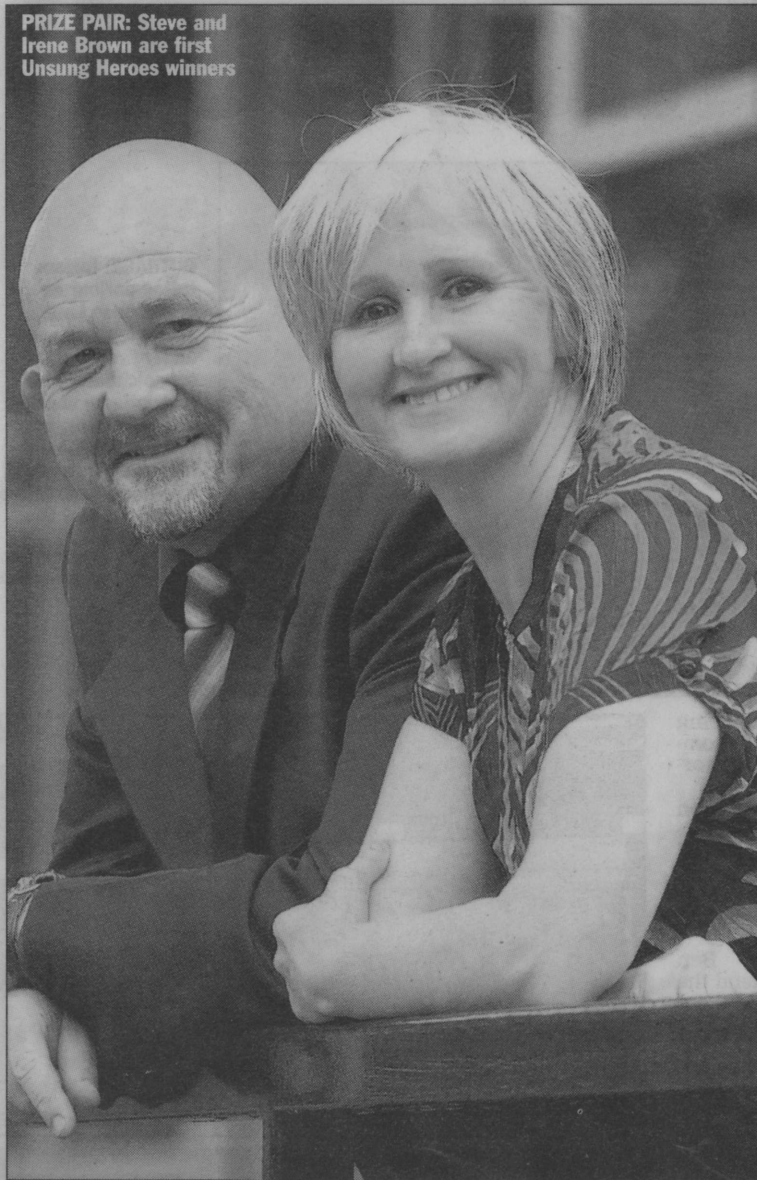


# our deserving heroes

**PRIZE PAIR:** Steve and Irene Brown are first Unsung Heroes winners



## **THE WINNERS: Steve and Irene Brown**

YEARS of dedication to helping the homeless make Steve and Irene Brown very worthy winners of our first Unsung Heroes award.

The pair have spent almost 20 years serving food from a converted ambulance for two nights a week.

Though honoured by the accolade, the pair are modest about their work.

Steve said: "It was a surprise to win – we're certainly not heroes."

The Browns started working with homelessness charities in 1991 and, after converting to Christianity, launched City Centre Ministries.

Their work brings them face-to-face at times with difficult situations but they say faith and friendship are what drives them and their soup kitchen – the converted ambulance – out on to Manchester's streets.

Irene said: "The hardest things for me is seeing young working girls and lads who may be quite mouthy but are just little boys really.

"It breaks my heart. But I think our work is a real privilege as the people we help see us as their mum and dad."

The couple say they try to build up friendships through not only the busy soup kitchen, where Steve has been known to take out his guitar and start a sing-a-long, but also by transporting people to church, organising outings and helping them find accommodation.

Irene added: "I feel as though I am at my most real when I'm out there on the curb, I feel that I can be accepted by people I consider to be good friends."

● CITY Centre Ministries is currently in need of blankets – if you can help call Steve on 07856 355752