

## **MEDIA INFORMATION**

3 July 2008

### **BURGER LOVE BRINGS PUPPY LOVE Arc Inspirations Fund Two Guide Dog Puppies**

Yorkshire diner's love of burgers has helped Leeds based independent bar and restaurant operator, Arc Inspirations, raise £10,000 to fund the training of two guide dog puppies through The Guide Dogs For The Blind Association, the registered charity providing guide dogs, mobility and other rehabilitation services that meet the needs of blind and partially-sighted people.

Following a 12 month fundraising programme by the company, which operates bars and restaurants in Headingley, Chapel Allerton, Roundhay, Horsforth and Harrogate, funds were raised through the sale of mouthwatering 'Puppy Love Burgers' and 'Puppy Love Pizzas' plus collection boxes.

The Guide Dogs For The Blind Association need to breed 1,300 puppies next year; each puppy costs £5,000 to train and raise. The cash raised by Arc Inspirations will cover the cost of supporting two puppies through their first year of training plus additional costs such as vaccinations, vets' bills, food and equipment. During this period the two puppies will be cared for and trained by volunteer puppy walkers on behalf of The Guide Dogs For The Blind Associations. After their first birthday, the puppies will then go on to several months of advanced training before being matched with a blind or partially sighted person, changing their lives forever.

Commenting on the donation, Arc Inspirations managing director, Martin Wolstencroft, who along with his family is a volunteer 'puppy walker' and is currently training a labrador / retriever cross, said:

"Raising funds for The Guide Dogs For The Blind Association has proved a huge success and we've been overwhelmed by the level of generosity from both our customers and our teams. We actually all feel quite proud that our actions will bring freedom and independence to blind and partially sighted people.

"On a more personal level, I can thoroughly recommend the puppy walker programme, which has proved particularly rewarding for all the family."

Kirstie Bower, senior district fundraiser for the north east, for The Guide Dogs For The Blind Association, added:

"We're absolutely delighted with the generosity of Arc Inspirations and all their customers. The Name A Puppy programme not only enables businesses and individuals to fund a puppy during its first year of training but also helps unite employees, friends and family in a unique fundraising effort. And of course it's a scheme that has very visible results!"

Arc Inspirations operates eight hugely successful, award winning bars and restaurants in Headingley including The Arc, The Box and Trio, in Chapel Allerton The Hub and Zed, in Roundhay Napa, in Harrogate, Banyan and newly opened Kobe in Horsforth. For further information, visit [www.arcinspirations.com](http://www.arcinspirations.com).

For further information on The Guide Dogs For The Blind Association's Name A Puppy programme visit [www.guidedogs.org](http://www.guidedogs.org)

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**Notes to editor:**

Arc Inspirations

Arc Inspirations was formed in 1999 by Martin Wolstencroft, managing director and Chris Ure, chairman.

Martin Wolstencroft, formerly of Whitbread and Chris Ure, chairman of Headingley based property company, Associated Tower Cinemas, joined forces to launch a new student bar concept in Headingley.

The Arc was launched in September 2000 and was quickly followed by The Box in November 2001, Trio Bar & Grill in April 2002 and then in 2003, Zed was opened, the first in Chapel Allerton. In December 2004, The Hub, the second bar in Chapel Allerton was opened. Then in November 2006, Banyan Bar & Kitchen in Harrogate was launched. In October 2007, Napa Bar & Kitchen was launched in Roundhay. In May 2008, Kobe in Horsforth was opened, the company's eighth venture.

The Guide Dogs For The Blind Association

The Guide Dogs For The Blind Association's mission is to provide guide dogs, mobility and other rehabilitation services that meet the needs of blind and partially-sighted people.