

Walker Group rings in cash for Childline

Housebuilder Walker Group Ltd has teamed up with ChildLine Scotland, the free helpline for children and young people in danger or distress, in a unique partnership which will benefit children across Scotland.

For every Walker Group home purchased the company will make a donation to ChildLine Scotland which will help over 30 children to get through to ChildLine's telephone counselling service.

"As a house builder we know the importance of family and about building a better future for our children. ChildLine Scotland provide a lifeline to many children and we are pleased to be able to help them," said Sandy Casey, Sales Manager, Walker Group.

The company's pledge comes as ChildLine celebrates its 20th birthday. Over the years the UK charity has given in-depth counselling and protection to over 2 million children, and given comfort and support to thousands more. To mark the celebration milestone, a Birthday Appeal has been launched to raise £20 million so that the charity can not only continue its existing work, but also answer another 1,000 calls every day from vulnerable children and young people.

Last year ChildLine Scotland provided more than 30,000 children and young people with a counselling service on issues including bullying, physical and sexual abuse, bereavement, running away, pregnancy, parents splitting up, substance and alcohol abuse, suicide, school problems and many other worries.

"Everyone at the Walker Group have really got behind fundraising for ChildLine Scotland during this important year, and we are hugely grateful for their support. The donations from every house sold is just one example of the significant contribution the Walker Group is making to ChildLine, and therefore the lasting difference the Walker Group will be making to children's lives across Scotland," said Zoey Faulkner, Senior Fundraiser, Childline Scotland.

In addition to the main ChildLine service – 0800 1111 – the charity operates The Line for children living away from home (0800 88 4444) and a textphone service for children with hearing and/or speech impairment (0800 400 222). A line for young people concerned about Bullying (0800 44 1111) is also in operation.

Further information on ChildLine Scotland is available on 0870 336 2910 or write to ChildLine Scotland, 18 Albion Street, Glasgow, G1 1LH or visit the website, www.childline.org.uk.

Walker Group will also be organising a number of fundraising events throughout 2006 to further support the charity.