

WE SALUTE WINNERS AT BIGHEARTED SCOTLAND AWARDS 2011

By YVONNE BOLOURI

JENNEFER TOBIN'S dedication to wounded troops earned her the Bighearted Scot of the Year award at a glitzy bash in Glasgow's plush Radisson Hotel.

But caring Jennefer, who opens her home in Carsethorn, Dumfries, to injured squaddies fresh from war-torn Afghanistan, wasn't the only one left gobsmacked.

Unsung heroes from eight categories had a rollercoaster night of tears, cheers and triumphs as the winners received their gongs from Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP on Friday.

Jennefer said: "It's my privilege to be able to help. In the past two years I've been fortunate to have 250 young men under my roof for a well-deserved break.

"We give them good food, comfy beds, fresh air, as much beer as they can drink, and adventurous therapy including clay pigeon shooting, archery, falconry, cycling, climbing - whatever they like.

"When they leave relaxed and smiling, it's wonderful."

In an action-packed evening hosted by TV presenters Kaye Adams and Stephen Jardine, the nominations came thick and fast as Scotland's unsung army of men, women and children who work tirelessly for others were honoured.

Social Entrepreneur of the Year



SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR:
Mel Young



ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR:
Fred MacAulay



CHILD OF THE YEAR:
Jack Henderson



SCOT OF THE YEAR:
Jennefer Tobin



CARER OF THE YEAR:
Nicole Louise Connelly



BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR:
Sir Brian Souter
(collected by Lindsay Reid)



LIFETIME AWARD:
Vera Weisfeld
(collected by Marion White)



CHARITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:
Moira Stewart



UNsung SPORTS HERO OF THE YEAR:
Glasgow East RFC



HOSTS . . . Stephen and Kaye

award went to former journalist **MEL YOUNG**, who co-founded the Big Issue and the Homeless World Cup which has united over 60 nations with local grassroots football programmes.

Mel, 57, of Edinburgh, said: "It's fantastic to be here and have this recognised, but the award is not for me.

"We merely provide the stepping stones. The real heroes are the people who make it work."

Wondergran **MOIRA STEWART**, 75, of Dunblane, was awarded Charity Volunteer of the Year for her unstinting good works.

The retired dinner lady, who hosted a Royal Wedding Day with banners, tea and sandwiches for OAPs to watch Wills and Kate tie the knot, also runs craft fairs and has a team of knitters all clicking away for hospitals, hospices and overseas aid.

Modest **MOIRA** said: "I'm delighted but I'm part of the RSVF - Retired Senior Volunteer Programme for Forth Valley - and we all muck in. I just like helping people."

Little **JACK HENDERSON**, six, raised the roof when he took centre stage as this year's Bighearted Child of the Year.

Jack, of Edinburgh, draws pictures to raise money for the capital's Sick Kids hospital where his brother Noah, two, is treated for respiratory problems. The pics, ordered on his Jack Draws Anything website, have so far raised £20,000.

Dad Ed, 35, lifted Jack to the mic, and he beamed "Thank you!" to rapturous applause.

Pretty **NICOLE LOUISE CONNELLY** was in tears when she was awarded Carer of the Year for looking after mum Debbie.

Debbie, 35, of Hamilton, suffers from epilepsy and Nicole, 13, is her main carer.

Nicole said: "I couldn't stop shaking and crying when I won. I've had a brilliant night."

Business Person of the Year is Stagecoach tycoon **SIR BRIAN**

SOUTER for the Souter Charitable Trust to stop human suffering. His award was collected by colleague Lindsay Reid.

Sir Brian, 57, said: "It's a great honour to win this award. I am privileged to have been able to work with and support some wonderful charity projects over the years."

Thrilled

Comedian **FRED MacAULAY** won Entertainer of the Year for his work with Diabetes UK.

Fred, 51, became involved when his son Jack, 23, was diagnosed with diabetes 11 years ago.

Fred climbed Kilimanjaro and

camped in -18°C beside Loch Ness last year to raise funds.

He said: "I'm thrilled to be given this award. Thanks to everyone for their support."

And the Unsung Sports Hero of the Year gong went to **GLASGOW EAST RFC**, for their work in coaching rugby in deprived areas.

The club's David MacDonald, 38, said: "I'm delighted to see the club honoured in this way. We're all volunteers who work tirelessly to promote rugby to boys and girls throughout Glasgow's East End.

"It really changes lives - we have people of all ages and from all different backgrounds taking part -

and we want to get all the schools involved from primary level. Receiving this award means a lot to us."

Entrepreneur and retail tycoon **VERA WEISFELD** received a Lifetime Bighearted Scotland Award for the Weisfeld Foundation.

Dancers

The international charity was founded by Vera and her hubby Gerald, who launched the clothing dynasty What Every Woman Wants in the 1970s. Vera's award was presented to close friend Marion White in her absence.

Guests including Miss Scotland Jennifer Reoch and her younger

sister Catriona were entertained by burlesque dancers The Kennedy Cupcakes and singer Mary Gaze.

VIP weekend camping tickets to T In The Park, at £850, and a Champagne afternoon tea for four at One Devonshire Gardens, at £250, were among the lots in an auction.

David Dinsmore, General Manager of News International in Scotland, said: "Scotland is famous for its caring attitude and community spirit."

"News International and The Scottish Sun are proud to be associated with these awards and the ethos that lies behind them.

"We salute everyone

who has entered and who has helped keep Scotland's big heart beating."

Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP said: "It is, as always, an honour to be here and meet everyone.

"Everyone who has been nominated for an award is a winner and it's been a great night."

Our Bighearted Scotland charities are: Alcohol Focus Scotland, CLIC Sargent, Epilepsy Scotland, Momentum, Penumbra, Scottish Native Woods and Event Den.

Hearts of gold



SISTER ACT . . .
Miss Scotland Jen, right, and Catriona. Above, the Kennedy Cupcakes