

The Mary Wood Trust

Annual Report 2017-2018

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

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

We have held three meetings this year where we have discussed the finances of the charity, fundraising activities since the last meeting, proposed future fundraising events, our various on-going commitments in Uganda, how monies should be spent in Uganda, and communications with our contacts in Kanungu. We try hard to ensure that the money sent to Uganda and spent there is fully accounted for and we endeavour to get receipts wherever possible. The money sent for building projects at the school is channelled through the Diocese of Kinkiizi, (Anglican Church of Uganda), where we have trusted and reliable contacts.

It is our hope that at least one trustee will visit S W Uganda each year, at their own expense. This is very important as it allows 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 Nyakatara 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 65 children, aged 2 to 11 years, under the directorship of its founder, Ephraim Tumwesigye. We now provide daily porridge, pancakes and milk twice a week to 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 been able to provide much needed stationery for the school this year, thanks to the generous commitment from a church in Chelmsford. We have managed to renovate some of the dilapidated classrooms, providing much needed classroom space, as well as replace much of the old kitchen and cooking equipment. We have provided a number of 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). Most importantly we have enabled a fence to be erected at the front of the school which makes sure that the children can no longer run into the road.

We have also given some outdoor play equipment - a slide and two see-saws - which have proved to be very popular.

All in all, the children now have a much-improved environment in which to learn and play.

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 difficult to access.

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, to refer to a doctor if necessary and 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, a joint venture between the MWT and the PTA, is almost complete. Despite the floor not being finished, the shelter still offers a dry place for the girls to eat their meals when it is raining, instead of the unhealthy habit of taking food back to their dormitories.

The mains power supply is unpredictable and the generator often too expensive to use. To overcome this problem, we gave all the teachers individual solar lights so that they could prepare their lessons in the evening. We also bought some three-light bulb solar systems to be used in some of the classrooms when dark so that some of the girls could study at night.

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 school volley ball team won the district cup for the third year running. We have provided various items of new kit and trainers as well as footballs and volleyballs.

We have further plans for the school which we hope will make it more attractive for both staff and pupils alike.

In line with promoting vocational skills within the Diocese, we will be setting up a fully equipped sewing room at the school. This is the gift of one of our trustees, Mrs Kath Smith, in memory of her husband, Cliff, who died in 2014. We are hoping that this will be finished and ready for use in September 2018, when a qualified tailoring teacher will come twice a week to share her knowledge and equip the girls with a skill that will help them when they leave school.

We are also in the final stages of planning to construct new male staff accommodation as well as renovating the existing building, which is in a very poor state. We believe that this will help in recruiting good teachers to this remote school, making the teachers feel appreciated and valued.

Nyakatare Health Centre (NHC)

Situated in Kanungu Town, NHC provides good quality medical care to the local community. Thanks partially to the financial support from Medical Missionary News, we have provided a new latrine and washing area for the patients as well as connecting running water to the laboratory.

The Dental Unit has a new dentist, Peter Muhenda. He qualified recently from Mulago Hospital and as well as treating patients at the clinic, he is trying hard to educate people about oral health through community outreach programmes.

We have been able to provide a small number of toothbrushes and other dental education items which helps with incentivising the patients.

We gave out a number of donated baby clothes to new mothers when taking part in one of these outreaches.

Past Students

We are very proud of our MWT sponsored girls who have managed to go on to various forms of Further Education.

One student is part way through her post graduate Chartered Professional accountancy training; two girls are about to complete their degrees; one girl is half way through her degree in Public Administration; one girl is training to be a midwife; two more girls plan to join Bishop Barham University; one girl is studying for a diploma; one girl is doing a vocational course in electrical installation; another in agriculture.

The vocational courses often provide an easier route to employment.

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, and aim to keep this updated as often as possible..

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

Financial Review

Overview of the year.

Over this last year we have received over £32,000 from various sources, for which we are extremely grateful. The principal sources of funds are detailed below, however over £18,000 of this is directly from personal donations, with a further £3090 being received back via claiming Gift Aid. We are delighted that we have a broad base of donors, and that they remain confident in our handling of the money entrusted to us and want to partner with us in making a difference to the lives of girls and boys and young women studying in South West Uganda.

Principal sources of funds

These include, though not exclusively:

Linden Trust Donation - £3000

Private Donation towards Further education costs - £1392

Private donation towards school fees - £1116

Private Single Donation towards the running of the Trust - £1000

Church in Marcham, Oxfordshire - £625

Alderley Edge Inner Wheel towards Samaritan Fund - £500

Regular monthly giving from individuals for general funds

Regular monthly donations supporting the children's food at Ruth Memorial Nursery School – annual total of £2,893

Private sponsorship for 20 girls at NGSS.

Private sponsorship for a number of ex-NGSS students for further studies

Gift Aid receipts – A total of £3090 has been received in this financial year.

Fundraising

Presentation to the Inner Wheel of Alderley Edge and Bollin Valley

Selling on E bay

Coffee morning in Marcham

Small Change Collection at Marcham

Through church and Facebook for Solar Light funding and sports equipment

Book sale in Lothersdale.

Buying on the internet through Give As You Live scheme

Talk to Lothersdale Primary School

Financial Policy

We have written a new policy document for the Trust which states amongst other things, how money is handled. This is available on request. It will be ratified and adopted at one of our forthcoming meetings.

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.

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.

Privacy Policy

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