



**WCIT Charity**

## **Giving Something Back**

**A progress report on Charitable Activity**

**April 2010**

The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists' (WCIT) Charity  
Registered Charity No: 1113488  
Information Technologists' Hall  
39a Bartholomew Close  
London EC1A 7JN



## Introduction

The WCIT Charity provides annual support to members' pro-bono work, our own in-house charitable programmes, and the IT-related work of external charity and education partners. It can only achieve this with the support of targeted fundraising appeals and an unrestricted income stream provided by regular member donations that will allow the WCIT Charity Directors to allocate funds where they are most needed year on year.

## The role of the WCIT Charity

The WCIT Charity (Limited by Guarantee. Charity No: 1113488), is governed by a Board of Directors who meet quarterly. ***It allocates funds annually to support:***

- the work of the WCIT Charitable Operations whose main focus is on members' panel activities, pro bono work, and our in-house charitable programmes such as IT4Arts, and IT4Communities the national volunteering programme for IT professionals. In 2009 alone, our members, together with IT4Communities volunteers, delivered pro bono work to the value of £1,025,000.
- schools and external charities for IT-related activity (invariably linked to our pro bono work). In 2008 and 2009 we provided pro-bono support worth £25,000 to Lilian Baylis Technology School, which enabled the school to obtain matched funding of £25,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, to purchase handheld computers for use in maths.
- the maintenance and servicing of our Hall that plays host to so many of our Committee and Panel meetings and activities

Additionally, WCIT Charity holds the donations for our Hammersmith Academy School Endowment Fund in a restricted fund.

## How we used your donations in 2009

### Panels work

During the year our Panels have been extremely active. The IT Accessibility Panel has contributed to a range of publications aimed at helping make British businesses more aware of the value of accessible IT. Together with the Industry Committee and the Entrepreneurship Panel, the IT Accessibility Panel also ran a highly successful debate looking at whether IT helps or hinders disabled entrepreneurs, which led to the launch of our mentoring scheme for disabled entrepreneurs.

The Ethics and Spiritual Development Panel held a number of breakfast discussions and the Technology panel offered their technical expertise to a number of schools and charities. The Government Panel held a number of open educational seminars including a formal debate in the House of Commons Committee Room on "citizens' rights and responsibilities in the age of large Government databases".



### Encouraging volunteering within the ICT profession

In 2002 the Company established a national IT volunteering programme, iT4Communities that matches the skills of volunteers from across our sector with the IT development needs of mainly small-medium sized charities. The programme has become a recognised model of effective volunteering, endorsed through Government funding from 2005-2008 and in 2009 iT4C addressed the IT development needs of 290 voluntary sector organisations and completed 126 projects, with 249 in progress during the year. Such work delivered volunteering time to a benchmarked value of over £590,000, bringing the total value delivered since 2002 past £4 million.

Two of the charities helped by iT4C volunteers in 2009 were Computers for Primary Schools Kenya and OVESCO.



Environment organisation, Lewes OVESCO now has up to date information and time is saved when using the new database, thanks to the work of iT4C volunteer Alan.

“we can produce reports faster and trust the information produced” **OVESCO Director Chris Rowlands**



2000 pupils in Kenya have benefited from having access to computers and the educational resources thanks to time and commitment of iT4C volunteers.

“Without Vincent’s expertise the computer labs would not have been set up” **Veronica Ashby of Computers for Primary Schools, Kenya.**



Also in 2009, iT4Communities embarked on an exciting new project with funding from the Nominet Trust. This provided mentoring for newly qualified IT graduates to work with experienced volunteers as mentors on suitably designed charity projects, widening the pool of talent delivering value to charities and helping volunteers and mentors develop new skills to help them in their IT career.

From 2010 we will be supporting iT4communities in partnership with AbilityNet, one of our longstanding charity partners. AbilityNet will take on the operational management of iT4Communities, while WCIT Charity will continue to provide financial support.



### Advancing best IT practice within the Arts

Our in-house programme, iT4Arts, continues its excellent work facilitating information exchange, discussion and learning between arts organisations on best IT development practice, via a website and themed workshops. This programme is now in its sixth year with over eighty not-for-profit arts organisations as members, including theatres, opera houses, orchestras, performing arts centres, art galleries and museums. The active participants range from world-class organisations such as the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Opera House, the National Theatre, Southbank Centre and the Victoria & Albert Museum, through national and local creative powerhouses such as English National Opera, the Royal Court Theatre, Dulwich Picture Gallery and the Sage, Gateshead, to small organisations such as Y Touring Theatre and the South London Gallery.

In 2009 there were workshops for the members hosted by Soho Theatre, Battersea Arts Centre and Toynbee Studios on the following researched topics:

- How can integrated Customer Relationship Management systems boost your income?
- Intellectual Property and the web
- Free Software
- Online visitors and web statistics

Digital and the Arts is a new strategic priority of Arts Council England, and the London Office of Arts Council England commissioned IT4Arts, in conjunction with OpenMute, to provide ten surgeries during 2009 and 2010 on the digital opportunity for arts organisations which they fund, drawing on the acknowledged expertise of Arts Panel members. These surgeries have been very well received by beneficiary arts organisations.

Individual members of the livery company's Arts Panel, which manages IT4Arts, have provided pro bono help to individual arts organisations such as the Royal Court Theatre and the Theatres Trust.



Brainstorming session at an IT4Arts workshop



## Helping charities to engage young people

### 21st Century Legacy

In January 2009 a new Website was commissioned for 21st Century Legacy (21CL), an educational charity for young people founded by Olympic Champion David Hemery. The programme uses inspirational sporting figures, including Olympians, to capture the imagination of young people and encourage them to take responsibility for their own personal outcomes. The Recreation and Leisure Panel worked with 21CL to find a web hosting partner in COLT Telecom, which has donated enterprise-class hosting for two years, with associated internet access, hardware and support. The panel also secured the WEB platform software and build consultancy from Oracle. 21CL themselves found a WEB marketing agency (Navy Blue) to help them develop the visual identity and content. Building the website began in late summer and the solution was commissioned by Christmas 2009. The Master welcomed David Hemery to The Hall in March 2010 to celebrate the project and commented "It was a privilege for ITC to be able to work with David Hemery and his team. 21CL is based on principles which we absolutely share in our other educational work."

With the Website in place, the charity is much better-placed to promote its proposition to Local Authorities and schools. It is also better-able to raise funding, now that the visual identity and messages are well-established on the web and to look at the potential of the web platform to support the operational side of the business model.

### Impetus Trust and Street League

Impetus pioneered venture philanthropy in the UK and combines strategic funding and expertise to enable ambitious charities and social enterprises to achieve greater social impact. In the course of engagement with the charitable organisations Impetus looks for the relevant pro bono expertise to build charities' capacity. Impetus approached the Information Technologists' Charitable Operations to undertake an IT audit of Impetus' own IT infrastructure. This was completed in July 2009 and from this relationship, Impetus also asked for help from the Information Technologists Company, on behalf of one of its funded charities, Street League.

Street League's vision is to transform the lives of disadvantaged men and women in the UK using the power of sport. Street League uses sports, football in particular, as a hook to engage and motivate homeless and other disadvantaged people. Beyond engagement, it seeks to actively develop its players, build their confidence, improve their health, extend their social networks, and develop their skills with the ultimate aim of bringing them back into mainstream education and/or the employment market. A member of the ITC worked with Street League to help them upgrade their IT infrastructure and to negotiate a contact for ongoing IT support from a commercial provider.

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### Supporting students to achieve their potential

Our long-term relationship and active involvement with Lilian Baylis School in Lambeth continues to bring dividends. Since 2001, when the Livery Company first became involved with the School, the school has become a leading role model of a transformed school, and this year was recognised as the 7th most improved school in England.

We provide a range of opportunities for students to experience a range of business and professional environments with a particular focus on career development activity. The Company also has two representatives on the Board of Governors. In 2009 the Company facilitated a link with the Royal Corps of Signals, enabling students to visit Blandford Camp and to take part in activities there. It is hoped that the link may help bring to fruition plans to establish an Army Cadet Force at the School. The Information Technologists Company also facilitated a link with Hewlett Packard which donated calculators to the school and provided trainers to help the staff make best use of the calculators in teaching maths. The Company hosted a series of lunches in the Livery Hall to give students a chance to learn more about working in IT and to experience some of the traditions of the Livery.

In total, members of the Information Technologists Company contributed £25,000 in pro-bono help, which allowed the School to obtain £25,000 in matched funding from the DCSF, used to purchase handheld computers.



Lilian Baylis Technology School students visiting the IT Livery Hall



### Investing in a vision for the future

Four years ago, we took a bold decision to join with the Mercers' Company as co-sponsors in a new Academy School in Hammersmith and Fulham. The school will draw on our IT expertise and use the latest digital media at the heart of its learning environment and culture. Our key goals are to:

- build an endowment fund to sustain the school's continued development and overcome the barriers of disadvantage
- provide the highest quality curriculum-based and specialist education for young people from all backgrounds, of all faiths and of all abilities
- build the Information Technologists' Company's reputation as a co-sponsor with the Mercers, and as an ICT innovator and influencer within the education sector
- provide a culture and environment of ICT-enabled learning - equipping all students with the necessary skills and confidence to tackle advancing technology in their social and working lives
- build relationships with, and bring digital media and IT businesses to help develop the skills of a new generation of professionals for our sector
- give something very special back to our industry, to education, and to our future generations

In 2009 the school really began to take shape. Gary Kynaston was appointed as the first Head and has been enthusiastic in helping the Hammersmith Academy project team develop the vision for the school. Gary and other members of the team are meeting with local schools and community groups to attract our first intake of students to enrol for the School. The building contractors have begun work and the exciting building is rapidly growing on the site in the heart of Hammersmith.

Most importantly members of the company have now generously contributed £850,000 towards our target of £1.2 million.

#### Architects Image of the proposed Hammersmith Academy building





### **Securing our Charitable Activity for the Future**

The value and impact of regular giving to the WCIT Charity cannot be overstated and we really want to build on this, so that many more good causes can benefit from our membership giving. Our Charity Angels Scheme invites Company members and supporters to become a long-term guardian and investor in our charitable activities and grant aid, through donating to the WCIT Charity a fixed sum of money per year for at least three years. Such regular giving, at an affordable level of your choosing, would make a huge difference to the scope and ability of the WCIT Charity to distribute funds to causes and charities that most need IT-related pro bono support and grant aid in the coming years. Members join our Livery Company for a variety of worthwhile reasons, but the most worthy has to be the desire to “give something back” through supporting our charitable and educational work. So we urge all members to either start or continue to give to our WCIT Charity by becoming a Charity Angel. If every one of our members gave a regular donation, just think what could be achieved and what difference could be made to so many people who need our help.

### **Our gratitude**

The most important message with which to end this report is: THANK YOU to all those members who have supported us with donations and by active involvement in our charitable and educational activities. Your support has been truly valued and appreciated. We hope that, on reading this review of our activities, you will realise how prudently your donations have been invested to the benefit of many thousands of people most in need of our professional and charitable support. Without your generous support we would be unable to meet our goal of giving something back to future generations.

**John Carrington**

**Chairman, WCIT Charity**