A F D S O F T W A R E

AFD Group

PRESS RELEASE

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Million Pound Give-Away

The Ramsey-based AFD group is rounding off its 25th Anniversary celebrations at its annual Charity evening in Ramsey Golf Club on Thursday 4th December by giving away over £1 million to charity.

The company began as a home-based business in the West of Scotland in May 1983, not primarily as a money-making concern, but as an expression of the committed Christian faith of its founders.

The business moved to Ramsey 1997 and now employs 24 staff at its Lough House, Ramsey office, and a further 7 staff situated within the UK. The group holds a significant stake in the French Holiday business of **Spring Harvest Holidays** and in 2005 acquired the **"Friends & Heroes"** TV Animation production business – which won an "Adam" award at the Annual Sabaoth International festival in Milan in November this year – along with winning the Gold Award in the youth and children's category of the annual CBC media awards for the second year running.

AFD Software Ltd serves over 7,500 customer organisations and has over 400 partners throughout the UK. AFD is a world-leading postcode and address management software house specialising in helping businesses manage computer-based names, addresses and mailing lists – it is AFD expertise that lets web sites and call centres ask "What's Your Postcode?" – then use it to quickly enter accurate addresses into their databases, ensuring reliable and efficient delivery of goods and services.

Ever since 1983 it has been a core objective of the AFD Group: *"To generate profits and to use them creatively in the relief of suffering, the improvement of society and furtherance of the Christian gospel."* To meet this objective each year every member of staff has the opportunity to nominate a charity to receive a donation from the company.

This year a total of 44 charities will benefit from donations between £500 and £25,000 – and a very special 25th Anniversary donation - making a total of over £1.1 million to be given away. Charities will also receive donations of computer equipment which are surplus to requirements.

The Company has joined many others in commending Tynwald for its reaffirmed commitment to meeting the United Nations target for Overseas Aid contributions of 0.7% of GNP by 2015. When AFD first began its charity events on the Island,

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it almost gave as much as the whole nation. Now, through successive increases in the Overseas Aid budget, the Island will this year give away over £2.2 million. This sounds a lot of money – but is really only half the amount planned to be spent renewing the Quarterbridge Roundabout in Douglas – and will make such a difference to thousands in the developing world!

"As citizens of the Isle of Man, which has enjoyed incredible success economically, it is our privilege to demonstrate to other developed nations, how to share that wealth with others less fortunate in our world. We commend Mr Bell, our town's MHK, and the Council of Ministers for their reaffirmed commitment towards meeting our International responsibilities", said David Dorricott, Managing Director. *"In these very troubled times, it is even more important that we don't weaken in our resolve to make a difference in the developing world.*"

AFD's staff, their invited guests and VIPs will this year hear short presentations on the work undertaken by two of the charities represented:

The RNLI, which began its existence here in the Isle of Man through the work of William Hilary, will explain how every day of the year its volunteer crews are ready to go the aid of those in grave danger on the seas around the Isle of Man, Britain and Ireland.

Ruth Whitaker, of MAF, will give a presentation on the organisation's work in providing essential air transport in parts of the world unreachable by any other means: where a flight is literally a life-and-death matter.

-- Ends --

Members of the media are welcome to attend the charity presentation, which is to be held at Ramsey Golf Club, Ramsey on Thursday 4th December 2008, beginning at 7.00pm.

Photographs of the presentation evening will be available by email. Please email: hilary.borthwick@afd.co.uk

Further information on AFD Group businesses can be found on the following websites:

AFD Software Ltd	www.afd.co.uk
Friends & Heroes	www.friendsandheroes.com and www.friendsandheroes.tv
Spring Harvest Holidays	www.springharvestholidays.com