

News Release

Date:	Monday 18 July 2016
Subject:	Computershare's Stacey Shepherd wins Ablaze award for voluntary work in local schools

Bristol, Monday 18 July 2016 – An employee at Bristol's Computershare has taken home an Ablaze award for voluntary work with young people locally.

Since last year Stacey Shepherd, who works for Computershare as a Senior Administrator, has been pairing colleagues with nearby schools for lunchtime reading and maths skill sessions.

Computershare's Reading Buddies and Number Partners schemes have been organised in conjunction with Ablaze, a charity that helps businesses in Bristol support local young people.

At its recent annual award ceremony at the M-Shed in Bristol, Ablaze handed Stacey an award for "her persistence and success in securing new volunteers" for Computershare's projects.

Naz Sarkar, Chief Executive Officer at Computershare UK, said: "Well done Stacey for this thoroughly deserved recognition of all the support she has provided local schools.

"Computershare is proud of its position in South Bristol and passionate about supporting our community.

"I'm delighted that so many of our colleagues work with Stacey to help education and development of young people as part of our wider engagement with those who live nearby."

Sally Ridley, Partnership Manager at Ablaze, said: "Ablaze were delighted to present Stacey with a recognition award at our Celebration Event for all her hard work and commitment to employee volunteering.

"She has successfully recruited a large number of new volunteers and has proved herself to be invaluable in coordinating the primary schools Computershare volunteers attend weekly."

Computershare's volunteers attend four primary schools: Perry Court, Parson Street, Whitchurch and Merchants Academy.

Since taking on the role, Stacey set up the partnership with Merchants Academy, launched Number Partners and recruited more Reading Buddy volunteers for all of the schools

Computershare's Reading Buddy scheme has been in place since 2005, with volunteers spending one lunch hour a week reading with primary school pupils across South Bristol.

Since the beginning of the project, the company's Reading Buddies have undertaken over 3,900 support hours in schools.

Schools that are part of the Reading Buddies scheme have reported increased attainment, better test results and higher confidence amongst the children involved in the scheme.

From April, Computershare staff members have also been volunteering as 'Number Partners' in order to help improve numeracy locally.

All Reading Buddies and Number Partners complete an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, and are given training sessions before they start to ensure that children get the most out of the experience.

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Notes

1. For high resolution images of spokespeople, visit <http://cpu.vg/spokespeople>.

About Computershare Limited (CPU)

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