

Annual Charitable activity report

June 2021



At Veritas we're so conscious that we live in a privileged world. We've had opportunities, help and support that many others have not. Charitable giving has always been part of the Veritas culture, but as the firm has grown, we've formalised it.

Each year, the Executive Team allocates a charitable giving budget out of profits, and the Charity Committee oversees its successful delivery. All staff are involved in deciding which charities we support.

We give consideration to a diverse range of charities and not-for-profit organisations. We focus on Health & Wellbeing, the Environment & Conservation, Education & Training, Humanitarian Emergencies, the Arts / Culture / Heritage, Recreation & Sports, Relief of Poverty, Animal Welfare, and Care & Nursing. We identify smaller charities where our donation will make a difference, and we seek to engage with the charity to understand the impact.

Most of the charitable giving allocation is entrusted to employees. The team has been divided into charity "Pods", each with an elected head. The Charity Committee comprises a Chairperson, the CEO and the head of each Pod. Every quarter each Pod nominates a charity they wish to support, and may support the same charity for up to a year.

Veritas holds bi-annual team action events where participation earns a charitable donation out of the

corporate giving 'pot'. An example is the STEPS challenge, where walking/running/cycling/swimming earns a specified amount per step/kilometre - raising in excess of £5,000 each time. The leaders nominate a charity of their choice.

Employees are encouraged to be actively involved in fundraising activities. Veritas matches any personal charitable fund raising up to £500 per event per financial year. Staff may commit to payroll giving through the Veritas Charities Aid Foundation ("CAF") account. Each employee is offered one paid day of leave a year for volunteering.

It's not only about donations. We also share our knowledge and experience through work experience weeks and paid internship. We have partnered with The Social Mobility Foundation, which aims to make a practical improvement in social mobility for young people, and The Sutton Trust, which also champions social mobility, to elect candidates for these programmes.

Charities which Veritas has been proud to support this past year include:



Link Age Southwark is a small and local charity working in the London Borough of Southwark to reduce loneliness and isolation amongst older people and people living with dementia.



ReachOut, a mentoring charity that gives young people from disadvantaged backgrounds weekly one-to-one support from a volunteer mentor.



The Felix Project, delivering good food for people in need. They rescue surplus food with a high proportion of vegetables, fruit, meat and fish, saving it from being wasted. This food is delivered to almost 1,000 charities and schools across London, so it can feed families, the homeless, the elderly and more.



Women's Aid, working against domestic abuse until women and children are safe, to build a future where domestic abuse is not tolerated.



Meg Woods
Charity Committee Chair

VERITAS

INVESTMENT PARTNERS

Veritas Investment Partners (UK) Ltd
Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road,
London, SE1 9HA
T +44 (0) 20 3740 8350

Veritas Investment Management AG
Genferstrasse 21,
8002 Zürich, Switzerland.
T +41 (0) 44 206 2660

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