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RELEASE

# STAFF GO TO GREAT HEIGHTS TO CELEBRATE NICMA'S 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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Four energetic ladies from **NICMA – the Childminding Association** have been out walking, hiking and exercising getting ready to celebrate **NICMA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** by scaling **Ben Nevis** on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2009. The Challenge is a way of celebrating the achievements of NICMA in supporting quality Childminding in the last 25 years and to highlight how **CHILDMINDING TOUCHES LIVES**. Thousands of children have benefited from the warm, loving home environment provided by Childminders which also supports parents in their work-life balance responsibilities.

The climbers include Jenny Adair, Assistant Director, Clare Hagan, Childminding Development Officer - Western area, Joanna Legg Surestart Network Co-ordinator, Derry and Maria Moss, Childminding Development Officer - Western area. NICMA have been also been co-ordinating fundraising activities to raise money to help fund some of NICMA's programmes in the coming year.

NICMA – the Childminding Association is a membership organisation and charity established in 1984 to promote and develop quality home-based childcare across the whole of Northern Ireland for the benefit of children, families and communities. NICMA is dependent on voluntary contributions and grants to continue providing our services to Childminders, Parents and Children. We gratefully appreciate the efforts that these four are making to help raise much needed funds.

MAIN ARTICLE ENDS

**Editor's notes:**

1. NICMA – the Childminding Association is a charity, and is the sole organisation representing childminders in Northern Ireland. 74% of registered childminders here are members. For more details about NICMA, please go to: [www.nicma.org](http://www.nicma.org)
2. Registered childminders currently care for 22,000+ children between the ages of 0 – 12 years in a family setting.
3. NICMA currently hold a database of 2,500 childminding members Northern Ireland wide to which we offer a range of services to support them in their childcare business.
4. NICMA operate a Childminding Information and Vacancy helpline (0871 200 2063) to help parents and childminders.

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