

CSR NEWSLETTER

Issue 25 April 2018

Welcome to the April edition of the CSR newsletter!



Well it looks like we are leaving this financial year with a bang! We didn't just hit our fundraising target of £17,600...but we exceeded it with a whopping 129% - meaning we (you!) raised £22,780! This is incredible and just shows how all those cake sales, raffles and dress down day collections add up! Well done everyone I couldn't be any prouder.

Each office also has a funding pot of money to fund external events any of you have. Overall, we have given out £15,272 in funding which has helped to then go on and raise £77,204!

I am also pleased to introduce to you our new company Just Giving page. This is a great way to share externally with our clients and social media followers just how much we are doing for charity as a firm. When we give funding to you from our funding pot, if you are fundraising via Just Giving already, you will be able to link your page so we can show off to our clients how much are employees are doing for charity too!

Here is the link to our Just Giving page below:

www.justgiving.com/company/weightmans

The rest of the newsletter is jam packed full of stories on all of your fundraising efforts. I would just like to say a massive thank you to the Snowdon gang on raising over £4,500 for the Whitechapel Centre and Martin's House, with special mention to Megan Inman for co-ordinating it all. It does look like you all had some torrential conditions to get through and so well done to everyone involved.

Pete Forshaw
Head of CSR

Firmwide CSR

Our firmwide fundraising target



We hit 129% of our target!!!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that we have completely passed our target of £17,600 with a total income of £22,780! This is a whopping **129%**! This total is made up of donations by YOU from our internal office activities ran by our CSR committees for things like dress down days, cake sales etc.

CSR budget towards external fundraising

In addition to the above, each office has a pot of money which can be used to fund your own personal endeavors. There are so many of you in the firm who take part in charitable activities outside of work. Overall, we have paid out a total of **£15,272** which you have turned into a huge **£77,204** in your own fundraising!!!

Weightmans walk Snowdon



On 14 March, 27 staff members took part in a sponsored walk up Snowdon in aid of The Whitechapel Centre and Martin's House. The team managed to exceed the target they set of £2,800 and have raised over £4,800!

The "Beast from the East" wreaked havoc upon the mountain the week before the planned walk and it was touch and go as to whether the guides would be able to lead the climbers up the mountain due to treacherous conditions. Fortunately, the team had the help of professional guides who confirmed that the walk could go ahead just days before the excursion. Although the planned route was altered, as the original intended route was iced from the beginning of the pathway.

On the day of the walk, weather conditions took another turn for the worse with extremely fast wind speeds; temperatures plummeting well below zero; hailstones and icy conditions. Unfortunately, when the team reached around 80-90% of the way up the mountain the conditions were considered too dangerous by the guides and the walkers were turned back, despite their best efforts in such horrendous conditions.

The event was a great opportunity for employees in different offices to raise funds for two very worthy causes. Organiser Megan Inman, Trainee Solicitor stated "We enjoyed every moment and, the views of Snowdonia National Park, captured our hearts! The challenge brought such a sense of achievement to all of us - knowing how much our fundraising will make a difference, certainly kept our spirits high!"

There is still time to sponsor! Here is the team page...

www.justgiving.com/companyteams/weightmans-walk-snowdon2018



Leeds Make it Sew... for the Sick Children's Trust

Volunteers from Weightmans, Leeds have put down their statute books and pens and picked up their needle and thread, all for a great cause-The Sick Children's Trust.

The Sick Children's Trust is a national charity that provides a 'Home from Home' for families that need to be together when they would otherwise be torn apart by the hospitalisation of one of their children. Often the child is admitted to hospital for long periods of time due to serious and sometimes life-limiting illness. During this difficult time it is vitally important that families stay together both to assist the recovery of the child and for the emotional well-being of other family members including siblings.



The Sick Children's Trust has 10 houses across the country based near to major children's hospitals. Eckersley House is the Leeds home for The Sick Children's Trust and provides accommodation for families of children who are cared for at Leeds Children's Hospital (one of the largest children's hospitals in the country). Eckersley House has 23 bedrooms and all rooms are continually in use 365 days a year, with a waiting list of between 5- 10 families per night, such is the demand.

Weightmans, Leeds has volunteered their time to sew together hand knitted Easter chicks which are designed to hold Easter eggs. These will then be sold at various locations, including by Weightmans in their Leeds office to help raise money for the charity. A much appreciated donation of Easter Eggs was also made both by contributions from individuals at the firm and by the Leeds CSR Committee.

It costs the charity £7,740.00 per room per year. Weightmans, Leeds is proud to have been able to help The Sick Children's Trust to continue providing the support to families in their time of need.

London

London Legal Walk 2018

On 21 May 2018 volunteers from the London Office will be taking part in the London Legal Walk, walking 10km around London in support of the London Legal Support Trust.

The London Legal Walk raises much needed funds for charities that provide life changing legal advice and representation to those in need, and is attended by thousands of members of the legal profession. This year walkers include Lady Hale, Lord Burnett and Sir Terrence Etherton.

The Walk starts and ends on Carey Street, around the corner from the Royal Courts of Justice, and includes a street party with street food vendors, fire jugglers and musicians. Walkers will also be given a drinks token which they can redeem in the Law Society or Knights Templar bars for beer, wine or a soft drink.

If you would like to take part you can register for your place on the walk either by accepting the calendar invite, or by emailing rebecca.hyde@weightmans.com.

The CSR committee would love to see as many people getting involved as possible!

We are hoping to raise as much money for these fantastic charities as we can. If you are able to donate please do so using the link [here](#). All donations are gratefully received.

Manchester

Manchester annual quiz raises £320 for Reuben's Retreat

Weightmans Manchester held its annual quiz on Thursday 8 March at the Holiday Inn on Aytoun Street. In our final bid to raise money for Reuben's Retreat before we take on a new office charity, we managed to raise £320 for the charity. It was a close call with Real Estate pipping Casualty to the post - winning a voucher for the restaurant of their choice.



Manchester

A charitable move

As you will all no doubt be aware, the Manchester office has recently moved from two separate offices, 3PP and PMC, to combine under one roof at No1 Spinningfields.

Alongside the office wide efforts of packing and preparing for this long awaited move, the Manchester CSR committee arranged for a local homeless charity to collect a large portion of the soon to be discarded office furniture rather than see it go to waste.

The charity, Supporting People In Need (S.P.I.N), attended PMC on 3 separate occasions and, with the help of Holly O'Farrell, collected not only furniture but crockery, cutlery, unclaimed property in the way of coats, jumpers, shoes, scarves etc. and large amounts of discarded stationary.

All of this will be put to use by S.P.I.N in their HQ at 'The Well' in Ardwick, Manchester where they run a homeless shelter, a soup and Sunday roast kitchen and 'Back To Work' training and mentoring programmes for their residents - 6 of whom have been supported to find and retain full time jobs in the last 4 months alone.

S.P.I.N are a great charity and one that Manchester continue to plan to support with goods and time donations going forward.

S.P.I.N are on twitter and if you're interested in finding out more about the great work they do, please follow them - @SpinMCR.



Manchester

Manchester 10k/ Half

The Manchester office has a team entering the 10k on 20th May 2018 running to raise money for our recently elected new charity partner, The Seashell Trust - a school, college and residential care home which, amongst other things, delivers bespoke care programmes to educate, promote independence and help build confidence and self-esteem in children and young people with complex learning disabilities, autism, multi-sensory impairments and additional communication needs from across the UK.

Any donations to this amazing cause would be gratefully accepted.

[Click here to donate.](#)

Things get a little hot as Emma takes a walk of fire in support of Wakefield Hospice!

On Saturday 10 March 2018, Emma Turner (Paralegal in the Fraud Team at Leeds) took part in a Fire Walk in support of Wakefield Hospice.

Fire walking is the practice of walking barefoot on hot embers. Following a 2 hour "training session," Emma walked along 20ft of burning wood embers at a mean temperature of 1236 degrees Fahrenheit.

Emma had this to say after the experience: "That was such an amazing experience! The whole thing from start to finish was liberating and truly thrilling! It felt like walking on a really comfy carpet!"

Wakefield Hospice is a charity close to Emma's heart after helping care for Emma's friend and neighbour in her final weeks and days. Her friend was aged just 32 when she died of bowel cancer in September 2015, leaving behind her husband and little boy, Mason.

Wakefield Hospice provides high level symptom management and care for people who have advanced, progressive and life threatening illnesses. The Hospice offers continued support to families and carers throughout the period of illness and into bereavement and relies on fundraising initiatives and donations.

If you would like to make a donation to the Hospice, you can do so on Emma's fundraising link:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/emma-turner72

Any donations, no matter how small, are gratefully received.



Charity ride from coast to coast

A team of friends from Sedgley have cycled from coast to coast for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

On September 18, they completed their 190-mile epic cycle ride from St Bees to Robin Hoods Bay in an incredible 17 hours 18 minutes riding time.

This ride has been a popular trek for walkers and cyclists for many years, and there are two traditions - one to dip your rear wheel in the sea at the start of the ride and then dip your front wheel in the sea at the end of the ride.

Another tradition is to take a pebble from the one beach and throw it in to the sea when you reach the coast the other end. The team has so far raised £3,148.85, with extra money to follow. All costs were self-funded, so all the money raised could go directly to the Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity.

Treatment

This charity is close to Jason Addison's heart as his son Scott was diagnosed with Leukaemia when he was just four years old. Scott had three years of treatment at Birmingham Children's Hospital on Ward 15 and they saved his life. Jason said: "Thank-you to all friends and family for sponsoring our cycle ride."

Jason has taken part in many charity events over the last 15 years, including abseiling 500ft down the side of a

hotel, white water rafting, F1 Ferrari fundraising weekend, a zip slide from a 600ft crane, numerous cycle rides, ice bucket challenge, press-up challenge, Snowdon trek and a Great Wall Of China trek.

He is proud to have raised over £35,000 for cancer-related charities and will continue to do so in the future.

If you are interested in raising money for the charity visit www.bch.org.uk / or contact the fundraising team by calling 0121 333 8506 or emailing fundraising@bch.org.uk