

The Mary Wood Trust

Annual Report- 2018/2019

Charity Name

The Mary Wood Trust

Registration Number ----- 1144311

Registered address --- 9 Handforth Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 2LX

Charity Structure, Governance and Management

Trustees

Chairperson --Clare Ramsden

Treasurer — Dr Peter Wood

Trustees — Kath Smith, Ann Gover, Pippa Hutchins

Trustee selection method – By personal invitation and approval by existing trustees.

We have held four trustees meetings this year, giving us the opportunity to discuss our various ongoing projects in Uganda, the finances of the charity, the various fundraising activities that have taken place, proposed future fundraising events, how the money raised should be spent in Uganda, and importantly keeping up communications with our various contacts in Kanungu District and Kinkiizi Diocese.

We try our hardest to make sure that the money we send out to Uganda and spent there is fully accounted for, endeavouring to get receipts where possible. Any money sent for building projects at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School is channelled via the Diocese of Kinkiizi, where the contacts we have there are trusted and reliable, the relationship having been built up over many years.

During our last trustees meeting of the year it was decided to ask Pippa Hutchins if she would like to become a trustee. She is the second daughter of Mary and Derek Wood and her experience as a teacher, counsellor and mother seemed wonderful assets to the charity. She was able to see first-hand the work that the Mary Wood Trust do when she and Clare visited Uganda in October. Fortunately, Pippa agreed to join the charity and will attend her first meeting in June.

Trustees have visited S W Uganda twice this year, always at their own expense.

These visits are very important as they allow for inspection of building work carried out and also for continued support and interest in the projects and people, especially the students and staff at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School, the children and teachers at Ruth Memorial Nursery School in Kihiihi, an increasing number of sponsored girls who have gone on to University and further vocational training, and also the dental clinic and medical facility at Nyakatare Heath Centre. Maintaining this visible sign of commitment and support is vital to the personal nature of the charity.

Aims and Objectives

- 1.To provide scholarships for education and training with a view to improving disadvantaged young peoples' life skills and opportunities in Uganda.
- 2.To advance education and relieve poverty by providing sponsorship, training, funds or items for disadvantaged children, young people and those in need in Uganda.

3.To develop facilities in Kinkiizi, Kanungu district, in particular but not exclusively, at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School and Ruth Memorial Nursery School, in order to achieve the aims outlined in 1 and 2 above.

Activities and Objectives

Activities over the past year

Ruth Memorial Nursery School (RMNS) in Kihiihi continues to provide a basic primary education for approximately 70 young children, aged 2 to 11 years, under the directorship of its founder, Ephraim Tumwesigye. We now provide daily porridge, pancakes and daily milk the young children, many of whom are AIDS orphans being cared for by extended family members. The people in this area are very poor and it is reassuring to think that the children who attend RMNS are getting at least one good meal a day.

We have continued to provide much needed stationery for the school this year. We have provided several footballs for the children to play with as well as some mattresses for the youngest children to nap on, (rather than a straw mat on the floor). The fence and gate that were installed at the front of the school manages to keep the children safe, stopping them from running on to the road and also being harassed by unwelcome visitors. We have installed a water tap within the grounds of the nursery school and have also built a wall to separate the play area at the back of the school from the latrine area - a necessary requirement from the local health and education authority. The outdoor play equipment which we provided last year continues to be a great source of enjoyment, as do the new footballs.

It is very heartening to see the children enjoying these improved facilities, although it is obvious that the school runs on minimal finances.

Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School (NGSS)

This Church of Uganda school, which was founded in 1987, is the only girls boarding school under the umbrella of the Diocese of Kinkiizi. Its rural situation, on sometimes impassable roads, makes it very difficult to access, particularly in the wet season. This emphasises the importance of its boarding status.

Over the years the MWT has worked hard to help support the school, both with student sponsorship and upgrading buildings.

A new head teacher has been appointed, Mrs Molly Musingusi. She has a degree in education and an MA in language and translation. It is hoped that she will be able to inspire both the teachers and the students and that she can help build a better relationship between the school and the local community.

Malaria is still a problem in this rural environment and so we continue to provide mosquito nets to all new entrants to the school.

The number of sponsored boarding students that we support has now increased to 30 and we are also sponsoring 10 day girls from the local community. All the girls we support are chosen because of their need and their poor family backgrounds.

The Sick Bay continues to provide a safe and clean environment for girls who are not well. The full-time nurse is able to treat minor ailments. If a condition is beyond her remit, then she will refer a student to a doctor. She is also responsible for women's health education and guidance.

The Female Staff House- Mary Hall – built by the MWT in 2015, is working well. It gives good, clean and spacious accommodation for the female staff.

The Dining Shelter is now complete, after we were able to provide the final funding needed to complete the floor. It is good to know that when it rains the girls can eat their food in a dry environment, and not resort to the unhealthy habit of taking meals back to the dormitories. The new dining shelter is also used for PTA meetings and other get-togethers.

We have provided 3 solar light systems to the school which are used in a number of classrooms, so that girls can study and do their homework at night, when there is no electricity connected. We have also given personal solar lights to all the teaching staff, to help make their lives easier when it comes to preparing lessons at night.

The Cliff Smith sewing room is now completed and fully equipped with sewing machines and cutting tables and a lockable storage cupboard. A part time sewing/tailoring teacher comes to the school three times a week, to teach some of the girls the basic knowledge needed to use a sewing machine. It is hoped that this facility will help equip the girls with a useful skill, alongside their academic lessons. We are very grateful to Kath Smith for providing this facility, in memory of her husband who died in 2014.

The Samaritan Fund that we set up two years ago is working well. This money is kept by the head teacher and pays for emergency items that some girls cannot afford such as sanitary pads, toilet paper, toothpaste and soap. Some girls even find it difficult to provide their correct uniforms or shoes or may require a visit to an optician. This fund is there to help, and the head teacher has to keep a good record of how it is spent.

Sports at NGSS have always been popular, especially football, volley ball and netball.

The renovation of the existing Male Staff Accommodation and building of new Male Staff Accommodation was completed in October 2018. The MWT were very fortunate to be able to finance this project, using funds that had been donated over the past few years, from a legacy and also donations. The new buildings, Derek House 1 and Derek House 2 were named after the husband of Mary Wood, who was so supportive of the importance of educating young women in a society.

While this work was being carried out, we also upgraded the head teacher's house - renewing the floors and doors, tiling the washroom and providing piped water to the house.

We believe that if you want teachers to work hard at inspiring their students then it is important to take care of them too by providing decent and clean accommodation.

Nyakatare Health Centre (NHC)

Situated in Kanungu Town, NHC is a Diocesan Health Centre and provides good quality medical care to the local community.

The new microscope, donated by the charity Medical Missionary News, was very gratefully received. It was good to see that the water taps in the laboratory are still working well, along with the new generator. The patient's new latrine and washing area which we have financed is proving to be a great asset to the centre.

The Dental Unit is run by dentist Peter Muhenda. He treats patients at the clinic and he goes out into the community, educating people about oral hygiene and diet. He tries to visit the local schools on a regular basis and endeavours to travel to NGSS every year. These outreaches cost money and sometimes we are in a position to help with these.

This year we have provided the dentist with a new lab coat, a head torch and also a number of toothbrushes- always a help when it comes to incentivising his patients.

The majority of the mothers who come to the centre to give birth are very poor and it is good to be able to take out plenty of baby clothes so that the new born babies can have a baby grow to go home in.

Past Students

We are very happy and fortunate to be in a position to support a number of ex NGSS girls as they pursue further education.

We have two girls studying at Kabale University, two girls at Bishop Barham University, one girl at Great Lakes College, one girl at Nyakatere Technical college, one girl at Kihiihi Technical college, two girls at Bwindi Nursing School .

One of our past students works for Uganda Wildlife Authority(UWA) in the financial department, (and will soon complete her full CPA training) one girl is working as a librarian in Trinity College Library in Kabale, and one girl is studying her part one CPA.

This really is a great achievement, considering the poor backgrounds of these girls.

Newsletters and raising awareness

We have distributed two newsletters this year- one in June and one in December.

Article in St Bartholomew's Parish Magazine

We have changed our website provider

Our Facebook page is a good way to keep some people informed about the activities of the charity.

Financial Review

Overview of the year.

During this financial year we have continued to be blessed by a regular income from many longstanding and some new faithful regular donors. We have also received a number of larger gifts for specific projects and monies donated in memory of a friend of Mary Wood at her funeral. We are very thankful for all these gifts and work hard ensure that they are used wisely.

Principal sources of funds

Our overall income increased by around £4,500 to £37,506. The vast majority of this has been personal donations either directly through the bank or via PayPal. Church donations have remained static at £2299 (£2337), charitable

trust receipts are slightly less at £3,000 (£3,550), and EBay Sales have increased significantly from £286, to £1,128, which represents many sales. We have continued to receive Gift Aid from the UK government, for which we are very grateful £2658 (£3060),

Expenditure

This last year we spent far more (£49,546) than the previous years, £71,965 as compared with £22,419 the previous year. Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School had a number of building projects that we had been raising funds for over the last couple of years that we were able to support and enable. As a result we sent £46,973 towards the projects detailed above, this making up the large part of the £49,546 extra spent.

We were careful to ensure that monies were accounted for and there was sound financial control exerted by the Treasurer of KInkiizi Diocese through whom all the money for these projects passed. We are grateful to her for her excellent assistance.

We continue to support Students at NGSS and the Nursery and the support that we have been able to send has increased slightly (10% and 12% respectively) since last year. We have continued to use Western Union to send money to Uganda. They agreed at the end of 2018 to remove the £10 Forex transaction fee, which has been very welcome.

Fundraising

Selling on E bay and through local Marketplace. £1128.04

Coffee morning in Marcham ? £201.09

Small Change Collection at Marcham ? £330.63 plus £243.26

Car Boot sale in Kenilworth £175.60

Lothersdale School £184.39

Christmas Collection Lothersdale Church £109.70

Coffee morning in Kenilworth £97

Through church and Facebook for Solar Light funding and sports equipment

Buying on the internet through Give As You Live scheme £24.27

Financial Policy

We have written a financial policy for the Trust which states how money is handled. This is available on request.

Reserve funds

We have £20,000 reserved to help provide a regular on-going income to support 10 girls at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School, and a further £5000 reserved to help provide regular on-going support for the students pursuing further education, in the unlikely closure of the charity

We have £5000 reserved in case the funding for food and porridge at RMNS should cease. This would enable to nursery school to run for a year before the money runs out.

How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity.

By providing sponsorship for 30 girls at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School, all of whom come from needy backgrounds, we are helping to ensure that they have a good secondary education and therefore a good start in life. This in turn will improve the standard of their own families and hopefully uplift their whole communities.

By providing mosquito nets and the sick bay and nurse, we are ensuring that the girls are being cared for when sick and hopefully learning to keep themselves safe.

The improvements to the fabric of both NGSS and RMNS will give a clean and safe environment for the children and young people to learn in.

By providing play equipment at RMNS we are allowing the young children to learn how to play and have fun.

Our ability to support some girls beyond NGSS is hopefully going to produce useful and educated and informed citizens who will make a difference in their own families and the community beyond.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

In line with the new GDPR regulations that came into force in the EU, we have tried to ensure that we comply to the regulations. We have obtained consent using a customised GDPR Consent Form, from most of our supporters. This has enabled us to ensure that we are only communicating with those who have expressed consent for us to do so. We will endeavour to ensure that this is kept up to date.

The data we hold is kept up to date.

Privacy Policy

The Mary Wood Trust has written a privacy policy which is available to view on our website.