

**Fundraising story collection questionnaire**

<p><b>What have you done/are you doing to raise funds for Mast Cell Action?</b></p> <p>I did a tandem skydive.</p>
<p><b>How is the challenge going so far?</b></p> <p>The skydive was absolutely amazing and fundraising too. I never in my dreams expected to raise so much.</p>
<p><b>How much are you hoping to raise/did you raise?</b></p> <p>I raised a phenomenal £1,500.</p>
<p><b>What is your link to Mast Cell Activation Syndrome? Can you share a brief history of your story with us?</b></p> <p>I have MCAS and without the charity and Facebook group I would be very ill.</p>
<p><b>Why did you choose Mast Cell Action? What impact has Mast Cell Action had for you?</b></p> <p>I chose Mast Cell Action as they had a 'One Step Forward' campaign. I had always wanted to skydive and thought it was one very huge step forward. Through MCA I have learned about my condition, used the resources, and got a diagnosis. I know, as a moderator in the Facebook group, how much the support, information and just not feeling on your own it helps our members.</p>
<p><b>What did you enjoy most/are you enjoying about your fundraising experience?</b></p> <p>I thoroughly enjoyed skydiving. My partner was really helpful and kept me calm. The views were spectacular and the rush at first was amazing then we drifted down slowly. The landing was a bit bumpy. I felt exhilarated afterwards and felt on top of the world that I had achieved it. I was so grateful for the support from the mast cell action community and charity who supported me to raise so much money.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything you would do differently next time?</b></p> <p>I would start fundraising earlier and try to get in the local media to raise awareness. I did email my local paper prior to the event and after but there were many other events so I wasn't featured.</p>
<p><b>What would you say to other people considering doing a fundraiser for Mast Cell Action?</b></p> <p>I would tell others to just do something it doesn't matter how small or how much you raise every penny counts and it feels amazing to help.</p>
<p><b>What message would you like to share with the MCAS community?</b></p> <p>I would tell the MCAS community to challenge yourself you don't know what you can accomplish. Thank you for your support it was fabulous.</p>
<p><b>What message would you like to share with the wider community?</b></p> <p>To the wider community I would say help this charity. Many are struggling so much every day with severe allergies that impact life so much. We need support to raise funds to help with preparing resources, raising awareness and to help with research. MCAS is a rare disease and it needs to be recognised by the medical profession.</p>