

**CRNS 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS – NOMINATION SUMMARY**

AWARD: INNOVATION AWARD

ORGANISATION: HomeAid Community Thrift shop

LA AREA: West Lothian

WEBSITE: <http://homeaid-westlothian.org.uk>

REF NO: INN05 (185 words)

**REASON FOR NOMINATION**

HomeAid has opened a community thrift shop that is unique. There are 25 groups who use it one week a year to fundraise for their charity. They can raise between £600 per week to over £1,000. The groups that use the thrift shop are small charities like swimming clubs, mental health projects, victim support, Alzheimer, young families and disabled. Ramblers and other similar groups that only need a few hundred pounds a year (to help with volunteer expenses or just taking their group on a day out or have a Christmas party) man the shop themselves. Many of the groups find it therapeutic working in the shop the week they come in. They save all the year round so they have enough to sell in the shop. Items donated include clothes, bric-a-brac and books – this helps the environment by reuse/recycling of donated items. HomeAid also use the shop to fundraise, helping with the many items donated to HomeAid. Many people are referred to HomeAid and they can buy things like towels, dishes and bedding, which saves them money for other things like gas and food.