



PRESS RELEASE

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“A NATIONAL INSTITUTION AFTER JUST EIGHT YEARS”

SHINE's Sixth Benefit Dinner raises well over £1 million

Last night, Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister, praised SHINE's work funding educational projects for disadvantaged children in London and Manchester, describing SHINE as “a national institution” only eight years after the charity was founded.

Speaking at SHINE's sixth Benefit Dinner, held at the Natural History Museum, the Prime Minister praised SHINE's innovation and insistence on monitoring and evaluating the projects it funds: “you know that they're not throwing money down the drain”. He also praised SHINE's involvement as a founder partner of “Every Child A Reader” which, after a three year pilot programme, is now being rolled out across the country.

Almost 500 SHINE supporters attended the event, held at the Natural History Museum in London. After hearing the Prime Minister speak, guests listened to Sarah Brown, a SHINE Patron, explain why she supports SHINE's work and introduce the evening's auction. This gave guests the opportunity to pledge money towards four SHINE-funded projects and then bid for two remarkable auction lots.

The first of the two auction lots offered guests the chance to watch an England match at Wembley from the comfort of a private box, along with members of the BBC's Match of the Day team. The second gave SHINE's supporters the opportunity to have dinner with Al Gore, the former Vice-President and Nobel Laureate, as well as Michelin-starred chef Ruth Rogers and her husband, the Stirling Prize winning architect, Lord Rogers of Riverside at their London home.

Together with donations received from table purchases and double-matched funding committed by anonymous supporters, the pledges and winning auction bids enabled SHINE to raise over £1,100,000 on the night, net of all costs.

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Patrons: David Beckham Sarah Brown Gavyn Davies Sir Alex Ferguson Baroness Sarah Hogg
Sir Peter Ogden The Honourable Angad Paul June Sarpong Dr Sushil Wadhvani

SUPPORT AND HELP IN EDUCATION

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After the auction, guests were treated to an intimate concert by Mick Hucknall, a SHINE supporter who performed on the night for free. After being introduced by Sir Alex Ferguson, a SHINE Patron, Mick Hucknall performed a number of his greatest hits. He said afterwards, "SHINE does fantastic work making a real and lasting difference to the life-chances of disadvantaged children – not just in London, but in my home town of Manchester as well. I am delighted to be able to support them tonight."

Jim O'Neill, SHINE's Chairman, said "I am thrilled that the evening was such a success. I am very grateful to all those who attended for their incredible generosity. Thanks to them, SHINE will be able to expand the numbers of projects it funds, and the number of children it helps. Children everywhere deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential. Thanks to this event and the phenomenal generosity shown by SHINE's supporters this evening, we can now continue with our real work of helping them do just that."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. SHINE's patrons are David Beckham, Sarah Brown, Gavyn Davies, Sir Alex Ferguson, Baroness Sarah Hogg, Sir Peter Ogden, Hon. Angad Paul, June Sarpong and Dr. Sushil Wadhvani
2. SHINE's first grants were approved in August 2000
3. Since then, SHINE has made grants of nearly £8 million in total, helping almost 14,000 children from more than 460 schools in London and Manchester.
4. SHINE spokespeople are available for interview
5. Photographs of guests and the event are available for reproduction purposes
6. SHINE is an educational charity working with underachieving children and young people in Greater London and Manchester
7. Further information on SHINE – including details of all projects currently funded – can be found at www.shinetrust.org.uk

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