



Hands of Mercy: Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts:

1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

CHARITY INFORMATION

CHARITY NAME: Hands of Mercy International
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1097434
CHARITY'S PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: c/o St. Thomas' Church Office, Luton, LU2 7UL

CHARITY TRUSTEES WHO MANAGED THE CHARITY DURING THE REPORTING YEAR

Samantha Graham	Chair
Keith Barter	Treasurer
David Alexander	
Michael Dodds	
Sarah Savill	

Denise Archer – charity administrator (commenced in May 2022 but did not serve as a trustee).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

TYPE OF GOVERNING DOCUMENT: Trust Deed
HOW THE CHARITY IS CONSTITUTED: With 4-7 trustees – meeting 4/5 times a year
TRUSTEE SELECTION METHOD: By resolution of the trustees passed at a convened trustees' meeting. No new trustees were appointed during the year.

SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY SET OUT IN ITS GOVERNING DOCUMENT

To apply the Trust income in the Philippines for:

- The advancement of education
- The relief of poverty

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN RELATION TO THESE OBJECTS

The Trustees have regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant and take this into account when planning the activities and focus for the year. The charity continued its key activity to help fulfil its purpose and mission.

Seven programmes of compassion are provided through Hands of Mercy International which supports families and children living in poverty in Metro Manila, Mandaluyong and Baguio in the Philippines. These are:

1. **The Supplementary Feeding Programme** – providing food to undernourished children
2. **The Family Support Programme** – providing the poorest of families with supplementary food assistance
3. **The Home Improvement Programme** – providing families with the necessary help and resources to help repair their dilapidated homes

4. **The Child Sponsorship Programme** – enabling children to attend school or college and receive help with their health needs
5. **The Surgical Treatment Programme** – providing funding towards surgical treatment
6. **The Disabled Therapy Programme** – providing vital physiotherapy and support to disabled children
7. **The Prescription Medicine Programme** – providing funding for essential medicine

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHARITY

The Philippines continued to experience significant challenges during 2022-2023. The country is still recovering following the Covid pandemic and the subsequent impact on its economy. It has been adversely affected by rising fuel rates globally which has drastically increased the price of food and energy bills.

Hands of Mercy focused charity funds on providing families and children with food support, medicine and emergency assistance with bills. Of the seven compassion programmes, the following ones were prioritised during the year:

- **Child Sponsorship Programme** – over 100 children continued to be sponsored with their education and health needs. Children started back in school physically, with only small numbers of children having to attend some classes online.
- **Family Support Programme** – over 50 of the poorest families received supplementary food every month through the Family Support Programme.
- **Supplementary Feeding Programme** – this continued to serve meals to underweight and malnourished children. This support has been invaluable for children and their families who would have struggled to feed their children otherwise.
- **Prescription Medicine Programme** – this helped people to have access to medicine and medical check-ups.
- **Disabled Therapy Programme** – this provided physiotherapy support to disabled children in the community, helping to improve their quality of life.

Ichthus is Hands of Mercy's livelihood programme which sells filtered water to businesses and individuals. It continued to build and establish a customer base, as well as navigate a challenging operational market as a result of increased competition and rising fuel prices. Ichthus has developed a reputation for delivering good quality water on time which has helped it to maintain and grow its customer base. It reached eight years of operation in the financial year (having been formed in 2015).

During the year, many churches and individuals in the United Kingdom continued to support the compassion work through prayer, child and family sponsorship and donations. The charity is greatly indebted to all its supporters.

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE CHARITY'S POLICY ON RESERVES

Hands of Mercy receives its funds from donations. The charity had £49,879 on account at the start of the financial year (£14,000 of which were restricted) and received £93,228 of income during the year (2021-2022: £111,547). Its expenditure was £101,863 (2021-2022: £97,954).

A percentage of the money given for the humanitarian compassion programmes is held in a contingency fund at the HSBC. This is typically equivalent to three months' running costs.

The trustees approved the Trustees' Annual Report on: 29th January 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Hands of Mercy International

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1097434

Set out on pages

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

John D. Kingham

Date:

22/05/2023

Name:

John D Kingham

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

338 Old Bedford Road, Luton, Beds LU2 7EJ

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2023

2022

Balances as at 1st April 2022

	£	£	£	£
<u>Bank Accounts</u>				
Current Account	29,713.98		16,123.01	
Deposit Account	<u>20,165.20</u>	49,879.18	<u>20,162.56</u>	36,285.57

Receipts

Giving under Gift Aid scheme	55,665.00		66,931.00	
Income Tax Repayments Received	13,719.30		20,623.00	
Other Giving	23,772.22		23,990.70	
Bank Interest	<u>71.32</u>	<u>93,227.84</u>	<u>2.64</u>	<u>111,547.34</u>
		143,107.02		147,832.91

Payments

H of M Phillipines	100,486.00		95,285.00	
Office Wages	521.24		1,716.00	
Web-site costs	73.00		73.00	
Bank Charges	137.68		36.60	
Post, Stationery & Sundries	<u>644.73</u>	101,862.65	<u>843.13</u>	97,953.73

Balances as at 31st March 2023

<u>Bank Accounts</u>				
Current Account	21,007.85		29,713.98	
Deposit Account	<u>20,236.52</u>	<u>£41,244.37</u>	<u>20,165.20</u>	<u>£49,879.18</u>

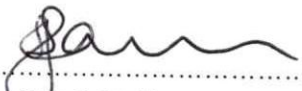
Note 1 £14,000 is designated to be used for the New Housing Project

Note 2 As a result of the Giving under the Gift Aid Scheme £1,939 is reclaimable from the Inland Revenue as at the 31st March 2023

TRUSTEES


Mrs S Graham


Mr K Barter


Mrs S Savill


Rev D G Alexander


Mr M Dodds