

ICAP Charity Day - A graduate's perspective

ICAP Charity Day 2009 took place on Wednesday 9 December, and raised an amazing £11.5m for charities around the world. On Charity Day all revenues and commissions are given away to just a few charities, meaning each receives a large amount of money which really makes a difference to their operations. This method of giving is very different from the normal way that companies choose to give to charity by donating money out of their profits. At ICAP, the brokers themselves are giving away their own commissions to charity, as well as the company giving away 100% of revenues on the day.

On Charity Day, EVERY DEAL COUNTS.

We asked two of our graduates to talk about their first experience of ICAP Charity Day.

Alexandra Davidson, UK

"It was the beginning of November 2009. I had been at ICAP for less than two months, but had noticed that something unusual was in the air at our Broadgate offices. Covert meetings were taking place, whispers filled the room and mysterious packages were being delivered to desks every day. As a new starter on the graduate scheme I was utterly bewildered. I knew that ICAP Charity Day was a big event in the firm's calendar but it took place in December. I thought surely they couldn't be preparing for it already! Sure enough those covert meetings and whispers were desks planning their themes and the packages were the desk decorations and costumes. This was just the start of what was in store for me for my first ICAP Charity Day.

The hype for ICAP Charity Day continued throughout November and finally the big day arrived. Everyone came into work even earlier than usual to decorate their desks and transform themselves, like Superman, from business suit to costume. There were sumo wrestlers, giant bears, a circus, a roller disco (everyone was on skates) and my personal favourite, Willy Wonka's Oompa Loompas. At every turn there was a new surprise. My desk dressed up as cartoon characters and we even had a Mickey Mouse ice sculpture. Creativity clearly has no limits with the ICAP team.

The atmosphere was fantastic. Brokers were excited to see the celebrities, vied for their attention to take calls with clients and help them make the most trades for charity. There was a lot of interaction on the floors, everyone was interested in each others costumes and I was able to meet a lot of ICAP people I had never met before. There was even a karaoke machine where employees and celebrities sang their hearts out. With this great atmosphere there was a real enthusiasm to raise money for charity and beat last year's record. Putting a theme together and performing well on Charity Day takes a lot of teamwork and was a great bonding experience. It was a fantastic day for a graduate, not only was it a lot of fun but it was also a great introduction to the company, my new desk and ICAP's charity work."



Payal Patel, US

"ICAP Charity day is the most hotly anticipated event in the ICAP calendar; every available space on the trading floor was decorated with colorful balloons and banners. Many desks transformed themselves from their daily work attire into theatrical costumes. There were 'Santa's Elves' with everyone dressed in matching hats and boots, Mexican's in sombreros carrying stuffed donkeys and Hawaiian surfers. One broker described the scene, "I looked

to my left to see a modern rendition of the Wizard of Oz and to the right, there was Santa Claus himself." I was hardly in a position to judge or be remotely surprised as I myself was dressed as Rudolph the Red-Nosed reindeer!

In addition to all the revelry amongst employees ICAP Charity Day also attracts A-list celebrities who come to support and represent their charities. How many people can say that they met Bill Clinton, bumped shoulders with Danica Patrick, were close enough to pinch Justin Timberlake (we didn't) and have Jack Nicklaus tell them, "I have just got to get a picture with Rudolph" in just one day at work?

ICAP Charity Day is a festive, celebrity-filled day with an enormous effort put into benefiting numerous charities around the world. It was a unique experience that I was most fortunate to be involved in. Now that all is said and done, the only questions I have is 'what should I dress as next year?'



For more information on ICAP Charity Day please visit www.icap.com