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## ***BGC Charity Day 2011***

BGC held its 7th Annual Global Charity Day on Monday, September 12th, 2011. The Lowe Syndrome Trust was one of the selected charities to benefit from funds raised on the day. Lorraine Thomas, Chair & Founder of the Lowe Syndrome Trust was supported by Lowe Syndrome Trust Patrons, Christopher Biggins and Lisa Voice.

The fundraising day was established by BGC, a global inter-broker dealer, in memory of staff from its sister company, investment bank Cantor Fitzgerald, who died during the 9/11 attacks in New York. The firm lost 658 employees - more even than the New York Fire Department.

Prince Harry was joined on BGC's trading floor by celebrities from the worlds of film, television, sport, politics, fashion and music to raise millions for 29 UK charities. **The Prince closed a foreign deal worth £15.5 billion**

Harry attended the event on behalf of Sentebale, the charity he co-founded to support vulnerable children and orphans in the southern African country of Lesotho

Amongst those taking phone calls to broker deals with clients were Kelly Brook, Sophie Ellis Bextor, Chris Evans, Ronnie Wood, Ray Winstone, Sir Terry Wogan and London Mayor Boris Johnson.

All revenues generated during the course of the charity day are donated to the 29 good causes.

Trust chair Lorraine Thomas said: "We're so grateful to BGC Partners for making the Lowe Syndrome Trust one of its 2011 charities, and I have huge thanks for all those that have worked hard at BGC organising the day and also Lowe Patrons, Christopher Biggins and Lisa Voice for supporting me at the event. It was a fantastic day which enables us to move genuinely closer to finding ways of alleviating and maybe eventually curing Lowe Syndrome." The Lowe Syndrome Trust was set up in June 2000 by Lorraine Thomas after her son, Oscar, was diagnosed with the condition in 1999. No government support or UK research into the syndrome was available at that time and, for the last ten years, Lorraine has devoted her life to raising money for the charity, which now supports many families affected by the disease and has become the main source of grants to fund research across the UK and USA. It was recently accepted by the NHS as an NIHR Partner Organisation, boosting its ability to attract the highest quality research studies.

Supporters of the charity include trustee Jonathan Ross and patrons Penny Lancaster Stewart (wife of Rod), Tony Hadley (of Spandau Ballet), Melanie Chisholme, Christopher Biggins, Daily Express publisher Sir Richard Desmond, Tom Conti, Melanie Sykes, Melanie Blatt, Lisa Voice, Sir Richard Sykes and Baroness Susan Greenfield

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