

Star Social Firm Case Study: Haven Products Ltd



With a fifty year track record of creating employment and training for disabled people Haven Products is one of the first UK businesses to be awarded Star Social Firm status.

Led by Managing Director David M. Whyte, Haven Products works in the production processes sector, helping companies outsource things like packaging and assembly. Current clients include IBM, Morgan Stanley and The Highland Council. Every employee is trained to exceed customer expectations and most people in this highly skilled and trained workforce are disabled. The special Star Social Firm status is in recognition of the company's strengths as a business as well as the quality of the employment it provides for disadvantaged people.



Haven Products currently employs 138 people, 112 of whom are severely disadvantaged in the job market. This highly successful business is widely acclaimed and Haven recently won SME of the Year in the Scottish Business in the Community Awards 2006. Run as a business, not a charity, Haven offers a flexible, reliable service for businesses with products delivered to tight deadlines and exacting briefs.

Haven Products is part of the Momentum Group which assists more than 2,200 people every year including those suffering from mental illnesses and brain injuries to achieve their goals.

Haven Products was originally established to support wounded soldiers returning to their communities after the Second World War. The company's mission has always been to help those severely disadvantaged in the job market and operating as a well-run Social Firm helps the company achieve its ethical goals through being an efficient commercial entity. Managing Director, David M Whyte explains:

“Greater recognition of Social Firms is needed within the business world. Many Social Firms are extremely well-run businesses and their customers get a high standard of service while simultaneously supporting quality employment for disadvantaged people.”



For us at Haven, operating as a viable and successful Social Firm enables us to increase the employment opportunities for disabled people in their local communities. Being one of the first businesses to be awarded the Star Social Firm quality mark shows that Haven meets demanding standards in both business practises and as an employer. We also hope it will help raise awareness of the sector.

At Haven we plan to increase the employment opportunities for disabled people in their local communities. Our customer base is predominantly private sector and we would very much welcome the chance to develop partnerships with organisations in the public sector.”

On 17 October 2007 Haven Products, was last night presented with an award at the Enterprising Solutions Awards in London. The awards are designed to find the UK's most dynamic and innovative social enterprises and are co-ordinated by the Social Enterprise Coalition. A video of Haven shown at the awards can be accessed at www.enterprisingsolutions.org

The newly launched Star Social Firm logo signifies a first-rate business with high standards of employment for severely disadvantaged people. Customers have a real social impact when they buy from Star Social Firms. www.socialfirms.co.uk

For more information about Haven Products Ltd see:
www.momentumscotland.org/web/OurServices/HavenProducts or call 01475 637137.