



Two Sligo people honoured

TWO SLIGO locals were honoured this week at the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awards Ceremony which took place in Dublin. Tina Schmill from Grange, County Sligo and Bernard Sweeney, from Sligo Town each received an award in recognition of their outstanding work in the community.

Bernard is a member of the Traveller Community and has been instrumental in setting up a Traveller only forum, Travellers4Travellers. Bernard is looking to address issues such as conflict within the Traveller Community through mediation and restorative justice and sees the community as a whole, both Travellers and Settled people, as

potential beneficiaries.

As well as supporting Travellers, Bernard also sees the forum as a means of creating a platform of potential Traveller leaders and a way of working towards direct and open negotiation and dialogue with the State on Traveller related issues.

"There are ten times more Travellers in jail than Settled People. Conflict is fueling divisions within our community", he said

Tina Schmill: Pegasus - Horses Help People: Pegasus is a specialised therapeutic riding centre committed to offering the proven benefits of therapeutic riding to children and adults with special needs or a disability. Pegasus promotes tolerance

of diversity and social inclusion, and serves clients of all ages and abilities.

Tina Schmill founder Pegasus in late 2002 and is Project Manager/Head Instructor at the centre. Contact with animals can create measurable health benefits in autistic children and bonding with horses can create unique opportunities for depressed or troubled individuals to regain trust, confidence and lost communication skills.

"I want to see Ireland and its people becoming more tolerant, open-minded and supportive of people with special needs and to send out the message that ability not disability is what truly matters", she said.