

Spring 2008

Investing in the community

Introduction

We very much hope you'll be interested to hear what's been happening over the past year with regard to the Pro Bono, Community and Charity work in which Taylor Wessing is involved. Whilst developing existing relationships within the local community, we continue to seek new initiatives and ways to provide assistance where it's most needed. Your individual support, both in legal and non-legal volunteering, is always very much appreciated.

The aim of this update is to inspire and encourage as many of you as possible to become involved as often and by whatever means you can. The following summaries will hopefully provide some insight into current activities. Please take a moment to review these highlights. If you would like to become involved with any of the organisations mentioned here, please contact Chris Boniface.

Annual Community Initiatives Champagne Reception

This event will be held **today, Wednesday 26 March from 5.30pm to 8pm in Boardrooms B, C and D** and provides an opportunity for everyone to review everything we, as a firm, have achieved with our community partners during the previous 12 months. This year we will be welcoming the choir from St Jude's Church of England Primary School who will be singing for us. During the evening, presentations will be made to three student nurses from Kings and representatives from two schools plus UCLH and St Mungo's. If you want to get a sense of what we are trying to achieve don't miss this event!

Our principle charities

UCLH is one of our two principal charities where we hope there will also be opportunities for non-legal volunteer work. We are currently providing funds to enhance the recreational facilities on one of the wards, aimed to assist the rehabilitation and development opportunities for teenagers, many of whom have had major surgery, or suffer from chronic and acute illnesses, and where treatment necessitates a long term stay in the hospital. TW is helping to provide a room which can be

used not only during the day by consultants talking to patients and parents about the often upsetting aspects of the illness and associated treatment, but also during the evening, entirely by the young people

St Mungo's

Our second main financial commitment is to St Mungo's, an organisation that provides front-line support for London's homeless. The organisation, which began as a single house run by volunteers in 1969, helps thousands of people every year through various housing projects including hostels, street outreach teams and higher support projects for individuals with greater needs.

Through the firm's support, St Mungo's now maintains links with the NPG, providing opportunities for involvement in photography and art workshops and our own Graduate Recruitment programme when new trainees take part in the "Putting down roots" project, spending a day working to improve the quality of the residents' surroundings.

New International Project – Vasantham Homes in Sri Lanka

This year, we have committed to support two children's homes in Northern Sri Lanka. The homes, one for boys and the other for girls, provide housing and education for approximately 50 children aged from 11 years upwards. Many of the children have tragic backgrounds, having lost one or both parents and, in some cases whole

families, in the areas of the island where political unrest and violence is on-going. Initially, funds have been sent to purchase and install two new generators which will provide lighting to enable the children to study during the evenings.

The firm continues to support St Jude's Church of England Primary School, The Bridge School and Thomas Buxton where the reading scheme is now in its fourth year of operation.

Non-Legal Pro Bono work Volunteering at Centrepont

Centrepont is a charity that exists to help young people and communities (especially the most excluded, disadvantaged, and marginalised). A group of volunteers from Taylor Wessing's HR and IT teams have joined forces to make fortnightly visits to Centrepont's Soho location. Since this initiative started in May 2006, we have been providing the young people with HR and IT training and support. The IT sessions consist of 1:1 teaching in the basics of MS Word and MS Excel by a system geared to provide them with the opportunity to attain formal recognition of their developing skills. We also undertake CV preparation workshops, looking at layout and how the young people can detail their experience and skills in order to best sell themselves to potential employers.

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Going forward, we hope to continue to develop and improve the sessions and to encourage more students to attend and become committed to gaining a new skill to equip them for life in the adult world. This association is an ongoing project for Centrepoint and Taylor Wessing. It is very rewarding and we have fun with the young people on the way.

Payroll Giving

Payroll giving makes it easy for employees to support their favourite charities, for those employees who have demonstrated that they want to get involved even though they may otherwise not get the time or the opportunity. The scheme was introduced in 2000 and we have since been committed to promoting it among everyone here. The recipient charities are chosen by the donors and range from local to international causes. Popular choices are cancer, children, animal, environmental, human rights and overseas charities.

It is simple, effective and flexible. The employees get tax relief at their top rate of tax and payroll giving is the only way that a higher rate tax payer can donate all the tax from a donation to charity. It also saves the charity time and money. Employees know they can stop, start or amend their contributions at any time. The scheme has enjoyed ongoing success here, with the magnificent generosity of employees resulting in us being awarded The Payroll Giving Gold Award for two years running.

Fund raising

Legal Advice Walk for Charity

Well done to all those who donned their macs, hats and wellies and braved the pouring rain last May to take part in the sponsored walk for London's legal advice charities. The team raised almost £4,500 and the whole event raised nearly £300,000.

This year, the walk will be held on **Monday 19 May** and Natalie Salunke will be pleased to provide details to anyone wishing to be part of the Taylor Wessing team.

Marathons & other events

Also last year, Louise Thompson completed the Playtex Moonwalk (a 26 mile power walk) which raised money for Fair Havens Hospice, Lisa Morton ran the London Marathon in support of Childline and Barry MacDonald ran 26.2 miles in the Windermere Marathon in the Lake District to raise money for The Great North Air Ambulance. In July, Vikki Wiberg completed the British 10km run around the centre of London to raise money for Pilgrims Hospices. Saleem Fazal ran the Dublin marathon in aid of the Kingsley School Association and Robin Pennal ran to raise money for the Roald Dahl Foundation who work with brain, blood and literacy problems in many different ways.

Clare Ferguson courageously overcame her sea-sickness and sailed for a week on a tall ship; splicing the main brace, doing night watches and shimmying up the mast (when she is also actually prone to vertigo and hates heights), all to raise £2,400 for the Jubilee Sailing Trust which provides the opportunity for able and disabled people to sail.

Congratulations to all those others who have gone to great lengths (and strides!) and given their time so generously to help others.

The Charities Committee was also able to give donations to The London Migrate Clinic, Thurrock Rugby Club, The Bloomsbury Chamber Orchestra, The Festival of Youth Arts, Discover (a children's charity in Stratford, East London) and MAGPAS (the emergency medical charity for Cambridgeshire).

Early last year Claire Lee in the Cambridge office brought a proposal to the committee called the Snow Fair Campaign, which takes place every two years in collaboration with Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust to raise vital funds for Children's Services at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. Snow Fair took place in December 2007 and the TW funding will help purchase vital medical equipment for children.

Appeals and disasters

In addition, we have provided assistance to the Darfur and Chad appeal and Red Cross Floods appeal in the UK.

The following is a summary of the assistance we've been able to provide, with your help, during the past 12 months. This is in addition to the provisions already in place in the charitable budget.

| Event | Money Raised |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Family Fortunes | £5,500 |
| Sales event | £200 |
| Carol service | £286 |
| Support department's Christmas raffle | £307 |
| Austerity lunches | £400 |
| Comic Relief Day | £953 |
| Jeans for Genes Day | £954 |
| Poppy Appeal | £166 |
| Sale of TW calendars | £1,500 |

| Charity | Raised |
|-------------|---|
| St. Mungo's | Unwanted toiletries Suits/Casual warm clothes 10 unwanted HP laser printers Purchase of 4 tickets to St Mungo's Carol Service Warm winter clothes |
| UCLH | December 07 – A Christmas party was taken to the young people who are hospitalised over Christmas; The party included, Santa + two elves on roller skates, pizzas, cookies and goody bags containing iPod and Top Shop vouchers |

A huge thank you from the Community, Charities and Pro Bono Committees, for all your on-going support.