



OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

New SMILES Newsagents Opens in RTÉ

Staff working at Rehab Enterprises' latest SMILES Newsagents outlet will have ample opportunities to do some celebrity spotting at its new shop in the Old Strawberry Tree restaurant in RTÉ, Ireland's national public service broadcaster.

Features

THE SHOP WAS officially opened on 5 September by RTÉ's MD for Corporate Development, Brian Dalton. The outlet, open Monday to Friday from 8am to 5.30pm, offers a range of goods including soft drinks,

confectionery, newspapers, greeting cards, toiletries and non-prescription medicines. With professional dry cleaning services also available, RTÉ's top talent can be assured of always looking crisp and sharp for their adoring public!

The new shop is one of 10 stores operated by Rehab Enterprises across Dublin City. Other locations include Leinster House, Eircom HQ, AIB HQ, PricewaterhouseCoopers HQ, Ulster Bank HQ and Vodafone HQ.



sitting at home. I had suffered from mild depression and anxiety all my life and being unemployed only made things worse.

"After three years of pure frustration, I got to know about Rehab Enterprises having been encouraged by FÁS to undertake a course at National Learning Network in Ballyfermot to help get me back into the world of work. Four months later, the facilitator came to me one day to tell me there was an opportunity to work with Rehab Enterprises in retail. I jumped at the chance. I got the job and learned the ropes as I went along, working in a number of different outlets before coming to RTÉ.

"It's been great to learn a new profession and it really has put structure back into my life, and improved my health. At my age, I thought I would never get a job again but Rehab has given me that opportunity, and I am content again. I cannot emphasise enough the amount of ongoing support and encouragement that Rehab gives me."

Ben's already served his share of celebrities in the short time that the

shop has been open. "Here in RTÉ I was a little bit star struck for the first few days, but you get used to seeing the famous faces after a while. A lot of people say how delighted they are to have the shop here, that it's a great facility to have on site. I have great pleasure in telling them that SMILES Newsagents are part of the Rehab Group and about the employment that it provides to people with disabilities, and that leaves them even more impressed."

SMILES Newsagents provide employment to 20 people with disabilities and there are plans to open more stores in the new year. Nicola Mullett is SMILES Newsagents' Operations Manager. She says, "People very much value the fact that when they make a purchase, they are supporting the employment of people with disabilities. We hope that more major employers will see the benefit of having a SMILES Newsagents' operation within their premises in not only providing a convenient service for staff but also in enabling people with disabilities to maximise their skills and talents and by building long and lasting careers in retail." ■

Pictured at the official opening of Rehab's latest SMILES Newsagents store are (left to right), Rashid Koya, SMILES Newsagents; Brian Dalton, MD for Corporate Development, RTÉ; Angela Kerins, Chief Executive, Rehab; and Brian Lowe, SMILES Newsagents.

Ben Cooper has been working with SMILES Newsagents for three and a half years and is now working in RTÉ full-time. "I had worked for 25 years in a chemical warehouse as a general operative, driving a forklift, and looking after stock control, goods inwards and outwards. But at the end of 2004 I was made redundant. Being unemployed began to really impact on my mental well-being, especially seeing the rest of my family going to work while I was



"How can I help you?" Ben Cooper looks forward to welcoming customers to Rehab's SMILES Newsagents which recently opened in RTÉ.