

Hands of Mercy: Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts:

1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

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 but Denise did not serve as a trustee during this reporting period.

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

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. **Supplementary Feeding Programme** – providing food to undernourished children
2. **Family Support Programme** – providing the poorest of families with supplementary food assistance
3. **Home Improvement Programme** – providing families with the necessary help and resources to help repair their dilapidated homes
4. **Child Sponsorship Programme** – enabling children to attend school or college and receive help with their health needs
5. **Surgical Treatment Programme** – providing funding towards surgical treatment

6. **Disabled Therapy Programme** – providing vital physiotherapy and support to disabled children
7. **Prescription Medicine Programme** – providing funding for essential medicine

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHARITY

Hands of Mercy belatedly celebrated its 25 year anniversary just before the start of the financial year in March. The celebration had been put back previously because of the Covid pandemic but was able to go ahead and included Sally Escoto (Director) and her husband Joey who attended from the Philippines. The celebration gathered a myriad of supporters together to give thanks for the work of the charity and was a major milestone. Hands of Mercy is now in its 27th year.

Hands of Mercy saw two major challenges in the year. The first was a fire in Block 40, which displaced 142 families, including two sponsored children and one Hands of Mercy team member. Families were housed in emergency zip-up tents in crowded, difficult living conditions and Hands of Mercy provided support as it could to those who had been affected by the fire. Specific fundraising activity took place to raise funds to build a house for the Hands of Mercy team member and we were incredibly grateful to all those who gave sacrificially towards this.

The second challenge involved the sudden loss of another Hands of Mercy team member, who died unexpectedly after an infection. The loss deeply impacted the charity and the team.

The Philippines as a whole continued to battle with rising food prices. Hands of Mercy focused funds on providing families and children with food support, and children with education support. Consequently, of the seven compassion programmes, the following ones were prioritised during the year:

- Child Sponsorship Programme – over 100 children continued to be sponsored for their education and health needs.
- Family Support Programme – around 50 of the poorest families continued to receive supplementary food every month through the Family Support Programme.
- Supplementary Feeding Programme – this continued to serve meals to underweight and malnourished children in eight locations in the squatter communities.

Ichthus, Hands of Mercy's livelihood programme, continued to operate. The livelihood programme sells filtered water to business and individuals and reached its ninth year of operation (having started in 2015). It has provided a way for the Filipino community to become more self-reliant. It faced some competition but continued to maintain its customer base and deliver high quality water.

Churches and individuals in the United Kingdom continued to support the compassion work through prayer, child and family sponsorship and donations.

BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE CHARITY'S POLICY ON RESERVES

Hands of Mercy receives its funds through donations. The charity had £41,244 on account at the start of the financial year (£14,000 of which was restricted) and received £100,967 of income during the year (2022-2023: £93,228). Its expenditure was £104,677 (2022-2023: £101,863).

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: 18th November 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Hands of Mercy International

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1097434

Set out on pages

2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 03 / 2024**

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

John D. Kingham

Date:

01/11/2024

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 2024

2023

Balances as at 1st April 2023

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

Receipts

Giving under Gift Aid scheme	59,831.24		55,665.00	
Income Tax Repayments Received	14,756.81		13,719.30	
Other Giving	26,031.82		23,772.22	
Bank Interest	<u>346.90</u>	<u>100,966.77</u>	<u>71.32</u>	<u>93,227.84</u>
		142,211.14		143,107.02

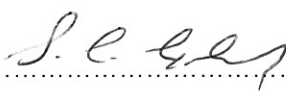
Payments

H of M Phillipines	103,806.00		100,486.00	
Office Wages	0.00		521.24	
Web-site costs	87.00		73.00	
Bank Charges	131.20		137.68	
Post, Stationery & Sundries	<u>652.76</u>	104,676.96	<u>644.73</u>	101,862.65

Balances as at 31st March 2024

<u>Bank Accounts</u>				
Current Account	16,930.76		21,007.85	
Deposit Account	<u>20,603.42</u>	<u>£37,534.18</u>	<u>20,236.52</u>	<u>£41,244.37</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 £2,140 is reclaimable from the Inland Revenue as at the 31st March 2024**TRUSTEES**



 Mrs S Graham



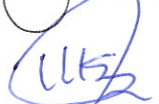
 Mr K Barter



 Mrs S Savill



 Rev D G Alexander



 Mr M Dodds



 Mrs D Archer