



**Press Release**

**20 November 2008**

## **Capability Scotland and Scope exceed target for ground-breaking fundraising challenge**

Employees from some of the UK's leading companies helped raised £111,000 by taking part in the Ben Nevis Challenge - the first ever ascent of Ben Nevis led by disabled people.

The event in May this year was organised by disability organisations Capability Scotland and Scope. Teams of six were led by their team captain, a wheelchair user, who navigated them to the top of the mountain— a five mile hike to the 4,400ft summit.

Capability Scotland and Scope joined forces with Beyond Boundaries presenter and ex-SAS Major Ken Hames to organise this challenge. The two charities, who had initially hoped to raise £100,000, will split the money equally.

Teams from Scottish law firm Burness, who were also the event sponsors, Barclays Bank, Swift Mobility, Lombard, Blackbaud, Redpath Bruce, DSV, Capability Scotland and Scope took part in the event.

Alan Dickson, Chief Executive of Capability Scotland, and Jon Sparkes, Chief Executive of Scope, said: "We are delighted that the Ben Nevis Challenge has raised such an incredible amount. It will give a huge boost to our work to support disabled people to achieve equality and to have full choice and control of their lives. We hope the success of this ground-breaking event will also help change society's perceptions about disabled people and demonstrate that disability has no boundaries."

Ken Hames added: "The Ben Nevis challenge was a fantastic day amongst highly motivated teams and courageous individuals. It was a bold undertaking and it is a credit to all involved that we have managed to raise a substantial amount of money to help those in need of assistance and support.

"I believe that our efforts last May changed attitudes towards what disabled people can do and opened the door for thousands of others to realise their dreams. We should all be very proud of what we achieved and my heartfelt thanks go to all at Capability Scotland, Scope and our fantastic sponsors Burness and of course to our teams who are the real heroes in all this."

**- ENDS -**

A photo is attached of the Burness team, including team captain David Burdus, celebrating the £111,000 total raised with chairman Philip Rodney and Capability Scotland's head of fundraising Ann Ward.

For further information please contact Carol Stewart in the Capability Scotland communications department on 0131 347 1052 / email [Carol.Stewart@capability-scotland.org.uk](mailto:Carol.Stewart@capability-scotland.org.uk) or Julie Burley in the Scope press office on 0207 619 7372/ email [julie.burley@scope.org.uk](mailto:julie.burley@scope.org.uk) .

**Notes to editor**

- Capability Scotland is one of the leading Scottish disability organisations and has nearly 60 years experience of providing services to disabled people of all ages in Scotland. To find out more visit [www.capability-scotland.org.uk](http://www.capability-scotland.org.uk)
- Scope is a disability organisation whose focus is people with cerebral palsy. Scope's mission is to drive the change to make our society the first where disabled people achieve equality. Our [Time To Get Equal](#) campaign aims to build a mass movement of one million people to help achieve this. To find out more visit [www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk)
- Burness is one of Scotland's premier commercial law firms, providing advice to clients in the commercial and public sectors. The firm prides itself with an innovative approach to a client focused service and boasts a team of recognised specialists in a number of business sectors including Banking, Construction, Corporate Finance, Dispute Resolution and Property. [www.burness.co.uk](http://www.burness.co.uk)