

GERMANY - DISCOVERING THE 'FUN' IN FUNDRAISING

By: Andrea Sauter

I had a 'good slide' into the New Year, as we say here in Germany, because my fundraising target for the Change a Life Laos Cycling Challenge was met ahead of schedule. Helped by colleagues in the Pepper Munich office, I ran three bazaars, two Glühwein (hot mulled wine) evenings and one raffle to generate funds and holiday cheer!

When I signed up for this event, I recognised a significant challenge; an extreme physical test and an ambitious fundraising goal on top of the demands of my position here as Manager of Creative Services.



Florian, Katrin & Steffen

Luckily, Florian Schuetz, Managing Director at Computershare and Steffen Herfurth, Managing Director at Pepper supported me from the start. One morning they greeted every employee with a smile, a flyer and an explanation of my Laos ride. They even gave me a great events team – headed by the indispensable Sandra Pfeiffer – to help me raise funds.

In November, both Managers donated furniture and office supplies leftover from Pepper's move the previous year. We hauled items up from the basement, added several impressive oil paintings donated by Florian's wife and my father, and invited Pepper staff to shop at our bazaar on three separate afternoons - we were rewarded well!



Constance, Andrea, Monika, Valerie

Change a life

In early December as the Munich Christmas markets opened, we hosted our own Glühwein evening in our office courtyard. In keeping with my motto, 'Make it fun and people will gladly support a good cause', we raised more and had a fabulous time.



Employees enjoy the evening

Next, a raffle at Pepper's company Christmas party (initiated by Steffen) brought us to our goal. With iPods, a digital camera and gift certificates to win, Pepper partygoers bought plenty of tickets. And finally, generous donations from the Computershare party allowed me to well exceed my fundraising target of €3,000 (A\$5,00, US\$3,700, R28,000, £2,000, CAD\$4,500) .