



Tushinde Children's Trust

Chairperson's Annual Report

20010/11

Introduction

This is the first Annual Report of the Tushinde Charitable Trust. The report covers the establishment of the Trust in March 2010 to the end of the financial year on 31st March 2011.

We have had a remarkable year, both establishing a new charitable trust and raising over fifty four thousand pounds sterling. Through this we are beginning to make an impact on the issues that inspired the formation of the trust; *supporting children in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya with nutrition and education*; and living up to our name, *Tushinde*, which means 'we are succeeding' in Swahili.

We are not of course complacent but have a growing sense of confidence that, together with our growing band of supporters, volunteers and donors and our partner non-governmental organisations in Nairobi, we have the potential to make a real and sustained improvement to the life chances of children in the Mathare slums of Nairobi.

Origin of Tushinde Children's Trust

In November of 2009 Megan Wright sent an inspirational email appeal for sponsorship of children at the Mogra Star Academy located in the Mathare slums in Nairobi. An unanticipated reduction in support from an international NGO had precipitated a serious financial hole in the budgets of the Mogra school and its sister organisation, the Mogra Children's Rescue Centre. She also requested help to establish a UK based charity to fund raise tax efficiently for these most deserving projects and programmes. This led directly to an informal meeting just before Christmas 2009 when Megan met potential trustees in Fife, while she was back in the UK for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Tushinde Children's Trust Start Up

In February 2010 Tushinde Children's Trust was formed when three founding trustees met in St Andrews and adopted the Trust Deed for the charity enshrining the following objects:

(a) Within Nairobi, to provide schooling and to relieve poverty principally through:

- *the provision of schooling for slum and street children;*
- *shelter for destitute children;*
- *economic support for parents and carers who are living in extreme poverty in order that their dependent school-aged children can complete their schooling without their being taken into residential care and*
- *support for parents and carers who are living in extreme poverty and have experienced interruptions to their schooling, in order that they may complete their foundation learning.*

(b To) work in partnership with local non-governmental organisations and other agencies in order to deliver these services.

Shortly after this meeting, a further trustee was co-opted.

Subsequently, Tushinde applied to the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for recognition of its charitable status. In mid-March 2010, Tushinde Children's Trust received its letter of recognition from OSCR. Our on-line entry in the register of charities in Scotland can be found on the OSCR website at <http://www.oscr.org.uk/search-charity-register/charity-extract/?charitynumber=SC041330>

Key Achievements

I have summarised below our key achievements over the year.

- 54 children sponsored;
- £54,730 raised including
 - £30,000 grant from anonymous Trust in London (two quarterly instalments of a grant of £120,000 distributed over 24 months to fund the enhanced feeding programme for nearly 1000 children and
 - Tushinde funding of a school kitchen, built in a former store room, to facilitate the cooking and serving of breakfasts and lunches at the school for the enhanced feeding programme;
- Enhanced feeding programme begins in early October. Six months later Mrs Jane Ongiro, the headmistress of the Mogra Star Academy reports that the feeding programme has transformed the school.
“Attendance has significantly improved and is consistently over 94%.”
“Concentration in class is much better, as is punctuality as everyone likes to get in early for their porridge.”
“By also feeding the teachers, it has meant that they are able to stay in school over the lunch hour and offer extra help to students who need it and also provide better supervision of the children”;
- A series of UK volunteers deploy their enthusiasm and skills with the Mogra Projects in Nairobi supplementing the work of the existing staff working in the Mogra School and Rescue Centre;
- Many hundreds of gifts in kind, including books and numerous items of children’s clothing were also donated and put to immediate use and
- Building work has been planned and pledged funding raised for the building of additional dormitory accommodation at the Mogra Rescue Centre so that each young girl and young woman can have her own bunk bed and their accommodation can be more age segregated.

Regular updates including our e-newsletters and more detailed copies of project reports can be found on our website <http://www.tushinde.org.uk/>

Key Milestones 2010/11

As this was our first year of operation, our activities as trustees were divided between not only disbursing funding to projects to directly improve the lives of children in the Mathare slums of Nairobi but also establishing the underpinning infrastructure of Tushinde Children’s Trust as a functional and credible charitable

organisation in the UK.

2010

- Registration with OSCR March and opening of Bank Account in St Andrews March;
- Launch of Volunteers' Blog in March <http://www.tushinde.blogspot.com/>
and Facebook page April <http://www.facebook.com/Tushinde>
- First short term volunteer recruited to work with Mogra projects in Nairobi in May;
- Recognition from HM Revenues and Customs in June;
- Visit by Chairperson (funded personally) to Mogra Projects in Nairobi during July;
- £120,000 Grant for Enhanced Feeding Programme awarded by anonymous UK trust (£60,000 per annum for two years) announced July;
- Launch of Website September <http://www.tushinde.org.uk/>
- Garden Party Blackheath August;
- Fundraising Lunch Fife August;
- First e-newsletter emailed to supporters and friends of Tushinde;
- Enhanced Feeding Programme Begins in Mathare 1st October and
- Just Giving Account set up November <http://www.justgiving.com/tushinde>

2011

- Our in-country Trustee in Kenya leads the registration of Tushinde Kenya;
- Individuals fundraisers undertake challenges to which they seek sponsorship through Just Giving December – March and £4088 raised by their efforts and their supporters;
- First Monitoring Report on the Enhanced Feeding Programme sent to anonymous charitable trust in London recording very positive indicators of improved child health and learning;
- Second e-newsletter emailed to supporters and friends of Tushinde and
- Series of Fundraising events planned for Easter and House Concerts in May

Plans for 2011/12

- To raise more than £100,000 - more than doubling our annual income;
- To facilitate the enhancement of teaching and learning at the Mogra Star Academy;
- To work towards the self-sustainability of the Mogra Projects in Nairobi;
- To recruit two or three more trustees in the UK
- To set up a Twitter account and link this to the Tushinde website

Commitment to Low Overheads

We are committed to maintaining low overheads and maximising the impact of donations from our various supporters. More specifically, the accounts show that our overheads were only £615 throughout the year. This was chiefly spent on bank charges for the international credit transfers to the projects in Kenya. We achieved such low overheads (less than 1.5%) by drawing on the unpaid time and resources of our trustees and key supporters and by using email as our primary means of communication between trustees and with our donors.

Acknowledgments

I should like to acknowledge the input of my fellow trustees and some key supporters of our Trust. They have contributed many hours of unpaid work to help establish the organisation and raise over £54K. Of special significance is:

- the accounting of our Treasurer Andrew Wright;
- the photography of Tegula Ridley,
- the website development and maintenance work of Samantha Winstanley;
- the email management by Clem Bidwell;
- the running of our first fund raising lunch in August by Clare Wright, also one of the founding trustees of Tushinde and
- at the centre of our activities Megan Wright, establishing child sponsorships and acting as a vital conduit of communication between the Mogra people and projects in Nairobi and the Tushinde Trustees and supporters in the UK.

Conclusion

It has been my privilege to act as Chairperson in this exciting developmental year. At times it has been a steep learning curve for our group of Trustees. This has been made much easier by the pro bono advice we have sought and received from lawyers, other professional advisers and sister charities.

We have been inspired by our vision enshrined in our trust deed and sustained by the enthusiasm and generosity of our supporters and volunteers. Accordingly, I think this has been a very worthwhile first year of operation.

Laurie Bidwell
Chairperson of the Trustees
laurie@tushinde.org.uk