

The boy done... WEL

Richard Barker an event photographer and charity fundraiser, talks to WEL about his incredible work for local charities, happiness and his ambitious future plans



Who are you and what do you do?

I'm a freelance photographer who also has a temping job in the City. In my spare time I raise funds for various charities. As a photographer I cover events, parties and weddings. I also produce food photographs and images for advertisements

Where do you live?

Brentwood

What do you love about your job?

I love being creative and meeting inspirational people. No two days are the same. I also enjoy meeting celebrities

What is the secret of your success?

Hard work and being self motivated. You have to go the extra mile if you want to succeed at anything. You've really got to be flexible with your time and learn from your mistakes. I donate a lot of hours every week to fundraising. I'll work in the early hours of the morning researching and I will answer emails wherever I am

What has been the proudest moment in your career so far?

I set-up 30 Donations in order to raise money for Haven House Children's Hospice in Woodford Green because I was turning 30, I decided that I wanted to raise roughly £3,835 for the hospice. A day's care at Haven House costs £3,835. Pay for a Day is an

opportunity to provide 24 hours of care, support and fun for local life-limited children. My original goal was to collect 30 auction prizes. I've collected hundreds of items and raised £27,550. I should raise another £30,000 by auctioning prizes at a ball in October. My new goal is to raise in excess of £250,000 and this is my proudest achievement so far. In total I've raised well over £50,000 for good causes.

Where do you see yourself in five years time?

I would love to settle down and have a family. I've also challenged myself to raise a million pounds for charity

What would your alternative career be?

I would love to create a successful company. I aspire to be an entrepreneur

When were you the happiest?

I like socialising and spending time with my friends makes me really happy

What is your most unappealing habit?

I can be a bit of a workaholic. I sometimes find it hard switching off

What is your greatest fear?

Failure. I want to achieve all of my goals in life

Bike ride or run in the park?

I'll be honest neither. I enjoy walking in the sunshine

What is your next ambition?

To raise £250,000 for Haven House

What is your most treasured possession?

My camera

What's your drink of choice after a hard day?

I really enjoy an ice cold Kopparberg cider on a hot day

Where's next on your holiday wish list?

New York

What is top on your bucket list?

To raise one million pounds for charity

What makes you smile?

I get really excited when I get an email containing a donation. An entrepreneur recently donated a week at his castle in the West Indies. I was smiling for a week. This amazing prize will be auctioned in October

Do you have a claim to fame?

I've met Sir Richard Branson. I've also snapped Brad Pitt and George Clooney on the red carpet

Where would you most like to be right now?

On a beach

TO DONATE

www.richardcbarker.com/30-donations