

# STAFF ACHIEVE 'GREAT HEIGHTS' TO CELEBRATE NICMA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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**Contact: Madeline Donnelly on 0871 200 2063**

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Well done to four energetic staff members from **NICMA – the Childminding Association** who have managed to scale the 'dizzy heights' of Ben Nevis in support of **NICMA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. 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**.

The climbers include Jenny Adair, Assistant Director, Clare Hagan, Childminding Development Officer - Western area /Network Co-ordinator, Strabane SureStart , Joanna Legg Surestart Network Coordinator, Shantallow & Little Hands SureStart, Derry and Maria Moss, Childminding Development Officer - Western Area/Daycare Co-ordinator, Clogher Valley SureStart. 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.

For further details contact Ms Madeline Donnelly at 0871 2002063 or email [madeline.donnelly@nicma.org](mailto:madeline.donnelly@nicma.org)



