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Staff at ***LV= (Liverpool Victoria)*** *handled 2,228 calls with 70 lines – totalling more than £70,000-worth of donations – at the company's head office in Bournemouth. Fund raising events resulted in a further £2,000, which the company matched. They included a performance in the car park by the LV Equals rock band. Events at LV's general insurance office in Croydon, which raised £3,000, included the bosses suffering gungeing, custard pies...and wearing pink fluffy cowboy hats filled with cold baked beans.* ***Pictured*** *– gungeing the managers: John O'Roarke, MD, Peter Horton, operations director, and Steve Castle, finance director; Jamie Cox, motor claims team leader, Emma Church, motor claims leader, and Luke Coley, customer services team leader; the LV Equals band (from left): Ricardo Zanelli, financial advisor, Ed Forbes, PR manager, and Alan Riches, account manager*

Volunteers at ***Mondial Assistance*** *dressed up in red wigs and with painted faces...and some were in their pyjamas. In total, 100 answered calls, resulting in donations worth £78,000. The largest single donation was more than £5,000, taken by Leanne Gridley, travel policy sales co-ordinator. Local companies donated food and drink, entertainment was provided by a magician, and the local Virgin Active brought along hula-hoops and juggling balls. Samantha Hull, operations administrator, said: "I was touched by how much people were giving when they called up, despite the so-called 'hard times.' It was also really nice when people said well done to me for giving up my time to take the calls."* ***Pictured*** *– Mike Wells, managing director, and Kerry Langridge, motor operations; Suzi Jones, operations director; Simon Kirby (white T-shirt), marketing manager; taking a call: Rob Lunt, head of warranty operations and customer services*

More than 120 volunteers at ***Misco****, Northants, took pledges of over £145,000 in five hours. In 4,342 calls, donations ranged from £1 to £2,000. Daniel Biggs, UK IT support manager, said: "It was hard work and hectic...but our staff coped brilliantly and we are very happy to have played our part in such a successful evening." Fundraising activities during the week – including a staff member who dyed his hair green and beard purple – resulted in a further £1,000.* ***Pictured*** *– managers who took up supervisor roles for the event: Steve Haddon (glasses), European IT manager; Katy Pailing, European web marketing manager; Bob Gordon (red nose), corporate HR manager; and Khalid Rashid, catalogue and web production manager*

Staff at ***Viking Direct****, an Office Depot company, held a week of events which raised nearly £5,500. During the telethon, the call centre in Ashton handled 4,458 calls, resulting in donations of £110,000, and in Leicester nearly 5,000 calls were answered, with more than £100,000 in donations. Michele Fielding, head of customer services direct, said: "We pride ourselves on the skills and efficiency of our call centre operation and we were determined to do our very best for Comic Relief, making sure that we handled as many calls as possible. It was hard work but we had a real sense of satisfaction from being part of the effort that resulted in so much money being raised."* ***Pictured*** *– from left, in Ashton: Jack Davis, mayor of Tameside, Ellen Brown, customer services, Carole Davis, mayoress, Michele Fielding, head of UK direct customer services, and Dave Corless, head of resource planning; Ashton: Debbie Tillyer (left), training, and Nicola Singleton, call centre administrator and Red Nose Day event planner; Leicester: (from left) team managers Priti Lakhani, Brenda D'Souza, Lynette Knox, Pat Hetherington, Lisa Stevens, Victoria Langley and David Nicholson*