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# Generous Charlotte gives disability families a break

AN altruistic property developer has donated £5,000 to enable a group of young people with disabilities to take part in an activity weekend at Avon Tyrrell near Bransgore.

Charlotte Grobien (pictured left), founder of the charity Give It Away, has spent the last decade supporting youth charities with the entire proceeds of a number of London property renovations. To date she has given away £1.7m to 23 charities that support young people, including a recent award to UK Youth which runs Avon Tyrrell.

The funding was used to subsidise a recent New Forest disability adventure weekend for a group of young people and their families.

The donation enabled families who have a child with a disability to enjoy a rare family break away and the opportunity to take part in a programme of fully accessible outdoor adventures. Activities included climbing, high ropes, archery, kayaking and mountain biking, exploring the picturesque New Forest site and spotting the wildlife at twilight.

As well as taking part in the outdoor activities, the inclusion weekend also enabled attendees to experience, learn and develop in a comfortable and exciting environment. One of the most important aspects of the weekend was bonding and sharing experiences with other families, and making friends around the campfire.

Charlotte, who was made an OBE in 2015, said: "Visiting Avon Tyrrell and seeing the pleasure and enjoyment my donation could offer to families was very special for me.

"I am always aware that sib-



Charlotte Grobien is pictured with Tiernan and Mike Gist, and UK Youth trustee Daniel Chan (right)

lings sometimes are not able to enjoy activity 'away' days like this when they have brothers and sisters with special needs, so it was great to see everyone having a good time and trying out some daredevil stuff!

"The staff at Avon Tyrrell are dedicated, competent, charming and endlessly patient. I know that the parents really appreciate these precious family moments in this beautiful, safe environment where they can relax and meet other families with similar circumstances and know that all the children are having fun.

"It is opportunities like these that help young people develop, gain confidence and achieve something new, whilst sharing

experiences with their siblings. It really does mean a lot to them."

Avon Tyrrell director David Watts, said: "We are extremely lucky as a charity to receive the funding from Charlotte Grobien and Give it Away to support families with a child with a disability.

"Our mission is to provide new opportunities for everyone to experience, learn and develop and it is weekends like these and the accessibility that we have that ensures everyone can be involved and enjoy these opportunities."

For more information about UK Youth and Avon Tyrrell call: 01425 672347 or email [info@ukyouth.org](mailto:info@ukyouth.org)