

The things people will do...!!

There are thousands of charities and non-profit organisations around the world that help those in need. Competition is fierce and they have to think of imaginative ways to raise money. A popular trend recently has been for charities to attract the help of members of society who do all sorts of weird and wonderful activities to raise money on their behalf. People are prepared to do unusual and even extreme things for this cause.

David Hunt, who is a firefighter, did something of the kind in 2010. He spent 48 hours without any food locked in a glass box which was hanging 30 feet in the air from a crane above central London. His unusual challenge was certainly not easy, but it successfully gained a lot of attention. With a little help from another firefighter who was on the ground, they managed to persuade the public to support their cause by making donations that added up to over five thousand pounds. Their chosen charities were The Fire Fighters Charity and Cancer Research UK.

It is not just the young who have gone up high to raise money for charity. In 2009, Kay Matthews, who was 90 at the time, went to Norfolk, UK, to skydive from a plane 13,000 feet above the ground for a war-victims charity. She raised about £3000. Few people are brave enough to go skydiving, let alone an elderly woman, but she loved every minute of it.

Others prefer to stay firmly on the ground, but still no further away from danger, like Nick Le Souef, a 67-year-old businessman who lives in Melbourne, Australia. In 2010, he decided to spend 3 weeks living in a shop window with 400 deadly spiders to raise money for a children's charity. The real-life spiderman wasn't at all nervous as he slept among his eight-legged friends, and survived the experience unharmed, raising fifty thousand dollars. The spiders, however, weren't so lucky, as by the end of the challenge, a few of them had started eating each other.

Raising money for charity is also popular with students. Alison Bishop, from Middleton School in Peterborough, UK, decided to do her bit for charity by doing a sponsored silence in March 2011. She spent a whole school day without saying a word. She had to write things down in class and she wore a sign saying 'Please don't speak to me, I'm doing a sponsored silence for the National Deaf Children's Association.' It was quite difficult but she managed to raise £874.



This act should not be attempted by students under any circumstances.

| Name | When | Where | For which charity | Money raised | What they did |
|------------|------|----------------|--|--------------|---|
| David Hunt | 2010 | Central London | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Firefighters Charity • Cancer Research UK | 5000 pounds | Spent 48 hours without any food locked in a glass box which was hanging 30 feet in the air. |
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