In the spirit of giving

December is traditionally the time for giving in many countries – and being generous with your head and heart can be just as valuable as with your hip pocket. As US investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett has said, the most precious asset one can give to the community is time. In this edition, we focus on Macquarie staff from around the world who give just that and the positive outcomes that can arise. Highlighted below are some examples.

In the UK - Staff share core skills with four local charities

As part of the 2010/2011 COnmunity RESourcing (CoRe) programme launched last month, 25 staff from Macquarie’s London office have been matched with four charities to help them develop their IT, business and financial planning, marketing and communications, and governance and operations. Led by Cavan O’Grady (ITG), Alison Wood (MFG MIRA), Philip Ellick (MacCap), and Nigel Bunclark (CAG BSD), staff will be offering their skills to The Stuart Low Trust, Maytree, Islington Play Association and the Accept Consortium. This is a unique initiative piloted in London last year.

In Hong Kong - Staff help local charities with strategic planning

The Hong Kong office is providing venue space to local capacity building organisation Asian Charity Services to run training and consulting services to not-for-profits. These sessions aim to improve social outcomes and develop organisational competencies in strategic planning, leadership and corporate governance, human resources, financial management and fundraising. MFG’s Joshua Pieterse recently participated in one of these workshops by consulting to Bring Me A Book Hong Kong (which aims to improve family literacy in Hong Kong). Bring Me A Book subsequently identified improvements to its fundraising strategy.

In Canada - Staff provide financial modelling for charities to access credit

Staff from MacCap Advisers in Toronto recently undertook a pro bono project to provide financial modelling for the Community Forward Fund, designed to help charities access working capital and bridge loans. As financing options enabling Canadian charities to grow and thrive are limited, the aim of the Community Forward Fund is to provide charities with information about the range of financing available to them as well as working capital. The work of MacCap’s staff was invaluable in helping to create a financial model which is now being reviewed by potential investors and a range of charities interested in securing capital from the fund.

In the US - Staff train adult interns

CAG’s Business Services staff have invested substantial time and energy training adult interns from the HOPE Program, which provides three-month work readiness training to people who have faced multiple barriers to employment. Each person enrolled in the program must complete a 10-week unpaid work experience internship consisting of a rotation through several BSD work areas. Staff provide one-on-one guidance, helping individuals gain work experience and broaden professional networks.
Message from the Foundation

It is very satisfying to read in this edition of the newsletter about staff who give of their time and intellect to not-for-profit organisations. The Foundation has always believed that corporate philanthropy should be about more than just writing cheques. Although fundraising is an integral part of contributing to the not-for-profit sector, much value can also be driven through volunteering.

Whether staff provide free financial modelling, marketing, mentoring or manual labour, all such efforts demonstrate our engagement with the communities in which we work.

In addition, the increasing attention on social finance, which is an approach to managing money that delivers a social dividend as well as an economic return, is an interesting development in how philanthropy and business can work together.

In Canada, Macquarie is taking a lead in this emerging field, with the Chairman of Macquarie Capital Markets Canada, Stanley Hartt, serving on the Social Finance Task Force alongside former Prime Minister Paul Martin. The task force will release a series of recommendations designed to make it easier to finance charities, social entrepreneurs, and innovative solutions to global problems.

Macquarie Group Foundation’s 25th anniversary

In September, the Foundation celebrated Macquarie’s contribution to the community when 200 people attended an event to mark our 25th anniversary, although its origins go as far back as the 1970s when the Hill Samuel Charitable Trust was established.

The New South Wales Governor, Professor Marie Bashir AO, attended the Sydney event and noted the Foundation’s pioneering approach to corporate philanthropy. The Governor compared Macquarie Group’s innovation in the field to an early governor of New South Wales and the man from whom Macquarie took its name: “Lachlan Macquarie encouraged innovation, enterprise and wide community involvement in producing stability and capacity building.”

MFG Group Head Shemara Wikramanayake delivered a presentation on behalf of Nicholas Moore, reiterating that one of the particularly pleasing aspects of staff engagement in the community is the utilisation of Macquarie skills and talent. “The Macquarie Group Foundation inspires a culture of philanthropy among our staff, where one act of volunteering or fundraising can encourage many more.”

Community awards for EDs

The Foundation is pleased to note that Mike Bernstein, MFG’s Toronto head, was recently awarded an Ontario Volunteer Service Award to recognise his five years of outstanding volunteer service with the charity Youth in Motion (YIM).

The award was presented by the Minister for Citizenship and Immigration for Mike’s contribution to the national charity set up to help young people reach their potential. YIM founder Akela Peoples said Mike was nominated for his model board membership and advice and guidance to YIM staff, as well as securing Macquarie’s wider involvement through staff volunteering, work placements and help with a grant from the Macquarie Group Foundation.

We would also like to congratulate the Executive Chairman of our Melbourne office, Simon McKeon, who has been named Victoria’s Australian of the Year 2011 for his support of multiple Australian and international charities. Simon is involved with Business for Millennium Development, a group which encourages businesses to engage with the developing world and Red Dust Role Models, which works with remote Indigenous communities. Simon was a director of World Vision for 15 years and is now a director of the Global Poverty Project, as well as volunteering as a counsellor for heroin addicts.

Global Macquarie Movember challenge

As this newsletter went to print, fundraising for Movember from Macquarie offices around the world was close to $A700,000, approximately $200,000 more than the amount Macquarie contributed last year for the men’s health initiative.

Around 620 Macquarie men registered across 30 offices to outdo each other’s moustache-growing efforts, with the Foundation’s online Movember platform, a forum for staff to compare fundraising efforts, attracting many photos displaying moustache progress.

This is an excellent contribution to efforts to fight diseases which affect men, such as depression and prostate cancer.

Macquarie Staff Community Awards

Nominations are now open for the Macquarie Staff Community Awards, which recognise staff who have made outstanding contributions to their community. Nominations are open for the Volunteer of the Year, Fundraiser of the Year and Pro Bono Adviser of the Year, as well as a Team Award which will apply to any of the above three categories.

All winners’ prize money goes towards their associated not-for-profit organisation. Winners of each category will receive $A10,000. Highly Commended winners will receive $A2,000 and the Team Award will receive $A5,000. Nomination forms can be found on Macnet and all permanent staff globally are eligible to apply.

Season’s greetings from the Foundation

The Foundation receives many thank you letters from community organisations around the world. In this context, we were particularly gratified to recently receive a letter from a student at St Jude’s School - which provides free boarding education for children with high potential who are from the poorest Tanzanian families – following a recent donation to St Jude’s by a FICC staff member. In the spirit of Christmas, with staff around the world donating to organisations working with the needy, we have reproduced the letter at left and wish all Macquarie staff a happy and safe festive season.

Student letter from St Jude’s.

David Clarke
Chairman
OUR STAFF IN THE COMMUNITY
Food for those who need it
When your belly is empty or you’re not sure where your next meal is coming from, all other matters fall by the wayside. If you or your family are hungry, it’s accessing food that’s the priority, with less focus available for health, education, employment or other ways to climb out of the downward spiral.

Macquarie staff from North America in particular are working with community organizations who provide food to those struck by homelessness, poverty or other disadvantage. Below are case studies from four different cities.

In New York: Astoundingly, one in every five New York City children is fed by a community food pantry. Macquarie’s New York staff are longstanding supporters of food rescue organization City Harvest through the Skip Lunch, Fight Hunger fundraiser and Mobile Markets volunteering. Staff recently went one step further and teamed up with City Harvest to collect and distribute freshly grown produce that had not been sold at farmers’ markets to hungry New Yorkers. Thirteen Business Services staff collected 135 bags (5,200 pounds or 2.3 tonnes) of fresh organic produce to load onto City Harvest trucks for delivery to two major soup kitchens in Brooklyn. BSD’s Laura Lenihan described the experience as “lots of flexing, food, and fun!”.

In Detroit: The number of people served by emergency food providers each week in south-east Michigan has increased by over 78% in the past four years. Knowing this, Detroit CAF staff in the Bloomfield Hills office have helped fill the gap by donating fresh fruit and vegetables as well as canned goods to local not-for-profit Forgotten Harvest. The organization rescues surplus, prepared and perishable food and donates it to over 165 community agencies working with the hungry.

In Philadelphia: MFG staff are bringing in food for local community organization Philabundance to help ensure that families in the Delaware Valley have food for the holidays. Philabundance serves low-income people at risk of hunger and malnutrition, 23% of whom are children and 16% senior citizens. In addition to a week-long food drive, staff also participate in a “packing day,” sorting through donated food, packing food boxes, and washing and sorting produce. These efforts help Philabundance distribute 21 million pounds (about 5,5000 tonnes) of food each year.

In Calgary: Led by MacCap’s Nikki Fulbrook, Calgary staff have been providing food for the homeless in a variety of ways. A group of staff recently spent an evening at the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank organizing supplies, packing boxes and handing out food to needy individuals and families in the area. Staff also spent an evening at the Calgary Drop-In Centre, a local agency providing services for the homeless. Twenty staff cooked, served, and cleaned up after the meal, supplying 1,150 local homeless individuals with food. As MacCap Advisers’ Tom Ebbern said, “helping out at the Food Bank and drop-in centre really opened our eyes to the needs in our local community and gave us an opportunity to connect with individuals requiring help”.

The Macquarie Calgary team now plans to make volunteering at the Food Bank and Drop-In Centre a regular event.

Legs eleven breaks the ice at mentor meet and greet
The challenge should you choose to accept it: work with teenagers to increase their self-confidence, raise their aspirations, gain experience of the working world and improve their academic performance. As any parent knows, that’s easier said than done.

But 21 staff across the London office recently accepted the challenge by attending the mentor and mentee matching session to meet 33 students from Cardinal Pole School and getting to know them through a friendly human bingo competition. This is the seventh year volunteers have been mentoring 14 to 15 year-old students from the local Hackney School.

Trick or treat? Halloween Manila hospital style
On Halloween Eve, children from Hospicio de San Jose joined Manila staff and their children for an afternoon of ghoulish fun. Twenty children from the hospital arrived at Macquarie’s office in their handmade costumes to celebrate the night, with entertainment including puppet and magic shows, games, a film screening, costume party and, of course, treats provided by staff. At three Macquarie floors decorated their areas and showered the kids with candy and chocolate. The Manila office went to enormous effort to create an impressive Halloween party for the children, many of whom are orphans.

Finding Solid Ground in Chicago
Homelessness is a problem in the US, with an estimated 2.5-3.5 million people either living on the streets or in an emergency shelter in any one year. In Chicago, Macquarie staff have partnered with service organization La Casa Norte to help homeless or precariously housed youth and families in a variety of ways.

In recent months, staff have hosted a clothing drive for La Casa Norte’s Esperanza Trabajando job readiness program, donating gently-used suits, ties, dresses and shirts to ensure clients are prepared for job interviews.

Staff have also connected with young residents in La Casa Norte’s Solid Ground supportive housing program. A career panel luncheon enabled Macquarie staff to share their life experiences and ways of overcoming obstacles to build a career and, on a separate occasion, participated in La Casa Norte’s home cooking program.

Right royal run with Tokyo’s Special Olympians
In October, eight Tokyo staff ran with athletes from Special Olympics Nippon Tokyo (SORT) in the race of the year around the grounds of the city’s Imperial Palace. The Macquarie staff were part of the 200-strong Special Olympics event which aims to empower people with intellectual disabilities to realise their potential and develop skills through sports training and competition. As well as accompanying the athletes on their enthusiastic runs, Macquarie contributed a total of ¥168,000 to SORT, with Team A (captained by MSG’s Dan Lucas) coming twelfth and Team B (captained by RMG’s Paul Shelton) 57th.

CAG’s Natalie Bloomfield and Kylie Nelson haul fresh radishes to City Harvest trucks in NYC.
FICC’s Jo Stoneham and Mitchel Fowler meet their Hackney School mentees.
Masquerading as the Red Queen is ITG’s Cheche Aggabao surrounded by Hospicio de San Jose orphans.
Macquarie team captain Dan Lucas with participants in the SORT run.
MSG’s Nussara Parsub with her partner and son at the Bring The Elephant Home tree-planting.
FICC volunteer Heather Leslie gets moving with the jump rope demonstration in Houston.

Children and parents enjoy an art-making workshop at New York’s Dorothy Day Early Childhood Center.
6 Social networking
Ever wondered what happens to your old computer at work when you get a new one? Chances are it was leased and goes back to the leasing company, but sometimes it winds its way to other homes. Macquarie Equipment Finance, part of CAF, specialises in leasing computers to large corporates and last year in Japan had 110,000 computers returned to it post-lease. Most are refurbished and resold and some are recycled for parts but a number of the computers are donated to charities who can use older equipment. Four Japanese charities were able to benefit from this arrangement over the past year: The Japan Association for Refugees, Kasamisou Foundation, Special Olympics Nippon Tokyo and Table for Two.

Computer donation also aids organisations which use them as part of their training in the community. ProLiteracy is an organisation which tutors adults and CAF in Detroit have supplied 20 reconditioned laptops to Rotary Clubs in both Michigan and Ontario, greatly enhancing Pro Literacy’s training capacity. And in New York, FICC’s Adam Ford is a board member of the United Foundation for the Future of Kids, which supports educational efforts in developing countries by building schools or outfitting classrooms that have little in the way of learning materials. CAF was recently able to donate eight laptops for a new school computer lab in Belize that Adam’s charity is funding.

7 Come fly with me: airport outing with cerebral palsy sufferers
Twelve Singapore staff recently took a half-day’s leave to accompany children from the Cerebral Palsy Centre of Singapore to Changi Airport and McDonalds. The centre provides early intervention, special education, rehabilitation services and vocational training for Singaporeans with cerebral palsy and related disabilities. It also provides day activity programmes that require able-bodied adults to assist. MSG’s Desiree Pretorius arranged the trip and the afternoon’s logistics and saw to it that initial nerves from some of the volunteers unused to dealing with small children quickly faded after introductions. The public bus trip, some plane watching and finally a Happy Meal resulted in smiling faces for all participants.

8 Wall St beckons for Fresh Air students
Twenty-five students from a community organization that works with children from low-income families recently visited Macquarie to get some stock tips from MSG staff, eat pizza and tour the trading floor where the computers were a particular marvel. Led by Christine Cho, Fresh Air Fund students were presented with trading wisdom from analysts Joshua Dunivant, John Macaskill, Bruce Murdock, Frank Amico, and Karen Blando. Global Head of Derivatives Delta One Todd Steenberg said he was also very happy to partner with Fresh Air Fund. “The reality for most kids growing up in New York’s inner city is that without guidance and support they will not have the same opportunities as most Macquarie staff,” he said, adding it was important to help the students develop perspectives on possible careers.

9 Remember the days of the old schoolyard
Toronto staff are joining colleagues in London, Sydney, New York and Hong Kong who have signed up to Macquarie’s Big Buddy reading program. Twenty-three staff from across the business have joined the Big Buddy program and - a new development – the JUMP Math program. Staff are working with children in Grades 3-5 from Grenoble School in Flemingdon Park, an area facing many challenges. Paul Donnelly, head of Macquarie Canada and a seasoned Big Buddy from the Melbourne office, said it was exciting to be able to take part in the new local Big Buddy program: “The children at Grenoble School can really benefit from our volunteer involvement.”

10 Twelve hands make light work
Six staff from Sydney’s Macquarie Relationship Banking team got out paint brushes and rollers to spend an afternoon giving the Youth Off The Streets’ Don Bosco House a face lift. The Marrickville house provides crisis and short-term accommodation for homeless youth aged between 15 and 18 and, while there, enables them to receive food, health care, information and referrals to other services, and the opportunity to participate in social activities.

11 NYC’s GVN fosters cool culture
New York City is full of cultural opportunities, but low-income families often lack both access and an understanding of how to utilize these opportunities for their children’s development. Not-for-profit organization Cool Culture works with families and institutions such as museums, galleries and wildlife centres to bring the two together. It recently partnered with Macquarie’s Graduate Volunteer Network to connect the Dorothy Day Early Childhood Center and the Studio Museum of Harlem, where children and parents looked at and discussed art together. Graduates played with three and four-year-olds, their parents learned from the museum’s educator and together the groups explored how art can build literacy skills. One mother likened the family art-making workshop to a foot massage: “During the massage, you think, ‘This feels good’ and then afterwards, ‘You can feel your feet again’!”

12 Bangkok staff feed elephantine appetites
With approximately 150 wild elephants left in Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary, just outside of Bangkok, staff from Macquarie’s Bangkok office recently planted 625 trees over the course of one day to try to keep the elephants’ habitat intact. The forest has diminished through neglect and a growing human population around its boundary and, as a result, Salakpra is now a damaged peninsula with the elephants forced to eat local crops. Staff and their families worked with Bring the Elephant Home Foundation to plant the trees which not only helps relieve the elephants’ food shortage but also increases the forest’s biodiversity.

13 Healthy Houston 'hoods
In Houston, thousands of working-poor families have little access to health care. Staff from Macquarie’s Houston office have joined with local not-for-profit Neighborhood Centers Inc to help families in need receive medical care such as immunizations, health screenings and educational resources including nutrition and exercise tips for children. Macquarie volunteers provided check-in and distribution support at Neighbourhood Center health fairs, and also worked with young people in the exercise demonstrations.

our staff in the community

CAF’s Jack Durham delivering laptops to ProLiteracy in Detroit.

Getting to the airport on time with their charges were CAG’s Hema Michell, ITG’s Richard King, BFS’s Anahita Kapoor and CAG’s Kevin Hardy.

MSG’s Tim Alston passes on stock tips to Fresh Air Fund students.

Bangkok staff feed elephantine appetites

Wall St beckons for Fresh Air students

NYC’s GVN fosters cool culture

Healthy Houston 'hoods
Two-fold recycling in Manila

As part of its recycling program, Manila staff were recently able to recycle seven kilos of plastic bottles and 64 kilos of cans, raising over PHP20,550 worth of assorted groceries for the Center for Health Improvement and Life Development (CHILD Haus). This is a temporary shelter for patients from different provinces who have cancer or other critical illnesses and have no place to stay in the city while undergoing medical evaluation or treatment.

Hong Kong fundraising walk for brain disease research

In memory of his daughter, Flora Ruby Suttie, MSG’s Ben Suttie recently arranged a fundraising walk in Hong Kong to raise money for the Children’s Neuroscience Centre in Melbourne and the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute. Ben’s daughter died in June 2006 at two and half years old after complications from a rare genetic brain disease called Miller-Dieker Syndrome. People with this disease suffer from many other problems, including in most cases a complete lack of mobility. Four years after Flora’s death, Ben was able to reach his fundraising goal, having raised more than A$100,000.

Tokyo staff get fit for charity

Seventy Macquarie Tokyo staff enjoyed a perfect autumn morning of walking, running and sprinting with family and friends around the Tokyo Olympic Stadium for the annual FIT for Charity event. Organised by Tokyo’s financial community, FIT had its biggest year ever with around 6,700 people participating. Macquarie was one of the event’s sponsors this year, with 70 people signed up and fundraising contributing more than ¥490,000 towards the total amount for equal sharing among ten local charities.

Collecting clothing for those in need in Singapore and India

The Singapore office recently collected new or ‘as new’ designer clothes for The Revolution Pop-up Shop, a social enterprise project by fair trade company Fair & Square. Donated items went towards setting up four ‘pop-up’ stores that will raise money as well as provide valuable work experience to needy students. Proceeds from this social enterprise will go towards supporting three local youth services. The Singapore collection echoed one also undertaken recently in the Mumbai office, where staff contributed clothing to the charity Goonj which delivers the goods to remote Indian villages where they serve as an important economic resource.

My day job is... managing the Service Design and Delivery (SDD) team in Manila.

I got involved with my chosen charities because... it gives me the opportunity to share myself to others, particularly to the poor families in our society, the deaf community, and others.

My community needs more... volunteers who are willing to share time and resources with others. The community needs concrete livelihood, entrepreneurial and employment programs to become self-sufficient. For example, I have drawn a study on how to develop self-sufficiency within the deaf community by enabling them to offer basic library and multimedia services to academic institutions, like cataloguing, inventory and coding.

I can help my community... through immersion, sponsorship, development, training, and implementation of self-sufficiency programs, particularly to the deaf community, and public elementary teachers and students.

I’d like to volunteer to... start a deaf appreciation and orientation program at Macquarie. The orientation is geared towards understanding the nature of deafness, perspectives and working with the deaf, including learning sign language and gestures to communicate with them.

If I could fix one problem it would be... inequality.

The people who inspire me are... simple people who have been agents of change and positive transformation, like teachers and volunteers.

I’m most proud of... my family, friends, and colleagues who are instrumental to making me a much better person.

If everyone could just do one thing to make a difference what would it be? That would be a change of heart, a single act of random kindness at a time.