

charitychallenge NEWS

Ahoy there!

Filton BVT hold a nautical Ball
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Rags to riches

Insyte Portsmouth fill over
150 Sue Ryder Care bags
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Spotlight>

The Communications and Corporate Affairs Team at Edinburgh Parks, Australia recruited the help of the Phoenix Society for one of their activities. The society is a not-for-profit organisation that employs, trains and develops people with disabilities through employment settings.

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Pedalling to the Emerald Isle

Prestwick Cycle Challenge 2008

Prestwick, UK

Over the course of three days, ninety employees from Regional Aircraft and other BAE Systems businesses in the UK jumped on

their bikes once again to take part in the annual Prestwick Cycle Challenge; a gruelling 240-mile bike ride from Prestwick, Scotland to Donegal, Ireland.

BAE Systems Regional Aircraft

have been organising this annual event since 1997 and have so far raised a staggering £146,500 which has been split between the partner charity and charities local to their site. The team hope that

the completion of the 2008 challenge will take the total beyond the £150,000 mark.

"It was great to see so many

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Above: participants at the start of their 240 mile bike ride



Welcome >

Welcome to the August Charity Challenge Newsletter. It is really great to see so many of our employees across the world taking the time to get involved in charitable activities - what a fantastic start to this campaign! In the US, Australia and the UK we are

working very closely with our partner charities and it's true to say that the partnerships are in full swing.

For those of you who have never been involved with Charity Challenge before, there are many different ways in which you can participate and summer is a great time to start. It's perfect

for doing some gardening to help someone in your local area, for taking part in one of the many golf competitions, bike rides or runs, or for sorting through your loft or wardrobe to find some items to donate to our partner charities. No matter how much or how little time you have to offer, there are ways for you to

get involved - all you need to do is contact your local Charity Challenge Coordinator to find out how.

Kim Phipps
Charity Challenge
Campaign Leader



Mobility and Protection Systems kick off new campaign

Mobility and Protection Systems, US

With the start of the new campaign, sites in the US have been really busy making sure that everyone knows that the new partner charity for the next 18 months is America Supports You. Mobility and Protection Systems (M&PS) has been very busy organising events across the operational group and so far these have included everything from informal informational sessions and cookouts to fundraising events that include dunk tanks and relay races.

At the events, all employees received a Charity Challenge information kit, heard from a BAE Systems speaker who formally introduced Charity Challenge and they also heard from a speaker with a local affinity group that is part of the America Supports You umbrella of organisations.

For example in Texas staff were welcomed by Paula Sandin, Communications for BAE Systems and Jim Bondi of Military Child Education Coalition. Meanwhile Tennessee's and Kentucky's



Above: Sandy Greene (left) and Megan George attend the Tennessee Kick-Off Celebration with Charlie, the Charity Challenge mascot



Above: Arizona employees dodge water balloons during a relay contest to raise funds for Operation Homefront

Charity Challenge kick-off celebrations, held on June 3 and June 5 respectively, featured guest speakers, Sandy Greene, Community Relations/ Commercial Development for BAE Systems and Megan George, Chapter President for Operation Homefront-Tennessee. Charlie, BAE Systems' Charity Challenge mascot was also in attendance at Tennessee's event.

"Since joining BAE Systems, M&PS has a great opportunity to support our communities through Charity Challenge." said Heather Russell, Charity

Challenge Campaign Coordinator for M&PS. "Without hesitation, all of our sites have committed their full support to this program as it provides opportunities for our employees, customers and suppliers to be involved and really give back to our communities."

The M&PS employees have made a great start to this campaign and there is still much more to come as there are further launch events planned as well as a huge amount of fundraising and volunteering events in the pipeline.

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past cyclists, some nearly a decade older, fighting their way up the hills and struggling against the wind", said John McCulloch, one of the organisers. "The event continues to grow from strength to strength, and some of the cyclists brought their family along to experience the joy, pain and have a real sense of achievement completing this significant challenge. To know you have helped others in real need is a humbling experience, teamwork and support is the key to success" concluded John.

Sponsorship is still coming in but it looks like it's been another fantastic year for the event and also for Sue Ryder Care, the UK partner charity, as well as other local charities as they will be receiving some very large cheques shortly.



Above: this is the first time the challenge has left Scotland and it was a huge success

‘TO KNOW YOU HAVE HELPED OTHERS IN REAL NEED IS A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE, TEAM WORK AND SUPPORT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS’

John McCulloch, Organiser

Rags to riches

Portsmouth, UK

As an alternative launch event for Sue Ryder Care the team at Portsmouth, Insyte in the UK decided to ask employees on site to collect unwanted goods

to help them fill 100 Sue Ryder Care bags with items like bric-a-brac, clothes and shoes - in fact anything which could be sold in the Sue Ryder Care shops to raise money for the charity.



Above: (left to right) Dave (Sue Ryder driver), Dawn Coates, Colin Bulimore, Jennie Barber, Sarah Bishop, Pete (Sue Ryder helper) and Jenny Marshall



Above: Each bag is potential worth £23 to Sue Ryder Care

Staff answered the call with such enthusiasm that they managed to fill over 150 bags for the new partner charity and they are still being filled! The contents of each bag are worth approximately £18 each and with the benefit of the government's

Gift Aid initiative it means that these bags could be worth around £23 to the charity. Due to Portsmouth's success the hope is that other sites across the UK will join in as this is a great way of helping the charity without having to give money directly.



Above: the Phoenix Society also do digital printing, bulk mail processing, general assembly/packaging and collation work

Edinburgh Parks recruit the help of the Phoenix Society

Edinburgh Parks, Australia

Like many of us the Communications & Corporate Affairs team at Edinburgh Parks, Australia have spent many long hours packing show bags and stuffing envelopes for corporate events, exhibitions and

communications activities. It's one of those jobs that's great to leave until a Friday afternoon but usually you find that you have 101 things that you also need to do that day.

So when faced with the task of packing thousands of welcome packs for a conference the team decided to draft in the services of

the Phoenix Society. They are a not-for-profit organisation which employs, trains and develops people with disabilities through employment settings. Many of the people have learning disabilities and are keen to play an important role in society and by doing meaningful work like this it

empowers them giving them confidence that their disability doesn't stop them from earning a good wage for a good days work.

The Communications & Corporate Affairs team at Edinburgh Parks were so impressed with the team's work that they will definitely be calling on their expertise again.



Above: Doug Zeeman (right) and Barbara Wright preside over a fantastic selection of cakes and snacks

Cake Sale and T@3

Great Baddow, UK

The Charity Challenge team at Great Baddow in the UK recently ran two fantastic events to help raise money for two local hospices, the Little Havens Children's Hospice (who are currently celebrating their 10th anniversary) and Fairleigh Hospice.

People from across the site got involved and donated/made cakes that ranged from gooey

chocolate to healthy low fat cakes. There was even fresh fruit for those seeking a healthier option and onion bhajis for those fancying something more savoury.

The site responded admirably and it was such a success that the event lasted two days due to the demand and the amount of food that was made. Overall the site raised £210, which will be shared between the two hospices.

'Sea's the Day' Ball

Filton, UK

Pirates, a jellyfish, a squid and a mermaid were among the attendees at the Filton BVT Ball, which took place on the 6th of June at the Aztec Hotel & Spa in Bristol, UK.

Following a nautical theme the Ball, titled 'Sea's The Day', was a huge hit with all the BVT staff and friends.

The evening commenced with some opening words by Filton

Charity Coordinator Graeme Whiteford which were swiftly followed by a three course meal. In between courses attendees were given the opportunity to take part in a raffle containing a whole host of wonderful prizes donated by local businesses and supporters. There was also a prize for the best fancy dress costume which was judged by the new Charity Challenge Campaign Leader Kim Phipps.

After dinner, guests were treated to an evening of hilarity. Each table was asked to form a syndicate (by the magnificent MC Andy Gough) to take part in an auction to buy a ship (aka a space hopper). Winning bidders were then asked to nominate a captain to pilot their ship around a huge game board. The competition was intense and despite having to rely on luck

(i.e. the role of a dice) there was a lot at stake as ship owners and spectators alike betted furiously on the betting tables manned by the Filton committee.

Throughout the night guests proved their generosity by bidding on a number of prestigious prizes which were the subject of an Open Auction. The auction results signalled the end of the formal part of the evening and were swiftly followed by a disco which continued to the early hours.

This was the first event organised by the Filton SFS committee for the new Partner Charity 'Sue Ryder Care' and thanks to the generosity of the attendees, employees and the companies who supported this event a fantastic £1,841 was raised for charity.

Left: Kim Phipps (right) was invited by Graeme Whiteford (left) to choose the best fancy dress costume

Below: the captains prepare to sail their ships (space hoppers) around the huge game board



Warton wins again

Warton, UK

For the second year running a team from Warton in the UK won the sponsor's match at the annual Macmillan Cancer Support Parliamentary Tug of War competition held in Westminster, London during June.

The team once again triumphed over tough opponents from house builders Taylor Wimpey at the charity event which is popular with parliamentarians and members of the armed services, both of whom enter teams. BAE Systems has been involved in the event for some years, which raises thousands of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Support - the UK's partner charity during the last campaign.

Well done to the the BAE Systems Warton team of Steve Tiernan, Jon Haslem, Tim Daly, Andy Gold, Rob Cockrill, Phil Mortimer, Rob Scott, Peter Sheppard, Ben Taylor, and Mike Newsome.



Above: this was the second time that the BAE Systems team from Warton beat the team from house builders Taylor Wimpey

Samlesbury, UK

Jerry Coughlan from the Capability Management Team at Samlesbury Military Air Solutions in the UK recently gave up his Easter holidays earlier this year to deliver humanitarian aid to people in Kosovo with the charity Hope and Aid Direct.

Over five days, with the local support of the Mother Theresa

families. Each family was provided with clothes, bedding, food and hygiene packs of toiletries etc and over 1,500 children were given shoe boxes filled with toys and other presents. In addition eight schools were provided with a wide range of equipment from lap-top computers to the basic necessities of a classroom and thousands of high visibility arm bands were distributed to improve road safety

Aid for Kosovo

Society, Jerry was part of a team that helped deliver more than 60 tonnes of aid from the UK to 1,600



Above: the drive from the UK was long and arduous

for children on the poorly lit roads.

Jerry managed to raise over £1,200 from colleagues and friends in the weeks prior to going to Kosovo and hopes to return in Easter 2009 with more aid from the North West.

Commenting after the trip Jerry said, "This was an amazing experience, the team achieved so much and made a tremendous impact over the five days but there



Above: these were just a few of the children that made the whole trip worthwhile

remains so much to do as the country is still generally in dire need of the basic necessities of life as we know it".

If you would like further details of how you can help please contact Jerry at jerry.coughlan@baesystems.com

“THIS WAS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE, THE TEAM ACHIEVED SO MUCH AND MADE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT OVER THE FIVE DAYS”

Jerry Coughlan, Capability Management Team

Warton, UK

As soon as the new Charity Challenge campaign kicked off the keen team from Warton Military Air Solutions in the UK were making plans to do what will hopefully be the first of many volunteering projects for Sue Ryder Care, the new UK partner charity.

A team of 20 employees led by

Cath Hargreaves, Warton and MAS Campaign Coordinator, travelled a short distance up the road to Cuerdon Hall, which is the local neurological care unit for Sue Ryder Care. The unit welcomed the volunteers with open arms and provided the team with a number of opportunities to engage with staff and patients that went beyond the usual paint and fix jobs.

For example the team helped



Above: one of the jobs the team did was to help patients with an arts and crafts class



Above: the team from Warton MAS gave up a day to help out at Sue Ryder Care's Cuerden Hall

Warton gets involvement off to a great start!

out in the unit's activities department by joining in with arts and crafts. Volunteers also ran the tea-trolley and took round tea to patients whilst also chatting to them. They also helped out in the library and by building communications boards for patients, carers and visitors.

Overall all the employees had an extremely rewarding day helping people out and by learning about the work that the charity does on a daily basis. The team had such a good day that already some of the team have been back and there are plans for more similar days in the future!

Drive Aid – Newcastle to Mongolia

Newcastle, UK

England is a nation of car lovers but they must have started to put petrol in the water up in Newcastle Land Systems in the UK, as a team of local graduates including Newcastle's Mechanical Engineer, Toby Truscott, have decided to climb in a car and drive it all the way from the north east of England to Mongolia!

Their trusty chariot, a 1991 Mitsubishi Pajero, has to travel

some 10,000 miles across five mountain ranges and two deserts as the team of three try to avoid a huge variety of dangers like pot-holes, bandits and strange border controls. The team are raising money for The Alice Glenister Foundation and the charity AMECA.

If you'd like to track the teams progress, get more information or sponsor them then please check out their brilliant website at www.drive-aid.net



Above: Toby Truscott (centre) and the team driving 10,000 miles from the UK to Mongolia

Race for Life: 5Km Race

Barrow-in-Furness, UK

A group of around 50 BAE Systems ladies (and a dog) recently joined over 1,800 other local women to take part in Cancer Research's Race for Life event at Barrow Park in Barrow-in-Furness, in the UK on the 8th

June. All the members of the BAE Systems team were given company t-shirts and many people customised these with names and fancy artwork, making them look really impressive.

Everyone had a special reason for taking part in the race, bearing signs on their back as to

who they were racing for. The event helps raise funds which go to Cancer Research, a very worthwhile cause, as cancer affects a lot of people in many ways. Particular thoughts were given to Sheran Poole and Marce McCabe, who were both colleagues who unfortunately lost

their lives to cancer.

Everyone had a great day and in total the ladies have raised well over £2,500 for Cancer Research UK. Plus one of the ladies, Joanne Hoyland, managed to complete the run in 19 minutes and finished an amazing 8th overall!



Above: the team raised over £2,500 for Cancer Research UK.

Festival of the Seas Donations

Barrow-in-Furness, UK

After the immense success of their Festival of the Seas, Barrow-in-Furness Submarines in the UK recently made the day for several

donations to survive and the money so kindly donated by BAE Systems will be used to help and protect local children." Kidsafe's programme is delivered to children between the ages of five

and 11 in a classroom setting, with active participation from class teachers. It's designed to equip children with simple, yet effective skills to keep themselves safe from all forms of

abuse, without shattering their innocence.

The other charities that received money were the Barrow District and Disability Association who were given £3,400 and Shopmobility Furness who picked up a cheque for £622.

Employee Recognition Manager Joe Sides who also managed the event said: "The festival allowed us to once again open our doors to the public and offer a weekend of events that involves the community of Furness, furthermore we continue to support local charities by sharing with them the entire profits from the event."



Above: Rebekah Caine (left) hands over a cheque for £3,075 to Lyndsey Aspin from Kidsafe

charities by sharing out the £11,300 that was raised during the event. The two day event attracted over 13,500 people to the site's open day and it proved to be an immense success. To raise money exhibitors and food outlets made donations towards named charities and the public gave generously to Kidsafe UK, Barrow and District Disability Association and Shopmobility Furness. A further £4,210 was also raised for Submarine Solutions' Employee Benevolent Fund.

Lyndsey Aspin, chair of Kidsafe, accepted their cheque for £3,075 and commented, "Kidsafe UK totally relies on

‘THE MONEY SO KINDLY DONATED BY BAE SYSTEMS WILL BE USED TO HELP AND PROTECT LOCAL CHILDREN’

Lyndsey Aspin, Chair of Kidsafe



Above: Margaret Burrows (right) from Barrow and District Disability Association picks up a cheque for £3,400