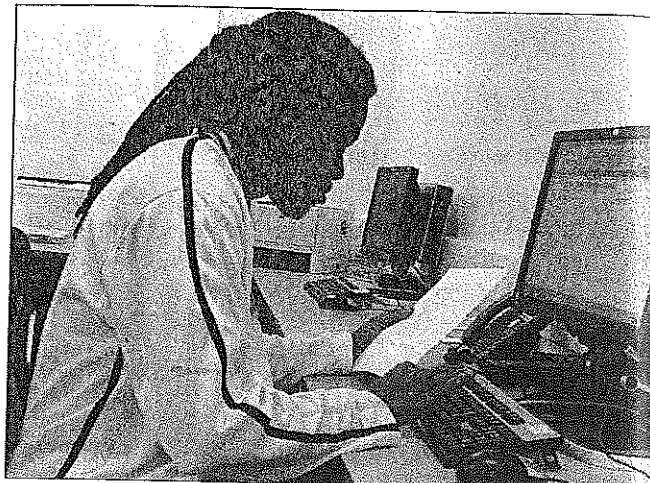


# Tech-savvy charity join the IT crowd



● Anchor House has won a top award for how it uses IT

A CHARITY working with the homeless are front runners when it comes to information technology.

Anchor House beat five other finalists, including Comic Relief, for the best use of technology.

**By KAY ATWAL**

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Judges in the Charity Times' 10th anniversary awards held in London, said it was "a fantastic example" of how the power of technology can be harnessed to make people's lives better.

The charity, based in Barking Road, Canning Town, also won a place among a shortlist of three finalists for expertise in financial management.

Director Keith Fernett said: "It's been an amazing time for the staff and residents.

"These results can only feed through into an even better service for our residents.

"And it's so good that our many partners and supporters in the community can see that our reputation is growing and their faith in us is being repaid."

The technology award recognises the charity's success in using IT to make the accommodation more secure, to give residents more independence and to

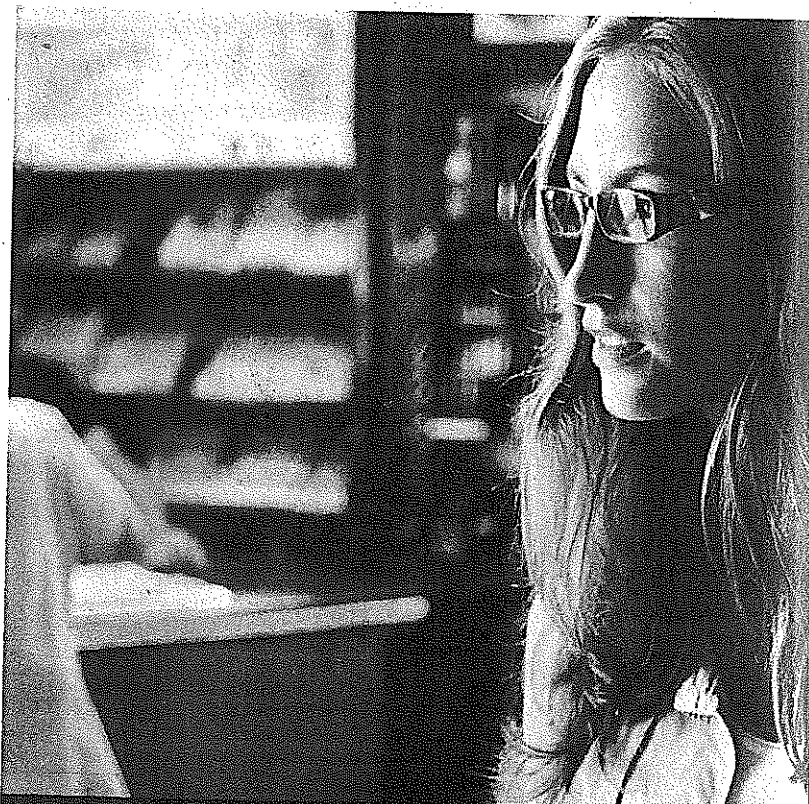
give them better access to information. Use of technology was a fundamental part of the plan to transform the old hostel into a centre to help the homeless develop their confidence and self-esteem, and to acquire the skills needed for them to be independent.

The IT overhaul included an access-control CCTV system, Internet communication, media services in every room, training facilities and office systems.

"Our residents can, for the first time, use the Internet, e-mail and television to follow-up job opportunities and gain greater social stability," said Mr Fernett.

Anchor House support 200 unemployed and homeless people a year.

The charity have, since 2005, more than quadrupled their turnover to £3.7million and raised £6million towards their £15million refurbishment plan.



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# Couple's £1,000 from sale in garden

THE country may be suffering from the recession but a couple have tapped into a vein of generosity and raised £1,000 with a sale in their garden.

Dolores Maisonneuve and husband Gordon Haskins, who have lived in East Ham for eight years, organised a garden sale.

**By KAY ATWAL**