



**100 women in  
hedge funds®**

## **100 Women in Hedge Funds Raises More Than £500,000 for SkillForce at London Gala and Other Fundraising Events**

London – 11 October, 2016 - 100 Women in Hedge Funds ("100WHF"), a global, practitioner-driven non-profit organization that serves more than 15,000 alternative investment management investors and professionals, announced at its annual London Gala that it successfully raised more than £500,000 in gross proceeds in support of SkillForce. A national charity, SkillForce seeks to transform the lives of young people through motivational mentoring and education programmes delivered mostly by ex-services personnel.

The 100WHF London Gala was held yesterday evening at Middle Temple Hall in London, with the support of more than 200 leaders from the alternative investment industry. Alexandra Jung, Partner and Co-Head of European Investments at Oak Hill Advisors L.P., received 100 WHF's 2016 European Industry Leadership Award in recognition of her example and advocacy of mentorship for future leaders of the industry.

"SkillForce's programmes provide a vital forum for young people to develop their aspirations, confidence and skills to succeed," says Sonia Gardner, President, Managing Partner and Co-Founder Avenue Capital Group, and 100WHF's Global Chair. "We are delighted to support this impactful organisation this year."

Ben Slade, Chief Executive, SkillForce, says: "Our mission is to transform lives and inspire children and young people to believe in their potential and realise it, and value opportunities and seize them so they dare be their best selves. We do that through our inspirational instructors, predominantly ex-Services personnel, who deliver educational programmes and mentoring that develop character, self confidence and resilience."

He added: "SkillForce is enormously grateful to 100 in Women in Hedge Funds for their generous fundraising support that will provide a new mentoring programme for young people identified by their schools as underperforming and lacking the confidence to progress, as well as additional accredited coaching and mentoring training for our instructors. The funds raised will also support the brand new SkillForce Character Award programme that aims to boost resilience and problem solving skills so that children and young people develop an inner strength that carries them through life and gives them the confidence to be comfortable in their own skin"

100WHF was honoured to host HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Royal Patron of SkillForce and of 100WHF's philanthropic initiatives as detailed in [The Duke of Cambridge's letter](#). 100WHF's partnership with The Charities Forum of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry focuses on a selected charity each year and reflects 100WHF's three philanthropic themes of mentoring, women's and family health, and education. This year's 100WHF global theme is mentoring.

The SkillForce Character Award programme has just started this academic year as a pilot and involves 1,013 children and young people, aged five to 14, in 37 primary and secondary schools across England, Scotland and Wales. HRH The Duke of Cambridge has lent his support to the programme, which comprises practical activities that develop character including resilience, compassion, courage, teamwork and problem solving skills. The scheme

draws on the skills, knowledge and expertise of SkillForce instructors, 70% of whom are ex-Service personnel and is supported by the investment company Standard Life.

Since 2010, Blaine and Laura Tomlinson have served as 100WHF's Patronage Sponsor, very generously supporting each of the charities selected as beneficiaries of 100WHF's London Gala and other fundraising. We salute their commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people and vulnerable families in the UK.

To make a donation to SkillForce, 100WHF's 2016 UK beneficiary, please contact Amanda Pullinger, Chief Executive Officer of 100 Women in Hedge Funds, or [donate here](#).

**About 100 Women in Hedge Funds** ([www.100womeninhedgefunds.org](http://www.100womeninhedgefunds.org))

100 Women in Hedge Funds is a global, practitioner-driven non-profit organisation serving over 15,000 alternative investment management investors and finance professionals in 20 locations through educational, professional leverage and philanthropic initiatives. Formed in 2001, 100 Women in Hedge Funds has hosted more than 600 industry education events globally, connected more than 400 senior women through Peer Advisory Groups and raised over \$38 million gross for philanthropic causes in the areas of women's and family health, education and mentoring.

**About SkillForce**

SkillForce is a national education charity that transforms lives by working with children and young people through educational programmes and mentoring that develop character, self confidence and resilience and boost aspirations, achievement and attendance. HRH The Duke of Cambridge KG KT has been the charity's Royal Patron since 2009. The charity currently works with more than 200 primary and secondary academies and schools, and colleges, across England, Scotland and Wales, SkillForce supported 5,174 children during the last academic year 2015/16 resulting in a 38% drop in fixed term school exclusions and 85% of children progressing to a positive destination. The charity draws on the skills of predominantly ex-Services personnel as SkillForce instructors. They have served their country, and now wish to serve their community, and since 2004 they have inspired approximately 60,000 children and young people to succeed in education, work and life. SkillForce - Heroes in Schools Transforming Lives. Visit <http://www.skillforce.org>. Follow us @SkillForceUK and on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#). Call 01623 827651.

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