

# Press Release

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009, London, UK



## Sir Philip Green raises £18,000 for The Autism Trust

Tara Palmer-Tompkinson, Michael Brandon and a host of other celebrities attended the **Krug Mind share charity auction** at Christie's in London last night where **Sir Philip Green** raised **£18,000** for **The Autism Trust**. Sir Philip, the man behind Topshop and recent co-founder of Greenwell Entertainment, a coalition with Simon Cowell, auctioned an hour of his time in order to help Polly Tommey and The Autism Trust. The money raised will aid The Autism Trust in building their first Centre of Excellence to support families and people with autism. Polly Tommey was able to successfully demonstrate to the billionaire retail tycoon, the need for investment in the future of today's children with autism.



The Krug Mind *share* charity auction raised over £75,000 for the charities involved. Sir Philip Green and The Autism Trust obtained one of the highest bids demonstrating the huge support they both have. Sir Philip commented, "I am delighted to participate in The Krug/FT Mind *share* auction, and look forward to sharing my thoughts with my winning bidder! I have chosen to support The Autism Trust as I have become increasingly aware of how many people are affected by autism today - nearly 1 in every 100 in the UK. Twenty years ago the figure was just 5 in every 10,000. From initial diagnosis, to planning for childhood learning, right through into adulthood - there are hurdles at every step. The Autism Trust aims to build facilities that will support people with autism and their families, and I am delighted that being part of the Mind *share* auction will go some way towards helping raise much-needed funds."

Polly Tommey, who has dedicated the past 10 years to raising autism awareness and helping parents of children with autism, sees this as one of many steps on a never-ending journey towards fighting for the best future for children with autism. "We are hugely grateful to Sir Philip Green for the generosity he has shown The Autism Trust. This is exactly the sort of event we need to be a part of if we are to succeed in raising the capital needed to begin building our first Centre of Excellence."

***For further information and to arrange interviews please contact:***

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**[www.theautismtrust.org.uk](http://www.theautismtrust.org.uk)**

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## **Notes for Editors**

### ***Polly Tommey***

Polly Tommey is a mother dealing with autism. She is also the founder and Editor-in-Chief of The Autism File. Polly has been producing what is now the leading retail magazine on autism in the UK, USA & Canada (with a current issue circulation of over 40,000 copies) from her family's house in Hampton, West London since 1999. Polly is also the Founder of The Autism Trust, a UK registered charity focused on building an inspiring and sustainable future for children with autism in the UK when they leave full time education.

Polly's recent achievements include hosting The International Autism Conference 2009, supported by the Department of Health, which succeeded in its aim in bringing together people from across the diverse world of autism. Her efforts in the world of autism have not gone unnoticed but have gained her nominations for both Barclays' 'Woman of the Year' and Red Magazine's 'Red's Hot Woman of the Year' Awards.

Polly is regarded as one of the leading figures in autism in the UK as a campaigning and influential journalist and is featured regularly as a sector expert in the media. She is currently directing an investigative television documentary on autism to be broadcast in 2009. Polly also presents a regular radio programme: Autism Issues From Around the World on Autism One Radio; she is Secretary of the Autism Human Rights & Discrimination Initiative; and is a regular attendee and presenter at conferences worldwide. She is married to Jonathan Tommey who runs The Autism Clinic and they have three children, one of whom has autism.

### ***The Autism Trust***

The Autism Trust recognises the immense gap that exists between the demand for and availability of existing residential and professional support options once children with autism leave supported education through the world.

The goal of the charity is to bridge this gap through the development of a network of consistently outstanding and innovative outreach centres for autism worldwide. The Autism Trust considers it essential that each of these Centres of Excellence not only provides help and support to individuals with autism but also to their families and those involved with their care, support, ongoing education and development.

*For further information about The Autism Trust and its aims, please visit our website at [www.theautismtrust.org.uk](http://www.theautismtrust.org.uk)*

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## ***The Krug MIND share Auction***

The inaugural Krug Mind *share* charity auction, in association with the Financial Times, took place at Christie's on 5 November 2009. The project was born out of a desire to give people the opportunity to share their most treasured commodity, their mind, for the benefit of charity.

The campaign brought together top in class minds from the fields of business, finance, the arts, design, music and entertainment. Leaders in their field, Sir Philip Green, Sir Salman Rushdie, Arsene Wenger, Natalie Massenet, Sir Martin Sorrell, Nicholas Candy, Lang Lang, Gillian Tett, Judy Craymer, Arsene Wenger and Jancis Robinson all generously agreed to auction their mind for a charity of their choice, sharing their intellectual property for 60 minutes at a private audience with the winning bidder.

For more information on the auction, visit [www.krugmindshare.com](http://www.krugmindshare.com).