

There's a lot to learn

'Educate for Inclusion' is the first cross-category disability awareness programme ever developed for Irish schools. Devised by Rehab, it consists of eight lessons on CD-ROM, which explore all of the big issues relating to disability.

Now available to all transition year students, 'Educate for Inclusion' is a superb opportunity to increase your pupils' knowledge and awareness of disability issues.

For full details of the programme contact the programme co-ordinator
Rita Kelly
tel: 01 205 7331.

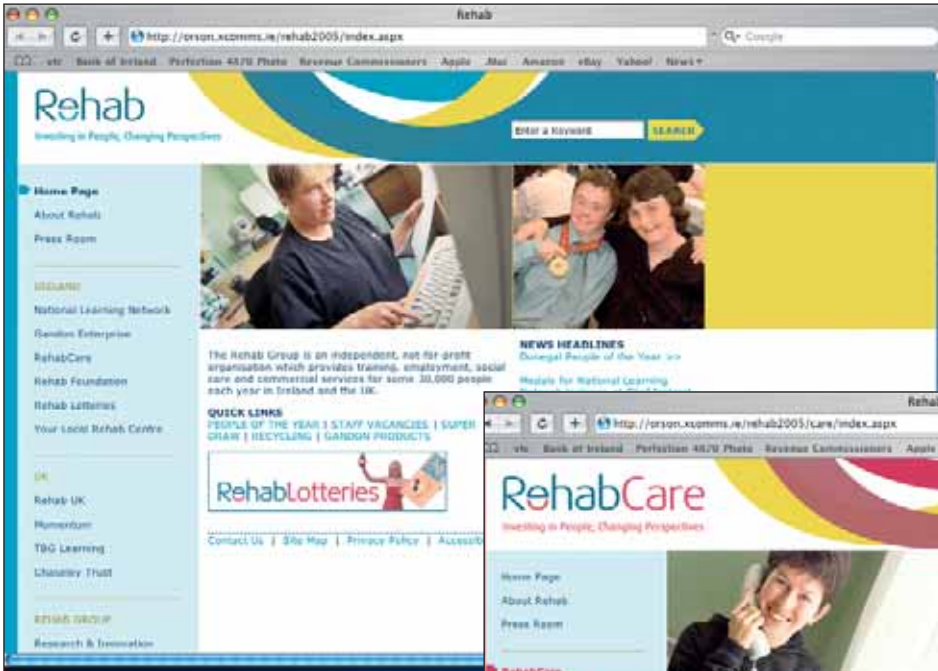


about disability



REHAB GROUP





Spring into action: the new-look Rehab website.



Very positive Net Gain

Rehab's award-winning website www.rehab.ie is set to get even better with the launch this Spring of an enhanced, new-look site offering visitors even more features and information on Rehab Group.

Designed to the highest international accessibility standards, the new-look Rehab website includes many extra features including the opportunity to register for Rehab's new E-zine, which will deliver all the latest news from the Group straight to your computer on a regular basis.

Visitors who don't register for the E-zine can still access all the latest news from throughout the Group, thanks to the inclusion of a news headline feature that appears on many of the Group divisions' home pages.

Comprising over 250 pages of information, it is hardly surprising that the Rehab website continues to be the primary source of information on the Group and its activities. It currently attracts over 20,000 visitors each month, a figure that is increasing all the time.

Last year, Rehab became one of the first organisations in the world to be awarded with a new global trust mark for the quality



of its website. The site was rigorously, independently audited under a number of criteria including consistency, navigation, customer service commitment, and data and information security management. Fellow recipients of the award included Hewlett Packard, Friends First and Eagle Star.

Visitors to the Rehab website can find information on a huge variety of topics. The history of Rehab; the Group's international activities; contact details for all Rehab centres; the latest fundraising initiatives; recent research programmes; glass

recycling statistics; information on acquired brain injuries and specific learning difficulties – the list is endless.

The website also includes regularly updated press releases, company announcements and staff vacancy listings. Visitors to the site can download copies of the staff application form and view publications such as Rehab News, RehabCare News and Views, and the Annual Report online.

You can check out the new-look Rehab website, and register for the Rehab E-zine by visiting www.rehab.ie

Stirrin' it Up!

National Learning Network student Margaret Madigan proved she possesses all the right ingredients for success when she was declared the overall winner at the Chef Ireland Ability Awards 2005 competition which took place in the RDS Dublin recently.

A participant on the Catering Assistant training programme at the National Learning Network's centre in Limerick, Margaret's award-winning Healthy Heart Stir-Fry was a mouth-watering combination of seasonal vegetables stir-fried with Tiger Prawns and Sea Bass on a bed of wild rice in a lemon, lime and mango flavoured sauce.

Minister of State Brian Lenihan TD was on hand to congratulate the Askeaton woman and present her with a gold medal and a Waterford Crystal Vase sponsored by the Hilton Hotel Group to mark her wonderful achievement.

Fergal Keogh and Patrick Healy, catering students at Roslyn Park College, also won gold medals in the competition which attracted participants throughout the length and breadth of Ireland.

Chef Ireland is a full international competition co-ordinated by the Panel of Chefs of Ireland and is designed to showcase the creativity, skill and imagination of Irish chefs. The Ability Awards competition gives National Learning Network students the unique opportunity to display their considerable skills and compete with other trainee chefs from around the country.

Congratulations to all the medal winners and to everyone who took part in the competition.



Above: Mark Little, Hilton Hotel Group; Brian Lenihan, Minister of State TD; John McCarthy, Panel of Chefs of Ireland and Margaret Madigan, winner of the overall award. Left: competitors at the Chef Ireland Ability Awards.

Chef Ireland Ability Awards 2005 - Healthy Hearts Stir Fry

Gold Medal/ Class Winner - Margaret Madigan; National Learning Network Limerick
Gold Medal - Fergal Keogh, Roslyn Park College

Gold Medal - Patrick Healy, Roslyn Park College

Silver Medal - Francais Mooney, National Learning Network

Bronze Medal - David Carroll, National Learning Network Waterford

Bronze Medal - Gary Burton, National Learning Network Bray

Bronze Medal - John Lynch, National Learning Network

Tullamore

Bronze Medal - Linda Griffan, National Learning Network Bray

Certificate - Sinead Kehoe, National Learning Network Waterford

Certificate - Philomena Irwin, National Learning Network Kilkenny

Certificate - Deirdre Middleton, National Learning Network Tullamore

Three 60 Two

A new series of the highly acclaimed disability issues programme Three 60, which was initiated by Rehab Group Communications Department, will hit the nation's television screens in the summer.

The nine-part series, which is being sponsored by RehabCare and FÁS, will be broadcast each Monday at 7.30pm on RTE 1 from June 20th next.

Last autumn, Three 60 beat off the challenge of around 800 shows screened on Irish television during 2004 to win a nomination as Best Lifestyle TV Programme at the IFTA Awards, which was attended by such luminaries as Pierce Brosnan and John Cleese.

But Three Sixty wasn't just a success with the critics, a fact underlined by viewership figures which peaked at 172,000 viewers – an extraordinary achievement for a first series pitted against the heavyweight Irish and UK soaps.

Presented by Bethan Collins of Trinity College Dublin and well-known disability rights campaigner, Donal Toolan, the new series will again highlight human interest stories across a wide range of disabilities and disability issues.

Filming is already under way on the early programmes in the series which will include a look at areas such as Asperger's Syndrome, the experience of teenage carers, eating disorders and reasonable accommodations for students with dyslexia in State exams.

There is also a piece on the adoption of a Chernobyl child into an Irish family and the story of Gandon's own Louise O'Grady as she prepares to get married, as well as a series of cartoon pieces dealing with various aspects of disability.

"The success of Three Sixty to date has been based on its ability to make important issues surrounding disability of interest and concern to a wide TV audience without resorting to sensationalism, just by looking at them in a different and sometimes more thought-provoking way," said

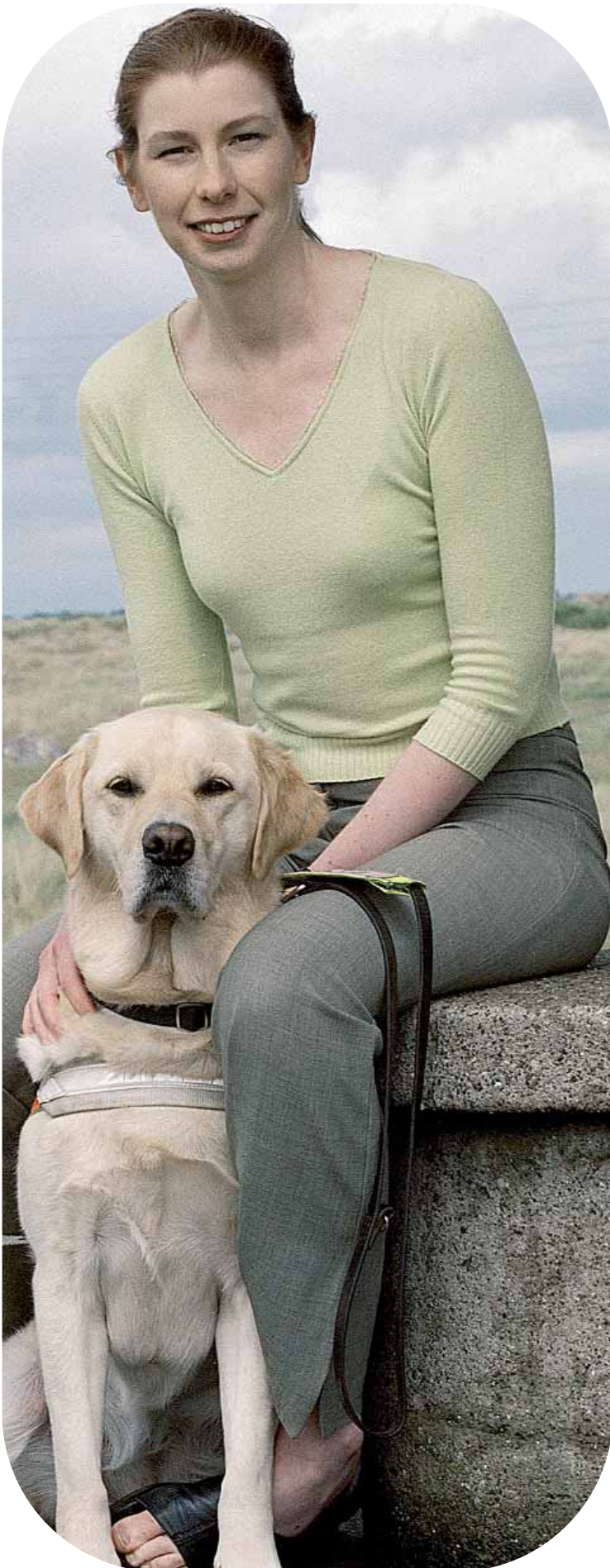
Bethan Collins, the Three 60 series presenter who will be back on our screens this summer.

Rehab Head of Communications, Chris Macey. "This approach is proving there is a real appetite among the Irish public to learn more about the lives of people with disabilities – even at a time when Coronation Street is on the other channel."



Three 60 will follow Gandon Enterprises' Louise O'Grady as she prepares for her wedding to fiancé, Stefan Milicevic.

television



The opening of a new factory will enable Haven Products to double its workforce and substantially increase production.

Minister for Disabled People, Maria Eagle MP has officially opened Haven Products' new Glasgow factory which will provide employment for disabled people across the west of Scotland.

The investment in the 20,000 square foot facility follows significant expansion over the last 18 months, which has seen Haven Products' Hillington operation double its workforce and significantly increase both its production capacity and its number of customers.

Blue-chip clients and international companies like whisky firm Edrington, maker of The Famous Grouse and The Macallan, have been turning to Haven Products Ltd to outsource elements of their production process.

Haven Products is a social enterprise firm which provides job opportunities for disabled people - currently 86 per cent of the firm's employees have a disability. Haven joined the Momentum group last year.

Minister for Disabled People, Maria Eagle MP, officially opened the factory and learned how Haven Products is providing employment for disabled people across Scotland. The majority of Haven's workforce are referred by Jobcentre Plus, via the Workstep programme which supports disabled people into

employment. The model is widely acclaimed and last year Haven was nominated for a Scottish Business in the Community Award.



New Haven for workers

Minister Eagle said:

"This new factory is an excellent example of what can be achieved when we work together to transform the lives of disabled people. Work changes people's lives. Disabled people tell us they want to work, they want to contribute to society, not depend on it and initiatives such as Workstep ensure the support is there to

help disabled people and their employers."

Many of the workforce - like 26-year-old Thomas McNally - have been unemployed for a long time. Speaking at the launch, Thomas, who has a hearing difficulty, said: "Before joining Haven Products I was out of work for seven years. Now if someone asks me what I do I can say 'I work'. It's good to be able to say that. I couldn't sit at



Pictures.

Left: at the official opening of Haven Products factory in Hillington, Glasgow are (from left) David Whyte, managing director Haven Products, Thomas McInally, Haven employee, Maria Eagle MP, Minister for Disabled People, Grace Kennedy, deputy director, Jobcentre Plus Scotland, David Donaldson, director of Supply Chain, Edrington.

Above: Employee at work at Haven's Hillington premises.

home all day. I work different shifts here and every month I get a week off. Now I'm just about to move into my second year of working at Haven and I can definitely say my life has changed for the better. I earn my own money now, I support my family and I recently got married. I've just moved into a new house and I'm looking forward to the arrival of our baby later this month. I'm looking forward to the future, working in this new factory at Hillington. I'm learning new skills all the time."

Managing director of Haven Products, David Whyte, said, "In business there's often perceived to be a paradox between maximising people or maximising profits. As a social enterprise we know it doesn't need to be one or the other. Now, more than ever, we are fulfilling our mission of providing meaningful employment for disabled people across Scotland.

Meanwhile, important research into traumatic brain injuries, carried out by brain injury rehabilitation specialists Momentum, has provided vital facts and figures about the prevalence of brain injury in the East Dunbartonshire Council area.

The findings of the research, commissioned by the local authority, mean that the Council's Social Work Teams now have a much clearer picture of the number and quality of life of people with brain injuries and their families.

Following a call last year for volunteers to take part in the research, about 30 people with a traumatic brain injury and seven carers made up the sample group.

They took part in interviews and completed questionnaires designed to find out more about the injury; the impact on the individual, their family and carers; and their experience of NHS and Council serv-

ices. Councillor Fiona Risk, convener of the Social Services Committee, believes the research has given the Council a wealth of important information that it didn't previously have.

Statistics show that in Scotland, around 16,500 people will sustain a brain injury each year and at least a third of those will experience some form of lasting impairment. In East Dunbartonshire the number of affected people is estimated at 111 annually.

Councillor Risk said: "We commissioned brain injury rehabilitation specialists, Momentum, to carry out the research to gain an insight into the extent of brain injury in the East Dunbartonshire area and to find out more about the lives of those living with brain injury."

The report's recommendations include:

- Joint working between social work and health services.
- A specialist case management approach and the importance of community support.
- Raising awareness of brain injury through training within a number of agencies.
- Development of a number of specialist services for people with brain injuries.