



**27 July 2012**

### **EnQuest donates computers to flood-hit Aberdeen charity**

A growing independent oil and gas company has come to the aid of an Aberdeen charity after its premises were severely damaged by flooding.

EnQuest PLC has donated 20 computers to Somebody Cares which offers vital support for those in need by providing food, furniture, household goods and clothing. The charity's Hazlehead site was twice hit by flooding last week with an estimated £3,000 worth of donated items, including computers and printers, destroyed after becoming submerged under 18 inches of water.

Simon James, IS (information services) manager at EnQuest, which is the UK's largest independent oil and gas producer in the UK North Sea, organised the donation after learning about the charity's plight in the media.

He said: "The serious damage at Somebody Cares' facility will have a devastating impact for many people in the city and I'm pleased that EnQuest is fortunate to be in a position to help. As a result of a recent upgrade of our IT hardware we had 20 fully-working desktop PCs which we wanted to donate to a good cause.

"We hope that the computers will help the charity get its operations back up and running, and enable them to get on with the business of supporting the growing number of families and individuals who turn to them in times of need."

Somebody Cares, which also runs a second-hand retail outlet, restaurant and coffee shop at the former Dobbies garden centre site, was first hit by flooding on July 16 but staff worked for two days to clear the debris so they could remain open. However, two days later and relentless, torrential rain meant more water began seeping into the building and the fire brigade had to be called.

Brian Taylor, chief operating officer at Somebody Cares, said: "We are still counting the cost of the damage not only in terms of the repairs and having to rebuild our bank of donated goods but the clean-up operation which diverted valuable resources away from our primary focus of helping people in need. Somebody Cares is, for many of these people, their only lifeline and it's thanks to the generosity of companies like EnQuest that we are able to continue to be there to offer our support."

EnQuest's contribution is the latest in a series of an estimated £40,000 worth of donations that the company has made to charities and organisations in the north east of Scotland over the past seven months. So far, the company has raised almost £25,000 for its nominated 2012 charity, Archway. The charity provides invaluable respite, shared and permanent care services for children and adults with learning disabilities.

Staff at EnQuest raised more than £16,000 for Archway at its annual charity golf challenge while the company's legal and commercial manager, Andy McIntosh, and new developments manager, Craig Matthew, boosted the coffers to the tune of £8,000 after taking part in this year's London Marathon.

The much-needed funds will help Archway to turn a dream into a reality as the charity recently launched a special appeal to purchase a specially-adapted holiday cottage in the local area that all its service users and their families will be able to use. Archway also hopes to expand the facility to provide work opportunities, day care services and more shared and permanent care homes.

The team at EnQuest has also supported Aberdeen's Tullos Primary School since 2010. Initiatives include financing the purchase of library books, gardening projects and school trips as well as backing a Go Mountain Biking scheme whereby the company, in conjunction with Aberdeen City Council, helped to purchase mountain bikes for the pupils. This year, EnQuest also made an £8,000 donation for the school's Heinemann Active Maths scheme, which is part of Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence.

In addition, EnQuest has an established relationship with Solstice Nurseries in Aberdeenshire, a community initiative that provides work experience and training in horticultural nursery and garden maintenance for people who have experienced mental health problems and who want to return to or gain paid employment. EnQuest donated £7,000 this year towards the purchase of gardening equipment to help them develop their home gardening service.

David Heslop, general manager at EnQuest, said: "The effort the EnQuest team is putting into supporting some very worthwhile local charities and organisations is something we're extremely proud of. It's important for us to make a positive contribution to our local communities, and be able to give something back by helping people who need a bit of extra support."

EnQuest is the largest UK independent producer in the UK North Sea. Its assets include the Thistle, Deveron, Heather, Broom, West Don, Don Southwest, and Conrie producing fields, and the Alma and Galia development. At the end of 2011, EnQuest had interests in 22 production licences covering 27 blocks or part blocks in the UKCS, of which 19 licences were operated by EnQuest.

EnQuest trades on both the London Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ OMX Stockholm.

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