



ARK is a registered charity (Registered Charity Number: 1095322)
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European Hedge fund industry raises £4m for charity in one evening

Donors from Europe's Hedge Fund community pledged £4,003,500 on Wednesday May 14th, one of the largest amounts ever raised on a single night, for ARK (Absolute Return for Kids), a two-year-old charity that aspires to be a catalyst for the industry. The event was the second annual ARK Charity Evening at Old Billingsgate Market. Last year's event raised 2.1 million.

ARK will invest the proceeds in projects benefiting children in the UK, Romania, Kosovo and South Africa. In Romania, ARK has facilitated the closure of four communist-era institutions placing 607 children in secure homes; in Kosovo, ARK has a three year commitment to provide 3000 children post conflict counselling; in the UK ARK supports over 800 children whose parents are struggling with crises. ARK is currently negotiating a major new initiative with the South African government.

"It's a staggering amount of money to be raised from one event in one evening," said Andrew Watt, Head of policy at the Institute of Fundraising. "I'd call it quite an achievement."

The ARK award for outstanding achievement was presented to Ken Griffin, founder and Chairman of the Citadel Group, both for his work as a pioneer in the industry and his generosity to ARK. Mr. Griffin matched all donations made on the final auction item: a fund earmarked for the purchase of anti-HIV drugs for South African mothers.

"I'm amazed the industry coughed up this much given the current environment for many managers," said Neil Wilson, Editor of EuroHedge. "It makes the total all the more impressive."

Professionals from the fashion, music and film industry joined some of Europe and America's leading fund managers. Valentino and Philip Treacy attended the event, and also donated from their collections for the auction lots. Isabella Blow and Nicola Formby of Tatler also contributed, while Matthew Williamson, Alexander McQueen, Manolo Blahnik, Hermes and Agent Provocateur donated items to be auctioned. Hugh Grant, who attended, agreed to play a round of golf with an auction lot winner, while Elle Macpherson, who wore a Valentino creation, agreed to be the winner's caddy.

"I'm overwhelmed. It was a night where we all pulled together and put kids first," said Arpad Busson, Chairman of ARK and of the EIM group.

Wines were donated by Domaine Clarence Dillon and Diemersfontein Wine and Country Estate in South Africa. Annoushka Ducas and John Ayton of Links of London donated profits from the sale of a specially designed wooden and silver 'Noah's Ark'. Theo Fennell designed and created the award.

Entertainment was provided by an all-star band made up of Roger Taylor and Brian May of Queen, Bob Geldof, Chris Thompson, Roy Wood. A film highlighting the work of ARK was produced for the night by Twofour productions.



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The evenings sponsors included: ABN Amro, Citadel, Deutsche Bank, Anchor Asset Management, Bloomberg LP, Citigroup, Commerzbank Securities, Credit Suisse First Boston, Execution Ltd, GLG Partners, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Securities, Lehman Brothers, Loze et Associates, Lydian Asset Management, L.P., Man Group plc, Merrill Lynch, Moore Europe Research Services, Morgan Stanley, Tudor Investment Corporation and UBS Warburg.

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

ARK, Absolute Return for Kids, has now completed its first year raising over £7,000,000 for social investments in the UK and Eastern Europe and South Africa. ARK's mission is to help transform the lives of children who are victims of abuse, disability, illness and poverty. ARK's rigorous project research and selection process is followed by close monitoring and impact evaluation to ensure that our social investments deliver the greatest social return on investment possible.



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