



NHRF Managing Agent Update – September 2016

This month saw two examples of the region's up and coming entrepreneurs collect awards at the Caithness Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner. Each year, the Chamber recognises the achievements of local businesses, with two awards available: Young Entrepreneur of the Year and the more recently established Young Business of the Year.

The winners of this year's awards were Sean and Marysia Frame of the Tartan Cracker Company (Young Entrepreneur) and White Heather Home Care (Young Business).

Sean and Marysia, a sibling partnership, established their idea at our own iStart Challenge in 2015, a Dragon's Den style contest which we held in partnership with North Highland College UHI, where it was awarded *Best Creativity & Innovation* for its locally-made, Scottish-themed wedding favours and gift packaging.

In addition to making their products available for sale through their website and Etsy shop, the entrepreneurial siblings have also recently finished an order for a local business looking for boxes to display their own products, and have plans to develop the trade side of their business as well.

The Fund were delighted to have seen the continuation and development of The Tartan Cracker and Gift Company following their iStart success, and this latest accolade is well-deserved recognition of the hard work and drive shown by Sean and Marysia.

NHRF clients White Heather Home Care were recognised for the strength and potential of their service with the Young Business of the Year honour.

Michael Barry, accepting the award on behalf of the business, has worked hard to turn his passion for specialist care into a thriving business which has already had substantial positive impact on the quality of life of vulnerable adults in Caithness.

Starting from a small, core team, White Heather Home Care now supports over 50 full-time equivalent jobs in the area, provides over 4,000 hours of care each month and is turning over £1 million annually. The company also has ambitious growth plans, recently expanding into the Inverness area, and sees potential to scale to be ten times the size in the next five years, becoming a very significant provider in the care sector.

Currently registered with the Inspectorate to provide a range of Care at Home and Housing Support services to adults aged over 16, White Heather Home Care are also committed to extending this registration to cover other areas of care in the near future.

We are thrilled to have been able to support two such promising young businesses, and look forward to seeing what the future has in store for them.

If you feel you could benefit from support from NHRF, get in touch with the Management Team via enquiries@nhrf.co.uk or 01847 500103.