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## GMEC Corporate Friend Award 2010 – sponsored by The Co-operative

### **Finalist: Jackson and Jackson**

Jackson Jackson, the commercial contract building firm, believes in the future and the support of their partners and supply chain members. They have a culture of continuous improvement and training which runs throughout the whole of the company. This philosophy extends to supporting not only the employees but all the company's supply chain members.

In recognition of this, the Rochdale-based company has been shortlisted for the GMEC Awards for the second year in succession – this time for the Corporate Friend Award. The award seeks to recognise those employers who have been champions of diversity, social inclusion, and exemplary practice through partnerships, networks and supply chains. The winning employer will recognise the ultimate business benefits of their investment, and of a partnership-focused approach to all of their supply chain members.

Health, Safety, Environment & Quality Manager Beverley Sexton lists the company's achievements this year:

- Supporting our supply chain members with quality and health and safety management.
- Providing (and sometimes paying for) training for small companies.
- Helping to turn around a small heating company in need of support.
- Assisting a new company start up in business.
- Getting the long term unemployed back to work and young people into work.
- Supporting undergraduates and providing flexibility with their study routes.

Beverley said: "We have been shortlisted for this award because we are supporting our employees in a variety of ways, and extending that help to our partners and supply chain members.

"Supporting staff in this way is good practice – it's for morale, good for our reputation, it protects the company and prepares for the future, which helps us increase our customer base and assures the long term health of the company. But sometimes businesses need hands-on help. For instance, we were working with a small heating company in Bolton that issued what I would call a 'cry for help'.

They were excellent at the practical side of the business – fitting heating systems – however, they needed some help managing the company – paperwork, quality, health and safety procedures, and the business accounts. Our Financial Director Helen Senior has implemented the most up to date accounting and costing procedures, along with weekly cash flow forecasts. I tackled their health and safety issues and continue to help them with setting up their quality management system which will enable them to apply for ISO9001 accreditation. Twelve months on, and the company has been



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turned around and are now working on some larger projects. They have just won a large contract to fit heating systems, and this week they attended the filming for a report for the GMEC awards ceremony in May.

“We are committed to helping the long term unemployed get back to work. We use J21, a recruitment initiative for all our employment needs. They help place the long term unemployed and difficult to place young people into the construction industry. We believe these young workers are our future and we are always keen to provide them with the jobs and training they require and mentor them to give them a bright future with our company.”

With 106 direct employees along with a supply chain which includes a large quantity of very small companies, Jackson Jackson believes that they have weathered the recession better than most.

Bev said: “We are very busy at the moment, and have been throughout the recession. Our Managing Director spotted the downturn coming well before it happened and took steps to manage its effects on the company and protect the jobs of our employees.”

Training and improvement is a culture that is bred throughout the whole structure of the company, from the apprentices to the boardroom. The two Mister Jacksons (Graham and Colin) both recently attained their prestigious Chartered CIOB (Chartered Institute of Building) qualification.

What is the possibility of Jackson Jackson winning a GMEC award two years in a row?

“We stand as good a chance as anybody. Last year we were up against two mammoth companies and won. This year we are shortlisted against Bovis Lend Lease and the Seddon Group – nobody can predict which one of us will win but it will be a big achievement for Jackson Jackson if we do win!”