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Telegraph Comment

Hi-tech software will change lives

WELL done to city couple Roger and Margaret Wilson-Hinds who have got the backing of Children In Need to launch their remarkable "modern braille" software for blind youngsters to use on computers.

The children's charity has awarded £60,000 to enable Roger and Margaret to push their project forward, not just in Britain, but worldwide too. Even in desperately poor parts of Africa it will help youngsters using internet cafés to improve their lives through education.

Being blind themselves, both Roger and Margaret recognise the difficulties facing children without sight, and their skills as a former software designer and a teacher, have helped them develop the talking screen system they have called Thunder.

It will also unlock opportunities for blind and partially sighted youngsters to interact with other people on popular internet social networking sites such as Facebook, which they haven't been able to do until now.

Children In Need's Melinda Connelly says blind youngsters who may feel excluded by their peers will now be able to bridge the gap.

Because they are not out for commercial success, Roger and Margaret have made the software free for personal use to ensure children get the maximum benefit.

They should feel proud.