

Improving Chances for Ugandans



Registered Charity 1138984

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING

October 2012

Trustees:

Len Richards, John Scampion, Patricia Scampion

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the second annual report for the charity Improving Chances for Ugandan Mothers and Children, following registration as a charity in 2010.

The charity continues to support two projects in Uganda: the Good Shepherd Special School in Fort Portal and the Health Unit in Rwbaale.

The Good Shepherd School continues to develop and thrive. Some 150 children now attend the school, of whom 20% (not including those in the Outreach Project) have very significant disability or learning difficulty. The remainder of the children attend the school because they have struggled in a mainstream setting. These latter children would not be seen as having significant problems in a UK setting, but are disabled in Uganda by an educational system that itself suffers from insufficient teachers and excessively large class sizes. Hence many of the children have excellent potential, and four have this year been able to pass the end of primary school examinations and move on to secondary school. Thus the Good Shepherd School stands as a model for integration and inclusion, as well as for nurturing a significant group of children disabled by virtue of physical, sensory, behavioural, or intellectual impairment. The vocational class for older disabled young people, and the Outreach Project catering for a small group of profoundly disabled children (started February 2012) continue to flourish.

The Health Unit also continues to do great work for its local community. While the maternity block Improving Chances is committed to constructing is still not completed, mothers and children receive health care from the “hub” building, in collaboration with local government services including the hospital at Kyenjojo, and a number of NGOs. There is high profile involvement of the local community in the management, funding and service delivery of the unit.

Both projects were visited by Improving Chances Trustees in February 2012 and February 2013, who were impressed by what they saw and reassured that the funds raised by the charity were well used.

2. CHARITY INCOME

Carried Over From 2011.....£8,450

Donations/sponsorships.....£21,647

The donations included two gifts totalling £2,500 from All Saints Church, Stand, which were sent directly to The Good Shepherd School for purchase of a knitting machine and for the construction of gates and the first part of a fence around the school to improve security.

Gift aid was claimed on the above donations whenever possible.

Donations of self-funded time and expertise by visiting UK professionals to the school in Feb 2012 were identified in the last Annual Report, and continue to be gratefully received.

3. CHARITY EXPENDITURE

Rwbaale Health Unit Build.....	£13,381
The Good Shepherd Outreach.....	£6,581
Good Shepherd vocational equipment and fencing....	£4,696
Bank charges.....	£138
Total.....	£24,796

4. ACTIVITY SUPPORTED

The construction funded by Improving Chances at Rwbaale is a stand alone maternity suite. Currently babies delivered in the “hub” are born in what is essentially the curtained off end of a corridor. The new build will include a lying in ward, delivery suite and post natal beds. Sadly it is taking us a long time to raise sufficient money to complete this building. However, the walls and roof are complete, window frames and doors in place and the inner walls have been plastered. There is still much internal decoration and furnishing to complete, as well as water supply, drainage and electricity to install. As there is no piped water supply in the area, water is either transported by lorry to the site, or provided by collection of rain water . The required huge rain water barrels have been purchased but cannot be connected until the rest of the work is completed. Solar panels will eventually provide electricity. The charity needs a “big push” to raise the money to get this building ready for use...it is so important to the people in this area.

The charity’s financial involvement with the Good Shepherd School is growing. Since Feb 2012 it has taken on the whole of the recurring funding of the Outreach Project. This means it is paying the teaching staff salaries for this project (not for the rest of the school), for the physiotherapy sessions, the cost of maintenance of the vehicle and the fuel required to bring the children in to the project, and aids and equipment for the children. Improving Chances has undertaken to fund this project, through which some 20 severely disabled children are able to access education and play, and some basic health care, for a minimum of three years. Other sources of funding are being sought: a bid to Comic Relief was turned down, but will be pursued again when

applications are being accepted again (Sept 2013), the Joffe Trust and Fr O'Mahoney Memorial Trust have been approached.

The school also attracts funding from sources which donate the money to Improving Chances but which request it is ring fenced for specific projects as outlined in 2.

5. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The main fundraising event for 2011-2012 was a Hadrian's Wall Challenge. Teams of volunteers raised sponsorship for walking or cycling the Hadrian's Wall path in May 2012. This was a very successful event.

Plans for 2013 include

- The National Three Peaks again
- Crossing Morecombe Bay

And for 2014: The London Marathon

And possibly, Mount Elgon or the Rwenzoris

Further applications to grant giving trusts will be pursued.

6. TRUST MANAGEMENT

The charity continues to maintain a good cash flow with bank charges as the only overheads. It would like to attract more regular "payroll" donors to make the income stream a little less precarious. While the health unit has a regular source of income to support its day to day activity and Improving Chances is providing only non-recurring investment, the same is not true for the school. The trustees are committed to helping Sr Theresa develop the school's self sufficiency, being mindful of the need for an exit strategy, should the charity be unable to continue its work, that would not mean that the school had to close.

Improving Chances has three trustees. It is exploring the possibility of expanding this number.

It continues to be grateful of the support of M&M partnership, and Lynn May particularly, for maintaining the website.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next AGM of Improving Chances will be held in November 2013, at the end of the charity's next full year of activity.

Patricia Scampion 28/05/2013