

Improving Chances for Ugandans



Registered Charity 1138984

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
OCTOBER 2014

Trustees: Len Richards, John Scampion, Patricia Scampion

1. INTRODUCTION

The charity has focussed this year on the Good Shepherd School and particularly the Outreach project there.

In February one of the Trustees (PS) visited Rwbaale to see the completed Maternity Ward. Shortly after this visit the ward was finally opened for use. PS was able to confirm that the building had been completed to a high and very satisfactory specification and she will be returning in 2015 to see it in use.

The Good Shepherd School continues to thrive. The main school is seeing the integration of children with a wide range of needs and is at the same time achieving some excellent exam results from the most able pupils at the top end of the school. The vocational classes are productive and a new carpentry workshop has enabled an expansion of the work undertaken there.

The Outreach Project continues to be led by teacher Margret with invaluable input from the physiotherapist. A small number of children have “graduated” from the project to the main school, so there has been some turnover of pupils attending. The project now also employs a part time nurse with links to the Government Referral Hospital and local clinics, and the school is becoming increasingly confident and adept at managing children with epilepsy.

The charity funds the Outreach Project in its entirety, the biggest component of this expenditure being the cost of transporting the children into school. Repairs, insurance and fuel for the cabin truck are comparatively expensive, and some children need to be transported by taxi or boda-boda. However, this does ensure that children who would otherwise not be able to attend school benefit from an education.

This year the school created a small sensory room for the most severely disabled children, dedicated to the memory of Angus Hindley. A selection of simple light installations were transported from the UK, including fibre-optic lights, led lights and a bubble tube. Funding was ring fenced for this purpose and included the purchase and installation of solar panels to power

the room and its equipment. The result was magical and should enhance the ability of the staff to provide individualised programs of stimulation and learning for the children.

2. CHARITY INCOME

Carried over from 2012-13 £3,601

Donations/sponsorship £18,055

Gift Aid was claimed where appropriate.

Some donations, particularly from Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich, have been made with specific spends in mind. We have honoured these requests and forwarded the money directly to Sr Theresa. Such donations have been made particularly toward the building of staff accommodation on the school site, and toward the setting up of the sensory room in the school.

We have noticed that recently it has become increasingly difficult to raise money for the charity. A number of applications to grant making trusts have been unproductive, and a second bid to Children-in-Need was turned down. Because of this, a concerted effort to elicit regular “pay-roll” giving was made toward the end of the year, with a mail shot to as many people known to the Trustees as possible. This was moderately successful but will still leave us with a shortfall of funding for the Outreach Project.

3. EXPENDITURE

Total.....£18,906

Good Shepherd School.....£18,590

Bank charges.....£ 316

Within the funding for the school this year are included the set-up costs of the Sensory room and its solar panels, and the day to day costs of running the Outreach Project.

The Outreach costs are paid quarterly as follows:

Salaries: Teacher.....	750,000 Ug sh
Teaching Assistant (Outreach)	240,000
T. Ass't (Nursery)	
To support outreach "graduates"...	450,000
Teacher (Vocational).....	150,000
Driver.....	450,000
Physiotherapist.....	600,000
Nurse.....	360,000
Transport, including fuel and servicing.....	9,240,000
Sundries (school fees/family support).....	690,000
 Total.....	 12,930,000Ug sh = £3,100

Over and above this are unpredictable and one off costs, including vehicle insurance (£1,000 pa approx.), parts and repairs to the vehicle (new tyres, new battery etc), staff training costs, medicines and hospital fees for the children.

4. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY

The major fundraising event of the year was the attempt by one of the trustees to run the London Marathon. Despite injury limiting her to the first 11 miles donors were very generous.

5. TRUST MANAGEMENT

The charity continues with three trustees. Len Richards moved to Australia in November 2013 but is prepared to remain a trustee, the business of the charity to be conducted with him by e-mail and Skype. He is exploring ways of fundraising in that part of the world. An AGM was held before his departure in October 2013, but this year's AGM has been delayed until March, when two of the trustees will have returned from a brief visit to Fort Portal.

The trustees have reviewed the aims and objectives of Improving Chances. In view of the difficulties raising money and the costs of maintaining the Outreach Project (£12,000 pa minimum) the charity will focus on the Good Shepherd School. It will aim to cover the running costs of the Outreach. Any monies collected over and above this will constitute contingency savings. Should the financial position improve in the future it is hoped that money might become available to develop the Outreach further and provide it with more equipment, and also to support the Rwbaale Health Unit further. However, the charity will continue to support Sr Theresa in her work to make the school as self sufficient as possible, bearing in mind the need for an exit strategy.