

January 2007

# Investing in the community - In brief

Welcome to the first Community Initiatives update of 2007, which is aimed at providing you with a snapshot of our charitable endeavours since our last Investing in the Community newsletter landed on your desks in September. As you can see, we've been busy!

## Austerity lunches

The Charities Committee held its first Austerity Lunch on 13 September, raising money for an Oxfam educational project in West Africa, which was well attended by people around the firm. A fundraising officer from St Mungo's joined us at the lunch to tell us about the work the homelessness charity does and how TW is helping them achieve their goals. This event was a great success and raised [checking with Accounts] that will go towards developing innovative and sustainable solutions to deliver quality basic education to poor and marginalised communities in West Africa. A second austerity lunch is planned for 24 January at which Elaine Colville will share her experiences of working with Oxfam in Africa.

## The Generation Game

Following on from the success of last year's Pop Idol event, this year the Charities Committee organised a revival of that old family favourite, the Generation Game, held on 21 November. Damian McPhun was again acting as master of ceremonies.

Eight contestants, chosen by you, participated in the event, divided, in true Generation Game style, into four pairs. After much pledging of money, the chosen eight were Simon Walker and Beverley Shepherd, Jonathan Croucher and Kavita Singh, Michael Frawley and Maxine Hinds and Martin Goodwin and Pete Grogan. Each team's talents were tested in the art of face painting, cake decorating and object recovery from slime filled bug boxes!

All monies raised, £6,933, are distributed to the firm's two chosen charities this year, the Young People's Unit at UCL Hospital and St.

Mungo's. Thanks to everyone involved in organising, participating and pledging.

## The Blackfriars Settlement

**Chris Benson (legal advice clinic), Tracey Spevack & Karen Williams (Older Peoples Service)**

The firm's legal advice clinic at the Blackfriars Settlement in Southwark has now been running for almost 18 months. There have been clinics every Wednesday night at the Settlement from 6.30-8pm. Over 40 solicitors and trainees from Taylor Wessing have advised at the Settlement and assisted clients who would otherwise not have access to legal advice. Over 330 clients have been to the clinic and we see ten clients each week. One of the reasons for the success of the clinic is the very positive feedback from clients who have recommended the clinic to their friends and neighbours.

The Blackfriars Settlement also has an Older Peoples Service for the elderly in the immediate community, which runs a number of activities including lunch clubs, activity clubs and outreach services. Volunteers also cook and serve a full Christmas lunch on Christmas Day for those older people in the community who do not have families to go to. Already, the firm has donated £6,000 to fund, in part, the running of the service. Many of you also baked cakes for the tea tent in the summer, which raised over £1,000, and members of the lunch clubs and activity clubs also attended a Christmas tea party and the carol service on 18 December.

The firm will also be funding on an annual basis the Outreach project, which provides assistance and support to the elderly not able to leave their homes.

## Guildhall School of Music & Drama

**Victoria Naughton**

We continue to sponsor a student at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, who would otherwise be unable to pursue their musical career because of lack of funding. This academic year we are delighted to be sponsoring Mark Derudder, a music student at the School. Mark is a violinist who has already completed his undergraduate music degree at Guildhall and is now embarking on postgraduate violin studies. Mark does not qualify for government support, so our sponsorship will cover his tuition fees for this one-year course and enable him to continue his studies at Guildhall. Many of you will have heard Mark perform at the carol service and we hope that Mark will play at our annual community initiatives reception on 28 March.

## Rebecca van den Berg

**Mustafa Hussain**

"I am a classical soprano and Taylor Wessing has been sponsoring my studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama for the last year and a half. This is the premier conservatoire for vocal studies in the UK. During this time I have been lucky enough to receive my Masters Degree with Distinction and win two major competitions, the Susan Longfield competition for female singers and the Tracey Chadwell Memorial Award for Contemporary Music. I have been taken on by the prestigious Live Music Now! Scheme, which work as a charity promoting young artists and also bringing high quality music performance into unlikely venues such as special needs schools, hospitals and old peoples home. Though not

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as glamorous as the Caribbean, this is always incredibly rewarding. I owe all of my success over the past year to the help of Taylor Wessing. Not only has it been instrumental in developing my career, but also it has always been a very happy, enjoyable and supportive collaboration. Thank you!"

## St Jude's

### Fiona Feggetter, Holly Havers

Fiona Feggetter and Holly Havers look after our relationship with St Jude's Church of England Primary School. Taylor Wessing has given the school our annual donation of £5,000 and we are discussing with them other ways in which we can help in the future. Our donation funds The Place To Be, a counselling and support service for pupils within St Jude's.

## The Bridge School

### Kanika Kitchlu

We continue to give training bursaries for teachers at The Bridge School, who facilitate the caring of children with severe learning difficulties. In addition to the £5,000 donated towards the training bursaries, this year Taylor Wessing has donated a further £10,000 towards the building of a sensory theatre, the aim of which is to use objects to stimulate the children's senses such as sight, sound and touch. The theatre is to be named after one of the pupils who died recently at the age of 7.

## Thomas Buxton

### Naa Turkson

The reading scheme at Thomas Buxton is now in its fourth academic year and

continues to be a real success. Volunteers visit the school once a fortnight to spend half an hour reading with children aged 5-7. As well as being great fun, volunteers gain a lot from building a relationship with their designated child and watching him/her develop. Taylor Wessing has also made a significant donation to Thomas Buxton from the charity budget, which the school has used towards its long-term development project. This has included the building of new classrooms and outdoor play areas and the set-up of a new computer suite and library. Regular volunteers have witnessed the impressive transformation of the school in the last four years, and we would like to thank everyone who has helped make this possible. A special thanks also goes to the reading partners for their time and enthusiasm.

## Centrepoint

### Chris Boniface

Centrepoint provide two short-term residential bases in central London where young people, aged between 16 to 25 years, with varying and often multiple needs are able to spend time. There are enough facilities to accommodate approximately 40 young people at any one time. The firm provides a team of people who visit on a rota basis and assist one-to-one with either very basic IT skills and/or the preparation of CVs, with a view to helping the young person return to work.

## University College Hospitals – Young People's Unit

### Jonathan Croucher

This year is the first of our three-year commitment to the Young People's Unit at

UCH. The unit cares for patients aged 13-19 with chronic and acute illnesses, other than cancer. All non-cancer teenage in-patients at UCH stay at the unit. Teenage patients have particular needs for treatment, care and support. Recreation areas are particularly important for this age group and UCH's first priority with our donation is to develop a room on the unit which during the day will be somewhere comfortable for patients to have a private space, for consultants to sit down with patients and their parents to discuss private upsetting aspects of their illness and during the evening will be turned over entirely to the young people and furnished and equipped accordingly.

## St Mungo's

This is also the first year of our three-year commitment to St Mungo's. St Mungo's is a homelessness agency and housing association which began in 1969 and now offers support and care for over 1400 vulnerable men and women in over 70 housing projects. As well as providing emergency and semi-independent housing, St Mungo's also runs street outreach, training and employment programmes, housing advice and drug, mental health, resettlement and tenancy sustainment programmes.

The firm's initiative includes monthly collections, having already organised those for work suits (May 2006) and books (September 2006) at Carmelite. There was also an opportunity for our 2006 new trainee intake to spend one day of their induction programme assisting at hostels in practical sessions (e.g. redecorating and gardening). This is an initiative we hope to repeat next September with our 2007 trainee intake.

## Sponsorship of Face of Fashion exhibition

February marks the launch of our sponsorship of the new fashion portraiture exhibition, entitled Face of Fashion, at the National Portrait Gallery.

The exciting exhibition focuses on the portraits of five outstanding fashion photographers from Europe and America: Mert Alas & Marcus Piggott, Corinne Day,

Steven Klein, Paolo Roversi and Mario Sorrenti.

Each of the five photographers is unique and distinctive in style. The exhibition highlights the relationship between fashion and celebrity and illustrates the extraordinary intimacy that often develops between photographer and subject. Sitters include up-and-coming models as well as stars such as Kate Moss, Madonna, Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie and Catherine Deneuve.

We will be using our corporate sponsorship to host a number of events at the Gallery for our community partners, including St Mungo's homelessness charity, UCLH and Thomas Buxton Primary School. Groups from these charities will be involved through interactive workshops, tours of the exhibition, curator talks and a range of other initiatives.

It is an exciting time for us and we will update you regularly as our sponsorship of the exhibition progresses.

