

Venice to Rome cycle

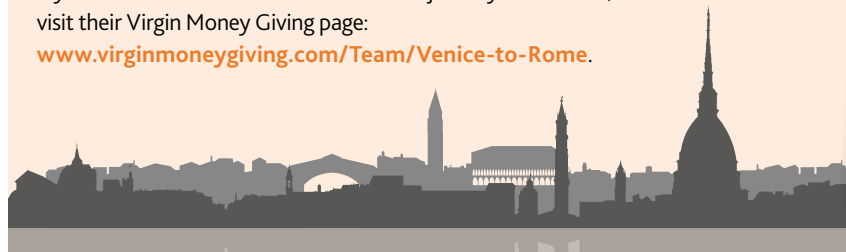
In September, Jason Lowe and Andrew Hirst will embark on the ultimate cycling challenge, riding from Venice to Rome in a bid to raise money for two children's hospices, Reuben's Retreat and Claire House.

Totalling 650-kilometers, the gruelling cycle will push Jason and Andy to their limits as they climb a total of 23,000 feet – that's the same height as Mont Blanc with two Ben Nevises on top!

The six-day challenge has been funded entirely out of their own pockets, so any donations will go straight to the charities and be doubled by the Equilibrium Foundation.

If you would like to learn more about their journey and donate, visit their Virgin Money Giving page:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Venice-to-Rome.



Community support scheme

Equilibrium's community support scheme offers grants ranging from £100 - £500 to local organisations which help disadvantaged people, support education and development, benefit the environment and promote sport and the arts.

So far this year, the following organisations have received a grant:

- **The Anthony Seddon Fund** – a mental health charity helping individuals suffering with mental health issues
- **East Cheshire's Musical Theatre Company** – a musical theatre company producing shows such as Little Shop of Horrors and, next, Jesus Christ Super Star
- **Café Unity** – a local café providing an area for people in the community to interact
- **Huntington's Under 5s' Preschool** – a preschool aiding the education of children under the age of five
- **Cheshire Buddies** – a charity providing clubs, activities, days trips and residential weekends for children, young people, and adults with disabilities
- **Chester Supertrees** – a project designed to primarily improve the bio-diversity, wildlife and air quality currently present within the City of Chester
- **Ardwick and Longsight foodbank** – a food bank supporting refugees/asylum seekers, the homeless and the very poor

We take applications from Cheshire East, Chester and district and Greater Manchester. Though we would love to help all the brilliant causes that apply to us, unfortunately there is a limited number of winners. If your application is unsuccessful we do invite you to apply again. To learn more and submit an application, please visit www.eqlp.co.uk/the-foundation/.



Make a positive difference with Cheshire Connect

Cheshire Connect is a registered charity who work with voluntary organisations to understand their need for business skills, enabling them to improve their sustainability.

Cheshire Connect matches the skills and expertise of local businesses and professionals, kindly offered for free, with the needs of the voluntary and community sector. Working together, they are creating more successful and sustainable voluntary organisations.

To find out more about these or the many more opportunities with Cheshire Connect, or if you're aware of a charity who could benefit from Cheshire Connect's help, get in touch with Tim Cornes at TimCornes@cheshireconnect.org. Or, if you'd like to learn more about the brilliant work that the organisation does, take a look at their website: www.cheshireconnect.org/.



Most caring company

We're thrilled to have been officially named one of the most caring companies on Real Business' Philanthropic 30 list. We strive to make a positive difference in the community, so it's fantastic to receive recognition for our work.



Walk the walk

Our very own Laura Robinson, Marketing Team Leader, joined the Walk 4 Joseph, walking 30 miles in aid of Joseph's Goal. The charity is set up in the name of Joseph Kendrick, a nine-year-old boy who suffers from Non-Ketotic-Hyperglycinemia (NKH), a rare, life-limiting genetic disorder. Joseph's Goal aims to raise awareness of NKH and fund research.

Laura raised £350, reaching a total of £700 after Equilibrium's matching.



Clearing out the cupboards

Equilibrium provides free breakfast for all employees every day, but for the first week of May, June and July, our staff sacrificed their brekky for the less fortunate, and the money that was saved was donated to four different foodbanks along with £200 from the Equilibrium Foundation. Staff also brought food in from home to donate to the foodbanks, making a real positive difference to the organisations.



Educating the nation

We're still on the lookout for more schools to take part in our Libby's Big Aeroplane Adventure project, which provides free financial literacy workbooks, teacher training and even more to participating schools. Take a look at the website, www.eqllp.co.uk/the-foundation/educating-the-nation to learn more, or get in touch with Sam if you know a school that would like to take part: sam.richards@eqllp.co.uk.



Need a helping hand?

All Equilibrium employees are allowed two days of annual leave to take part in charitable work. If you know of any charities that could benefit from this, let us know at foundation@eqllp.co.uk.

