

# Friends of Grahamstown and District Development (FOGADD)

Registered Charity Number: 1093339

Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2025

# **Friends of Grahamstown and District Development**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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Principal Address: 22 Moor Park Drive, Leeds LS6 4BX UK

# Friends of Grahamstown and District Development

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### Legal and Administrative Information

This is a fundraising charity set up under a Trust Deed dated 16 January 2002 and Supplemental Deed dated 8 July 2002. The objects of the charity are to promote the advancement of education, health, welfare and sporting developments in Grahamstown (now known officially as Makhanda, though 'Grahamstown' is still in widespread usage – including on road-signs and official postal addresses), and the surrounding region of the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

### Trustees and Governance

Name of Trustee	Dates during which the named trustee acted if not for the whole period	Name of person or body entitled to appoint any charity trustee
Prof C Megone (Chair)		Trustee resolution
Mr C Iley (Treasurer)		Trustee resolution
Mrs A Hall		Trustee resolution
Mrs C Harvey		Trustee resolution
Mr M Lamb (Secretary)		Trustee resolution
Mr C Law		Trustee resolution
Mrs S Law		Trustee resolution
Mrs C Mallett		Trustee resolution
Prof D Matravars		Trustee resolution
Mrs D Megone		Trustee resolution
Mrs C Smith		Trustee resolution

Eleven trustees are appointed by resolution of the existing trustee body. New trustees are recruited through personal recommendation and approved by resolution of the existing trustee body. The details below explain the main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

### Activities and Achievements

#### Overview

FOGADD continues to support education and welfare projects in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, specifically in the Grahamstown area. During the financial year ended 31 March 2025 there were four full meetings of the UK trustees, whilst in South Africa there was one meeting of the Watch Committee. All committee members both in UK and SA remain volunteers, and all fund-raising is carried out on a voluntary basis. Two trustees visited Grahamstown in February 2025 and June 2025 and were able to meet some of the key people involved in projects supported by FOGADD. We would once again like to thank Mrs Margie Keeton for monitoring our activities in Grahamstown and Mr Gavin Keeton (formerly Professor of Economics at Rhodes University, and Chair of Grahamstown Rotary Club), who has overseen management of the SA Bank Account.

In November 2024 four trustees also met with a delegation from Rhodes University (RU), which is one of the principal institutions in Makhanda/Grahamstown. The delegation was led by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sizwe Mabizela, and the meeting was held in London, which the RU delegation were visiting. At the meeting we discussed the current vision of the University and the work of FOGADD, and explored areas of overlap.

#### ***i) Fund-raising***

Donations rose from £15,839 to £39,389 principally due to a large one-off donation for a specific project. The payment for this project was not made until after the financial year end. Other regular donations were broadly stable.

Our income from events rose from £2,452 to £3,247 due to another successful Quiz night. We are extremely grateful to the FOGADD trustees and their families who organised it and to all those who came along or made donations. Gift-Aid fell slightly as we are unable to reclaim Gift-aid on all donations such as those from charitable trusts.

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The average Rand sterling exchange rate was broadly similar to the previous financial year.

It remains the case that our medium-term strategy is to increase our regular donations and reduce our dependence on events, but we recognise the need to continue with events both to raise money and to widen the base of regular supporters. We are extremely grateful to all our supporters who give so generously and provide FOGADD with a sound basis to enable us to carry out our work, which remains much needed in such a poor part of a very poor Province.

As ever, we would encourage all regular donors to consider whether they have any friends who might contribute regularly, ***even on a small scale***, to a charity which has virtually no running costs but remains well-managed. Even ten more regular donors would make a significant difference.

### ***ii) Allocation of Funds***

How then do we spend the money which we receive?

#### Strategy

We continue to support six on-going projects but have also agreed to support another project over the next three years which is described further below. The projects we support also continue to provide us with good feedback on their activities, accounting well for the money we send, and in the case of the scholarships, which has always been one of our major outlays, we are now seeing very gratifying results as the scholars go on to higher education or employment. As usual, we report on the projects supported last year individually, setting out our comments on them again below.

The trustees are satisfied they have sufficient funds to pay bills and meet any liabilities as they fall due.

#### Scholarships

The amount spent on scholarships fell as one scholar at Victoria Girls High School matriculated in December. We are pleased to report that she is now studying law at Rhodes University. Another scholar has now been identified so our number of scholars will rise next year.

During 2024-25 we supported six scholars at PJ Olivier and Victoria Girls High School. We are pleased that our matriculating scholar passed matric at bachelors pass level. We are also pleased that FOGADD scholars from previous years continue to do well, either at university or in work.

Overall since we began, we have supported more than 40 scholars (including current scholars) and nearly all of them have either gained University or Tertiary Education places or gone on to full employment in good quality jobs (or both). In 2024-25 five scholars attended PJ Olivier High School, where the language of instruction is Afrikaans, and two attended Victoria Girls High School (see below). All the scholars continue to benefit from the opportunity to attend these good quality schools despite often difficult home backgrounds.

#### GADRA

*In the year ended 31 March 2025 a donation of R150,000 (£6,457) was paid, the same as the previous year.*

GADRA continues to operate in four main areas. Its overall objective is to improve the quality of education across the whole of Grahamstown and especially in the more deprived schools. This plan involves a number of initiatives including a mentoring programme at three schools for final year pupils, with that mentoring provided by Rhodes University students. This was a significant contributing factor in an excellent number of passes at University entrance standard from these schools.

For many years, GADRA has run the Matric School, which we also continue to support. This provides intensive tuition to school leavers, so as to improve their grades and thus improve their chances of further education and employment. GADRA is now the leading feeder school in Grahamstown (public or private) for Rhodes University. Since 2010, 1745 students have achieved bachelor level passes and 798 students have been enrolled at Rhodes university. We believe this achievement by GADRA continues to give credibility to the wider project they are undertaking to raise achievement levels in the



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weaker schools across the city. We are very pleased to continue to make a contribution to this outstanding Matric School.

Thirdly there is the mobile science lab which we have helped to fund since its inception, and which our funding continues to support. This is now overseen by GADRA because GADRA can provide the financial and other management skills needed to organise the work of the mobile science lab. There has been a shift in the project's approach to developing science education in weaker schools. Rather than supplying teachers into the schools, the teachers at the supported schools receive additional training and development through sessions undertaken at Rhodes University. The mobile lab then provides the necessary equipment for pupils to undertake practical work in biology and physics, as well as giving support for that practical work via the Xhosa speaking assistant.

Finally, GADRA has developed two "Whistlestop" schools, which we also continue to support through our funding. These schools work with deprived children at primary age to develop their literacy and numeracy, and thus to prevent them from falling behind in these key skills early in their educational development. So far results for this programme have proved to be outstanding, and we are delighted to be contributing to its support.

The large donation which was received in this financial year has been committed to GADRA to help fund the acquisition and refurbishment of suitable premises. Until now they have had to rent class rooms and their operations have been scattered over different sites. We believe the new premises will make their activities even more sustainable and effective in the long term.

### St Mary's Development and Care Centre (DCC)

*In the year ended 31 March 2025 a donation of R45,000 was made (£1,937), up from R40,000 in the previous year.*

We continued to provide funding to the St Mary's DCC which aims to help the children who are enrolled to grow up happy, healthy and safe. In addition to providing nutritious lunches after school, the DCC also provides support to over 200 children. It provides homework support, development of academic and physical skills as well as life skills working with organisations such as the Scouts and they also offer support to families.

### Child and Family Welfare (CFW)

*In the year ended 31 March 2025 a donation of R45,000 (£1,937) was paid compared with R40,000 in the previous financial year.*

This charity works with children suffering from abuse and neglect and struggles to retain the professional staff required. Rising levels of unemployment mean that more families are struggling and child malnutrition is increasing as well as problems arising from drug and alcohol abuse. Case-loads thus remain high, and salaries need to be competitive if social workers are to be attracted to Grahamstown as there is a national shortage of social workers. As in the past, the FOGADD contribution supports salary costs, aiming to help with staff retention.

We are delighted that under Martha Thompson, a qualified social worker who has also worked in the UK, together with the SA management committee of CFW, this important organization continues to develop its work. As part of that work, it is now successfully running three safe houses for 16 children that have suffered abuse or neglect as well as a pre-school and an after school care programme.

Fundraising for CFW remains challenging so we are pleased that FOGADD is able to continue to contribute to its survival.

### Siyazama Pre-School

*In the year ended 31 March 2025 an increased donation of R35,000 (£1,507) was paid, compared with R30,000 in the year ended 31 March 2024.*

Siyazama remains a model for pre-schools in the township, and our donation enables them to keep their buildings in good repair and provide some small additional funding for staff, who receive only a very small monthly stipend. This year part of the donation went towards giving the staff a small bonus

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following the award of a Certificate of Excellence to the school by Rhodes Education department as well as new curtains and a tiled sandpit that can be used as a paddling pool in summer

### Centre for Social Development ('CSD')

*In the year ended 31 March 2025 a donation of R25,000 (£1,076) was paid (in the previous financial year two donations of R15,000 and R25,000 were paid as the timing of the payment relating to 2023 meant it fell inside this accounting period).*

The CSD facilitates the development of early childhood communities and imparts skills to teachers and practitioners to strengthen community owned initiatives. CSD operates under the aegis of Rhodes University but is self-funded and our relationship with them has led to a recent meeting with the Vice-chancellor of Rhodes University to discuss how our different organisations can work together to benefit the city. (The meeting was noted above.)

### Assumption Nutrition

*In the year ended 31 March 2025, a donation of R15,000 (£646) was paid (year ended 31 March 2024 two donations of R10,000 and R15,000 were paid as the timing of the payment relating to 2023 meant it fell inside this accounting period).*

This project, like St Marys DCC, provides lunches to children who would otherwise not be sure of getting a meal at home. Our donations have been used mostly for food for children from very poor families.

### Prickly Pear Project

*In the year ended 31 March 2025 a donation of R30,000 (£1,291) was made as part of a three-year commitment to this project. It is partly funded by St Edward's Church in York.*

This project is being run by Rhodes Business School. It will provide developmental seminars for women and youth who sell prickly pears in Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown) and the Local Municipality. The aim is to build their capacity and enable these vulnerable groups to form co-operatives that will provide them with better working conditions and the opportunity for greater economic stability. This initiative is aligned with the broader vision of the Makhanda Circle of Unity (MCoU), which (amongst other areas) is to support the transformation of the informal economy and empower marginalized communities through collective enterprise and collaboration. We believe it will also develop the skills of the students who are developing the project.

### **iii) Costs and Publicity**

In all this activity, we seek to keep our costs to the barest minimum. Thus, almost all donations are spent on the needs in SA. Our only costs continue to be the bank charges for each electronic transfer of funds, and a monthly charge from Just Giving. We aim to minimise the bank charges by making just one transfer a year. Everyone involved directly in our work both here and in SA is contributing voluntarily.

The web-site address is [www.fogadd.org](http://www.fogadd.org), and we have a facebook page. We also have a short power point presentation which can be delivered to donor organisations such as schools and churches in order to provide their members with more information on our activities.

### **iv) Grahamstown Watch Committee**

We are grateful for the work of the Watch Committee in Grahamstown which continues to monitor all FOGADD projects and also to advise on other possible worthwhile areas for support. This committee plays a crucial role (along with the accounts and reports from the relevant organisations) in assuring us that the money raised by FOGADD is well spent. We are very fortunate that such skilled and busy people continue to offer their services. We are delighted that Mrs Margie Keeton, who is involved in a number of voluntary organisations in Grahamstown, continues to monitor projects on our behalf, and that Professor Keeton now monitors our banking activity.

Although we always make efforts to ensure that we are in regular electronic contact with Grahamstown, and the funded projects, visiting on the ground in this way is an extremely important supplement to such



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indirect contact. Both forms of engagement are recognised at the Eastern Cape end, and both play a role in the efficacy of FOGADD's work, and in assuring donors of the good use of their funds.

We continue to invite key Grahamstown stakeholders to attend trustee meetings on zoom. This has enabled all trustees to gain deeper insights into the activities FOGADD is supporting.

As noted above, the quality and dedication of the leaders of all the organisations FOGADD supports was both reassuring and heart-warming, with so much still needing to be done.

In terms of the wider circumstances in Grahamstown/Makhanda, although the drought broke in 2023, water supplies are affected by failures in the dams and the pumping facilities. Also, once again, the Municipality has still failed, in the reporting period, in effectively maintaining roads, sewerage and electricity delivery, keeping public highways clear of grazing animals (cows and donkeys), clearing rubbish and so on. The worst affected by these failures are still the poorest citizens. In late 2024 the State President ordered an investigation of potential corruption in the municipality, now underway, so that is indicative of the issues here.

In all these circumstances it remains, for another year, of the utmost importance to stress that the achievements of civil society, and in particular the organisations FOGADD supports, are even more impressive, and even more vital. In particular the work in education is outstanding, and this is so crucial both to enable students to gain employment and to enable them to be active citizens. In this area Grahamstown/Makhanda is becoming a leader in the Eastern Cape.

In conclusion, we reiterate our thanks to all our donors, and as chairman I would once again also like to thank all my fellow trustees for all the work they have put in over the last year. I would also like to thank all those in Grahamstown/Makhanda who send us regular reports on their activities. As this review has indicated the work needed to raise funds for FOGADD is always challenging. Nonetheless we wish to continue our support and, if possible, to increase it year on year. Recent events have only confirmed yet again the need for this.

Our current plan remains that of maintaining contributions to the activities we currently support, subject to satisfactory reports on their work. However, if possible, we would like to raise additional funds to increase our support for the ambitious project to raise standards in all the former 'township' schools. As already indicated, it is likely that the demands will continue to be challenging over the next few years as our support base also faces financial challenges. Having said that the overall sums required remain fairly small when viewed in a larger context and I am confident that we will continue to be motivated to meet the significant needs that continue to require addressing in Grahamstown.

**(Prof.) Christopher Megone, Chairman of Trustees.**

\* The conversions are approximations using an exchange rate of R23.23 to £1 which was the average for the past year.

### Policies

*There should be a description of the policies adopted as follows:*

- *Reserves Policy: The charity currently operates with minimal reserves at the end of the financial year as normally payments are made just before the year end. The trustees wish to retain a minimum level of reserves to enable the charity to meet its commitment to scholarships each year even if there is a significant fall in donations. Other donations are at their discretion dependent on the income raised each year. Trustees are endeavouring to build up its donor base with a view to having cash reserves equal to Scholarship fees committed, currently of c £7,000. The year-end reserves figure of £25,617 is currently significantly higher but this includes funding for a one off project to which we have since contributed approximately £20,000. But we will continue to try to build up our reserves whilst maintaining our support for projects.*

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- *Grant-making policy –*

1. Accountability and ease of monitoring e.g. proper accounts must be kept; Grahamstown Watch Committee able to monitor activity and report back on progress and outcome.
2. Effectiveness and achieving outcomes – e.g. monitoring of what scholars have gone on to do; monitoring of results from GADRA matric school and primary schools projects.
3. Meeting our priorities – our priorities are in the areas of education and welfare, with health and sport remaining as secondary targets.
4. Number of people benefiting – we want to uplift the whole community, so where we support individuals, as in the scholarship scheme, we shall be looking for knock on benefits for the wider community.
5. Geography – projects nearer to Grahamstown have priority, in part because of greater ease of monitoring via the Watch Committee.
6. Length of our commitment – important to classify all potential projects as ongoing or one-off.
7. Scholarship selection – independent Grahamstown scholarship committee to recommend scholarship awards for approval by Trustees.

- *Review of major risks (optional) –*

*Risk: failure of proper allocation of funds overseas*

*Action: Grahamstown Watch Committee to oversee activities, and accounts received from projects supported.*

### Signature and Declaration

I declare, in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

- The trustees have approved the report above; and
- Have authorised me to sign it on their behalf.



**Prof. C Megone, Chairman**

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025



## Friends of Grahamstown and District Development

### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF GRAHAMSTOWN AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT (FOGADD) CHARITY NUMBER 109339

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Grahamstown and District Development ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on page 8.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### Use of my report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 31 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the statement I have made.

Name: Linda Cooper

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCA

Office address: Little Trees, Brearton, Harrogate HG3 3BZ

Date:

7 November 2025

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### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Year ended £	31 March 2025 £	Year ended £	31 March 2024 £
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Donations and other similar receipts	39,389		15,839	
Fundraising events	3,247		2,452	
Gift aid	3,508		3,657	
Deposit interest	126		89	
Total receipts		<u>46,270</u>		<u>22,037</u>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
Charitable payments:				
Scholarships paid	7,095		8,310	
Grants paid	7,532		8,151	
Charitable activities	7,317		5,792	
Bank charges	53		42	
		21,997		22,295
Fundraising costs		1,052		216
Administration costs		0		0
Total Payments		<u>23,049</u>		<u>22,511</u>
Net of Receipts/(Payments)		23,221		-474
Cash funds last year end		3,025		3,819
Exchange rate differences		-629		-320
Cash funds this year end		<u>25,617</u>		<u>3,025</u>

### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT YEAR END for the financial year ended 31 March 2025

	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
Total Unrestricted Cash Funds	<u>25,617</u>	<u>3,025</u>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees:



Prof C Megone

Date

6<sup>th</sup> November 2025



Mrs D Megone