centre in Stirling is ideally placed for a lot of our participants that hail from the local area, Edinburgh and Glasgow as well as rural communities. It will be the start of a new era for Venture Trust: potential for growth, for supporting more people and providing facilities that we just didn't have before."

LandAid's Chief Executive, Paul Morrish, added, "We're delighted to support Venture Trust's inspiring work with some of the most disadvantaged young people in Scotland. The new Stirling Centre will provide a great resource for the Trust and for the young people it serves."

He went on, "We're grateful to all our corporate partners from across the property industry for the support they give us, allowing us in turn to fund projects like the National Participant Centre. We're especially pleased that St James's Place Foundation have worked so closely with us to realise the Trust's exciting vision, and wish everyone at The Venture Trust the very best for the future."

Wooden Spoon Honorary President Gavin Hastings said:

"Wooden Spoon supports projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged young people in Scotland and we are privileged to be in a position to help Venture Trust achieve their aims by funding the training room at the National Participant Centre. It is thanks to the generosity of the rugby

community, and the Scottish businesses that support our fundraising events, that we are able to do so. We are delighted that our contribution will help to provide new opportunities and experiences for those who need it most and wish Venture Trust every success in their new premises.”

The Venture Trust National Participant Centre will be opened by Glasgow Warriors and Scotland player, Dougie Hall at 11.30 on 25 June.

ENDS

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Note to editors:

LandAid works to improve the lives of children and young people in the UK who experience disadvantage due to their economic or social circumstances. As a charitable foundation supported by the property industry, LandAid finds ways to apply the generosity and expertise of the industry to this cause.

For further information about LandAid please contact Sally Robinson, Communications Officer, on 020 3102 7190, email sally.robinson@landaid.org or visit www.landaid.org

Wooden Spoon is the UK's leading grant-making charity dedicated to helping disadvantaged and disabled children and young people through rugby.

It is one of the country's largest funders of respite and medical treatment centres, sensory rooms, specialist playgrounds, sports activity areas and community based programmes in the UK. Inspired by our rugby heritage, Wooden Spoon has been able to help over a million children and young people through life-changing projects since it was founded in 1983. See www.woodenspoon.org.uk for more. Contact Maggie Wright on 0131 226 3622 / 07801 710360 maggie.wright@mwa.co.uk

Venture Trust believes that people have the ability to make positive changes in their lives for a more productive future. Venture Trust supports people who are struggling with complicated life circumstances such as being 'looked after' by Local Authorities, involvement in offending, homelessness, drug and alcohol misuse, caring responsibilities and other complications in their lives. These situations are often compounded by lack of access to services or low educational achievement, leaving them isolated, marginalised or in poverty. Venture Trust offers a three-phase personal and social development programme, working in communities across Scotland. The programme involves an intensive wilderness-based element, mentoring, and employability support which aims to help people unlock their potential. This may be better communication skills, consequential thinking and building positive relationships with others, growing in confidence and self-esteem, or moving towards education, training and employment. For more information, please visit www.venturetrust.org.uk