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Together – a Scholarship for volunteers in the Nordic countries

Accent Equity Partners is an advisor to investment funds focused on small and medium sized companies in the Nordic region. In 2012 Accent ordained a scholarship named "Together". The scholarship is awarded to volunteer organisations in the Nordic countries that contribute to bringing people together. The 2013 scholarships have been awarded to the Athletics Club "Gjekstad og Østerøya Idrettsforening" in Sandefjord, Norway, the Fundraising Foundation "Insamlingsstiftelsen Lek för hållbarhet och Retoy" and the Women's refuge "Alla Kvinnors Hus" in Stockholm, Sweden.

"This scholarship supports all good forces in the Nordics who realize the importance of cooperation to create sustainable change within society, the school system, sports and other non-profit organisations," says Niklas Sloutski, CEO of Accent Equity Partners AB. "We have named the Scholarship Together to symbolize what we want to support. It is gratifying to see so many enthusiasts trying to make our world better and that for the second year in a row we may show some of these our appreciation."

The Scholarship will be awarded yearly before Christmas and the winners are chosen in co-operation with portfolio companies owned by Accent Funds. Steni, Scandic Hotels and the Motum Group nominated the 2013 scholarship recipients.

Steni is a Norwegian company supplying environmental friendly facade and interior panels. Steni nominated an activity group within Gjekstad og Østerøya Idrettsforening in Sandefjord, Norway. The group focuses on activating people with intellectual disability and bringing them into the sports community. The motivation for the scholarship is: *"Gjekstad og Østerøya Idrettsforening has an activity group with intellectually disabled people between 16-60 years of age. The group consists of some 50 members from Sandefjord and its surroundings and is active in football, handball, boccia and athletics."*

Scandic Hotels is the Nordic region's most sustainable hotel chain with 160 hotels and 30,000 rooms in eight countries. Scandic nominated Insamlingsstiftelsen Lek för hållbarhet och Retoy that inspires children to play together, act environmental friendly and realise their rights. The motivation for the scholarship is: *"Retoy gives children the opportunity to play together and simultaneously learn that it is fun to be environmental friendly. In addition the children learn about their rights based on United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child."*

Motum is a Swedish group of installation and maintenance suppliers for elevators in commercial and private buildings. Motum nominated Alla Kvinnors Hus in Stockholm, supporting oppressed women. The motivation for the scholarship is: *"Alla Kvinnors Hus is a volunteer organisation working with women exposed to violence and oppression. The association runs a shelter where women and their children can take their refuge from threats and violence. The association has also helpline with advice for vulnerable women."*

The three recipients have each been awarded SEK 25,000 to be used in the organisation's work. Officials from the nominating companies have presented the scholarships to the recipients.

Please contact Niklas Sloutski, +46 8 545 073 00 for further information.