

This year's National Payroll Giving Excellence Awards (NPGA) is to be held on 5th October and with Payroll Giving continuing to stand firm throughout the recession – it looks like another bumper year for the Awards applications. The two new categories at last year's event proved to be a successful addition, with the British Heart Foundation winning the Best Third Sector Employer Award and the London Borough of Islington scooping the Best Public Sector Employer Award with their fine examples of promoting Payroll Giving in the workplace.

The BHF's proactive approach to Payroll Giving means that the charity's internal scheme enjoys a take up of 13% with 37 different charities being supported through an annual donation of £6,348.

In addition, the Director of Human Resources at the London Borough of Islington commented that he was "extremely proud" of the generosity of employees through the organisation's winning Payroll Giving scheme.

Within the next few weeks, the Quality Mark Award Certificates will be hitting employers' doorsteps. These Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates recognise employers' commitment to Payroll Giving in the workplace and are presented to employers offering a 10, 5 or 1% take-up of the scheme amongst their employees; the Gold Award requires employers to go that little bit further by matching their employees' donations, covering the administration costs or promoting the scheme throughout the year. Employers added over £13 million to their employees' contributions in 2008/09.

A record number of certificates will be distributed in 2010 - over 1200 more than last year - showing the resilience of Payroll Giving as a fundraising technique during a time of economic instability. This is great news for the sector at a time when donations from other sources have been squeezed, proving once again that Payroll Giving is one of the more reliable income sources for UK charities.

This higher level of participation means that we are expecting an increase in entries to the NPGEA this year. The deadline is on 16th July, which means that employers have plenty of time to submit their applications to the judging panel. Any organisation that has achieved a Bronze, Silver or Gold Quality Mark Award this year is eligible and welcome to enter the NPGEAs.

Further Information

The NPGEAs will be held at an evening reception on 5th October. Any organisation that has achieved a Bronze, Silver or Gold Quality Mark Award this year is eligible to enter the Awards. You can apply for any of the 8 categories by contacting the Payroll Giving Centre: Call 0845 602 6786, email nationalpgawards@payrollgivingcentre.org.uk or visit www.pgxawards.org.uk. The deadline for entries is 16th July.