

Allegra's Ambition Newsletter

May 2021

As we write this the country is slowly unlocking and we are delighted that the majority of the projects we support are now back up and running. It has been a very difficult time for everyone but particularly for many of the young people our partners work with. Now more than ever these charities need our help and we are very grateful to all our donors, volunteers and fundraisers. Without you we would not be able to do what we do.

OUR PROJECTS



Youth Options <https://www.youthoptions.co.uk/> The Allegra Classroom at Youth Options's Outdoor Learning Centre in Eastleigh is now open! Youth Options are thrilled with the facility and it is already getting much use. We owe a huge thank you to all our donors who have helped to fund this project. We are also very grateful to the small army of Allegra's Ambition volunteers who came and helped clear so much of the site over the last few months. The transformation from when we first visited 3 years ago is incredible. A volunteer Friday morning Gardening Club is still ongoing if anyone would like to participate.

Ebony Horse Club <https://www.ebonyhorseclub.org.uk/> We are thrilled that we are able to make plans for an Ebony Day 2021, which will be held on August 9 in Bentley. It is a fantastic event and we couldn't run it without brilliant support from the HH pony club, volunteer riding instructors and the many people who lend us their ponies for the day. Watching the young people from Ebony gaining confidence on new ponies, hacking out in the countryside (many for the first time), making new friends and enjoying a day outside is a very rewarding experience. If you are interested in participating, or getting involved, please get in touch with us. We are also continuing to fund two Brixton schools' riding sessions with Ebony and are so pleased that they are now fully operational again.

Street Reach <https://www.winchesterstreetreach.org/> The Friday Football project is back in business, although on grass. This provides a drop-in 'kick around' activity for young people in Winchester and, as well as playing football, there is the opportunity to talk to trained youth workers and get advice and support. This year we have also funded a new initiative preparing young people for a residential trip to Magdalen Farm, also funded by Allegra's Ambition, which will take place this summer.



Steel Warriors (<https://www.steelwarriors.co.uk/>) We are delighted to have partnered with Steel Warriors, a charity based in London, who have built 3 outdoor gyms, using steel melted down from knives taken off the streets. They work with young people using callisthenic gym sessions to engage and encourage them develop new skills, build positive relationships and self-esteem. We are currently funding a weekly Sunday family drop-in session. It feels very positive to be supporting a project that encourages families to get outside and work together after the long time spent indoors over the last year.

Rackets Cubed (<http://racketscubed.com/>). We have continued to contribute to the Rackets Cubed food box and activity pack project during the last six months. They have distributed an incredible number of food boxes to vulnerable families throughout lockdown which has made a huge difference to the recipients.

Carneys Community Centre (<https://carneyscommunity.org/>) Carney's have continued offering as much activity as they can under restrictions. We supplied them with two tablets, during lockdown, which have been very useful to get young people together, while remaining distanced. They will be helpful long term with the homework clubs.

FUNDRAISING



We have introduced a **white summer hoody** to our range of Allegra's Ambition merchandise. It is perfect for tennis or just for a change when your black hoody is in the wash! We also have a **Grey organic T-shirt** and are re-stocked in all sizes of the White T, as well as our **joggers in Grey or Black**, so if you are looking for a present or just to treat yourself please do check out our website.

<https://www.allegrasambition.org.uk/shop>

A big shout out to Roly and Vanessa who organised a virtual sports event in January on Strava at Trinity College, Cambridge. They raised an incredible £1,000. Thank you so much to everyone who participated and to Trinity for their support.

Pip, a good friend of Allegra's, also took part in a virtual sports event in January – this time a tough mudder! By the end of the day she had run 55 miles and completed 11 crazy challenges. There were 800 competitors from 15 countries and Pip came 4th in her age category. Congratulations and thank you for raising money for us.

A big thank you to Ben and the Year 8 charity committee at Pilgrim's School for coming up with the 365 Challenge and organising the event to raise money for Allegra's Ambition. Students and their families aimed to run a total of 365km collectively. They smashed their target. Great work and thank you for remembering Allegra.



Emma, one of Allegra's oldest and bestest friends from nursery school, decided to **#challengeyourself** by starting running, with the aim of finishing the Edinburgh Half Marathon in May. New to running, she built up her stamina and strength, and last week she completed the course. What a great achievement and tribute to Allegra. A huge thank you to Emma and everyone who supported her brilliant effort.

Thank you so much to everyone who bid for the two Wimbledon Ladies quarter final tickets, so generously donated to us, to raise money for Allegra's Ambition. We hope the eventual winner enjoys a great day's tennis and some long overdue summer weather.

Thank you to the @thehampshirefair who selected us as one of their charities for 2020. Lockdown meant a number of events were cancelled, so they have continued to support us in 2021. We are very grateful. We also want to thank all of you who signed up for two fascinating talks organised by the Hampshire Art Fund (@thehampshirefair) which provided some much needed cultural stimulation during lockdown.

A reminder that you can raise money for us every time you shop with Amazon. Enter Amazon via the smile link (<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>) and search for Allegra's Ambition on the charity options. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price of the goods you buy to Allegra's Ambition.

Thank you as always for all your fantastic support. We are so grateful to every one of you. If you have any fundraising ideas or want to know more about what we do please get in touch.

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