A break from the norm

If you want the opportunity to get out of your comfort zone, why not try a Bridge2Aid fundraising challenge?

Bridge2Aid is on the lookout for adventurous supporters to make a real difference this year and next; so whether you want to volunteer your time on the Dental Volunteer Programme, or fancy living a ‘life less ordinary’ by jumping from a perfectly good plane in a tandem skydive – there is something for you!

“There are so many great opportunities available now,” said CEO Mark Topley. “Whatever the financial trends bring, we have a commitment to working with the poor and marginalised in Tanzanian society, and we want to continue making a difference. To achieve this, we need the continued support from individuals, companies and practices in the UK, and we want them to have as much fun as possible along the way!”

How can you help?

Well, the following challenges exist for the adventurous out there:

- Tandem skydive (12 June)
- NightRider cycle around London (19 June), It’s a Knockout (3 July), Climb Kilimanjaro (1-11 October).

In other practical ways, Bridge2Aid can benefit if you:

1. Recycle your ink cartridges, toners and mobile phones with The Recycling Factory (www.therecyclingfactory.com)
2. Host a dinner party and raise money with Dinner4Good (www.dinner4good.com)
3. Purchase goods online by first visiting www.buy.at/bridge2aid
4. Change your internet search engine to Everyclick (www.everyclick.com)

If you would like to support Bridge2Aid and find out more about any of these opportunities, please contact fundraising co-ordinator Kerry Dutton on 07881 912060, or email kerry@bridge2aid.org. For other ways to support Bridge2Aid, please visit www.bridge2aid.org

About the charity

Bridge2Aid (B2A) is a dental and community development charity working in the Mwanza region of North West Tanzania. We started full scale operations in 2004 and work closely with the Tanzanian Government to deliver aspects of their dental strategy. We operate a not-for-profit dental clinic in the city of Mwanza (Hope Dental Centre), and have a community development programme for the disabled community based at Bukumbi Care Centre.

Our focus is sustainability – empowering local people to improve their own lives over the long-term. The four key aspects of Bridge2Aid’s vision are:

• To train local health personnel to provide emergency dentistry to rural communities
• To care for and empower the poor and marginalised in Tanzanian society
• To provide opportunities for UK dental professionals and others to use their skills to serve Tanzania, as locums or participants on the Dental Volunteer Programme (DVP)

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Convenience

The majority of the learning resources on this programme will be online. The masters will combine interactive distance learning, webinars, live learning and print.

Ownership

The programme is designed to encourage the student to take responsibility for his/her own learning. The emphasis is on a self-directed learning approach.

Community

Students will be able to communicate with a diverse multi-ethnic global community of peers, with who they will also share residential get-togethers in fantastic settings around the world.

Opportunity

This innovative programme establishes the academic and clinical parameters and standards for restorative and aesthetic dentistry. Students will leave with a world recognised MSc.

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On tour Down Under
UK orthodontists journey to Australia in a bid to promote London as host to the 8th International Orthodontic Congress in 2015

From February 6-9 2010, orthodontists from more than 100 countries and 100 internationally renowned speakers gathered in Sydney, Australia, for the 7th International Orthodontic Congress (IOC). A contingent of around 150 British orthodontists was among those who travelled Down Under and one of the largest international groups represented at the conference. Spearheading the British delegation was the Organising Committee of the 8th IOC, which is charged with bringing the next World Congress to London in 2015.

Starting the countdown
The Committee from the British Orthodontic Society was there to start the countdown and promote London ahead of 2015. As part of the flag-waving initiative, the Society hosted a BOS Village Day at the Congress during which four international and eight leading UK speakers took to the rostrum in front of a full auditorium. The Society also hosted a buoyant and exuberant cocktail party, which was graced by the majority of UK delegates and a number of distinguished invited guests from the world orthodontics.

The BOS encouraged delegates to visit its ‘patriotic’ exhibition stand from which it gave out branded red London bus key rings featuring a newly created London 2015 logo and the URL of a new website – www.wfo2015london.org – which went live on the final day of the convention. Such was the popularity of the key rings, 4,000 were snapped up in two days and were seen dangling from practically every conference rucksack.

Home from home
The stand became a home from home for the British delegation, which turned up to take tea, and refuge on the Union Jack decked sofas. On a large plasma screen, the BOS showed a specially recorded interview with London Mayor Boris Johnson who encouraged delegates to visit London and explore the many benefits of the UK capital. Every day there was also a chance for delegates to win a digital photograph frame, featuring scrolling pictures of London.

During his presentation at the conference, Dr Jonathan Sandler, the Chairman of the 8th IOC, explained that there couldn’t be a better time to visit London: “After staging the 2012 Olympics, London will have the infrastructure and stature to put it on a world footing. 2015 also looks like being a bumper year for London. It is hosting the Rugby World Cup at the same time as the World Orthodontic Congress, so if you are a fan of the game, there could be no better time to be in London – in fact you might consider combining your professional and sporting interests.”

For more information, visit www.wfo2015london.org.

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