



TRAVELMANAGERS

personally yours

TravelManagers Run for Charity

Wednesday, 23 September 2009

TravelManagers national partnership office were out on the Sydney Harbour Bridge last weekend but not in their capacity promoting travel and tourism. Five of their members entered various events in the Blackmore's Sydney Running Festival with the sole aim of raising money for charity.

Chief executive officer, Jo Arullo is a strong advocate for this type of initiative, having raised over \$1,600 himself participating in the CEO Sleepout at Luna Park in June to raise money for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

"I totally encourage the staff to get involved in this sort of activity. It is incredibly good for team morale but even better for an individual's soul. You learn a lot about yourself, often how lucky you are but also your own inner strength to push through and overcome personal challenges for a great cause."

As a wider company, House of Travel Australia has a relationship with Palliative Care Australia that involves a volunteer day for staff and various other initiatives to raise funds and awareness of a charity that supports people of all ages with a life limiting illness and their families.

TravelManagers' staff chose their charity to run for and while each of the nominated charities is as worthy as the next, a couple of the team members have been personally touched by the cause their charity represents.

Aaron Stinson, TravelManagers' national recruitment manager's sister is a 'Type One' diabetic. And while he jokes about his reasons for entering, he is very serious about supporting his sister in her daily battle with diabetes.

"People who know me well understand I am blatantly competitive and I thrive on that constant feeling of achievement but entering was very much driven by raising funds for Diabetes Australia. I would love to see a cure one day for all people affected but especially my sister, Lisa."

And his sister Lisa Collaguazo couldn't agree with him more.

"I look forward to a life without daily injections, it would be amazing. I was so touched Aaron decided to enter this event and raise money for the Diabetes Australia NSW. I can't thank him enough for assisting an organisation that is so very close to my heart."

TravelManagers' accounts person Chris Alexander found his motivation in his young autistic brother, Michael.

"I'm immensely proud of Michael. He is amazing and he has a great sense of humour but every day he struggles to cope with the normal things in life. Autism affects around one in 160 children in Australia. Fortunately Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) provides programs, services and support for people with autism and their families too. That was my motivation for running."

The five TravelManagers team members raised \$5865 for their respective charities with Chris Alexander raising an incredible \$3,900 for Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).

The official website for the event is www.sydneyrunningfestival.com.au

More information on the runner's choice of charity can be obtained by viewing each of the following web addresses:

Aaron Stinson (National Recruitment Manager) supported Diabetes Australia: http://www.gofundraise.com.au/Aaron_Stinson



left to right:
Back Row: Pru Gallagher, Michael Gazal, Aaron Stinson, Chris Alexander
Front Row: Zoe Ainscough, Emma Healey



Chris Alexander (Accounts) supported Autism Spectrum Australia: http://www.gofundraise.com.au/Chris_Alexander

Emma Healey (Marketing) supported Alzheimer's Australia: http://www.gofundraise.com.au/Emma_Healey

Pru Gallagher (Operations) supported Aboriginal Children's Advancement Society: http://www.gofundraise.com.au/Prudence_2

Michael Gazal (Business Partnership Manager) supported Vision Australia: http://www.gofundraise.com.au/Michael_Gazal