

FRIENDS OF KENYA'S CHILDREN

UK Registered charity 1116000

19th ANNUAL REPORT

2024 – 2025

CONTENTS

- 1 Trustees of the Charity 2024 - 2025**
- 2 The Objects**
- 3 Governance matters**
- 4 Secretary's Report**
- 5 Treasurer's report and accounts**
- 6 Signature of Trustees**

FRIENDS OF KENYA'S CHILDREN

Trustees

For the year 2024 - 25 Trustees of the Association were as follows: -

Chairman:	Rev Paul Pritchard
Secretary:	Miss Sandra Noon
Treasurer:	Miss Jennifer Atherton
Trustees:	Mr David Hillis
	Miss Jean Proudlove
	Mrs Claire Smith
	Mrs Ursula Towne
	Mr Barrie Witcomb

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

- 1 To relieve the need of orphaned, abandoned or homeless children from Turkana County, Uasin Gishu County or elsewhere in Kenya who are formally placed in the care of Champions' Preparatory School (CPS) (a Kenyan Government Registered Not for Profit Organisation) or for whom CPS may have assumed responsibility
- 2 To assist, in any humanitarian crisis and its aftermath, the families and communities in which such children live or may have sought or been granted refuge or temporary protection.
- 3 If the objects specified in 1 and 2 should for any reason fail or cannot be fulfilled then to work towards the reduction of poverty, advancement of education, protection of health and/or provision of welfare services for children generally in the said counties or other parts of Kenya whether directly or through other local charitable institutions there.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024 / 25 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

1 TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Trustees met on three occasions in 2024/25 and were in touch by email throughout the year when matters needing consideration arose between meetings. It was a busy year and has continued to be so into the current year. Most have been practical matters covered in the secretary's report, but the following issues affecting governance arose.

Communication between Champions School and the trustees is maintained by personal contact between Kenneth Kimeu, founder and Director of the School and Sandra Noon, founder and secretary of FKC. This is usually maintained by exchange of emails and video calls and messages on WhatsApp. In December 2024 Kenneth became ill and contact with the school was lost for some weeks. This was never a crisis as we have other informal links with the school and people in the area on whom we could have called, but the incident highlighted the need for a more formal back up for communication in future. This has been agreed.

The second issue involves the future of FKC. It has been recognised that both trustees and the majority of supporters and volunteers are all ageing, it is essential we recognise this in our future plans. This will necessitate significant change to take place. Trustees have proposed that fund raising by our traditional sales events should cease (These involve too much physical hard work), and find other routes to ensure we have sufficient funds to support the orphaned boarders. This will entail encouraging and receiving donations from supporters, and finding other avenues to lever funds for education and maintenance through Champions School. Trustees recognise that although the school has now achieved a level of independence, it would be immensely worse off without FKC support, especially in times of crisis, as graphically illustrated in this year's secretary's report. The aim is therefore to use the next four years and our current finances to strengthen their position as far as possible, beginning with the work to complete the buildings for the junior secondary school and vocational training centre.

2 POLICIES

The Charity Commission has a long list of policies that charities should consider having in place in order to regulate and monitor its activities. Most are not relevant to FKC because of our small size and very specific terms of reference, but, in addition to the reserves policy which we have had for many years, it seems wise to add two new ones, as follows.

Policy for the reporting of a serious incident

Definition. The Charity Commission defines a serious incident as anything that would bring the charity, or the charitable movement, into disrepute or damage its reputation, any financial mismanagement, theft or fraud, and any safeguarding incident putting a client, volunteer or staff member at risk.

Policy. 1 Friends of Kenya's Children will ensure that all serious incidents are reported promptly and in full to the Charity Commission, seeking their guidance as to the appropriate action needed.

2 Immediate action will be taken, as appropriate in the circumstances, to ensure that no further harm is done or loss incurred while awaiting Charity Commission guidance.

3 Working within the advice / guidance of the Charity Commission FKC will seek first to resolve the immediate problem / loss, and thereafter will put in place, as far as possible, further policies, controls or guidance to prevent a similar incident in future

4 The action taken and the eventual outcome of the incident will be reported promptly and in full to the Charity Commission as required by their procedures.

Procedure When any apparently serious incident occurs, the secretary will arrange an immediate trustees' meeting, at which the decision to report to the CC will be taken and any immediate action agreed. (If the incident involves the secretary the chairman will call the meeting.) At the meeting, trustees will decide which member of the group will take the lead in following up the incident, liaising with the CC and taking whatever action is needed. The

lead trustee will keep all trustees up to date and call meetings as needed until the problem is resolved and the resolution reported to the Charity Commission.

Policy for internal financial control

Definition The Charity Commission requires that we have in place a policy that ensures that our finances are well managed, our financial resources efficiently and effectively used and with systems in place to prevent fraud or loss and to comply with all financial regulations and requirements.

Policy Friends of Kenya's Children will ensure that its financial affairs are conducted efficiently in line with the rules and requirements of the Charity Commission and in order to make best use of donations and funds raised for the beneficiaries of the charity.

Procedures 1 Trustees will approve and oversee fundraising events, ensuring that all rules and responsibilities are dealt with correctly and the occasions managed with maximum, benefit to the funds.

2 Regular and one-off donations to the funds will wherever possible be paid direct to the appropriate bank account. All cheques and cash coming to the charity for banking will be handled by two people working together

4 A spreadsheet of all income and expenditure / outgoings will be maintained throughout the year, and balanced regularly to ensure that it agrees with bank balances.

5 At the financial year end, the spreadsheet will be submitted to an independent expert and accounts prepared in the format required by the Charity Commission. The spreadsheet, accounts and bank statements will then be submitted to an independent examiner for checking and approval in accordance with Charity Commission rules.

6 A finance report will be presented at each trustees' meeting

7 It is FKC's intention that all possible funds given or raised should be used to support and enhance the work of Champions' Preparatory School, supporting orphaned children to board at the school and assisting with the development of the school. Sufficient funds will be retained to provide a reserve for ongoing commitments, principally the maintenance of the orphans, and expenditure on other projects will be approved as necessary by the trustees.

PROPOSAL It is proposed that the above two policies be approved.

RESERVES POLICY

3 Reserves Policy

The current Reserves Policy reads as follows:

"The Association's first responsibility is the maintenance of the orphans / boarders at Champions School. We will hold in reserve £6000 as being sufficient funds to provide the monthly fees for these children for a period of four months in the event of a sudden drop in income to the boarder support fund. Currently this sum is equivalent to one year's Gift Aid claim, and one year's claim will be held in reserve for this purpose.

The association is working with Champions School towards the school achieving self-sufficiency. We will hold in reserve, either in the bank or in as yet unclaimed Gift Aid, funds raised or donated for specific purposes to that end.

We will hold in reserve funds made available by bequest or other special gift, for any specific purpose for which they are given, using them as requested by the donor or, where no use is specified, as decided by the trustees.

We will hold in a separate account, restricted funds donated for the sponsorship of young people to high school and further education, drawing on those funds for those purposes only.

The reserves policy will be reviewed annually at the Annual General Meeting and adjusted as necessary to fit changing circumstances

PROPOSAL That the Reserves Policy be approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT OF YEAR 2024/25

1 Introduction

The floods throughout Kenya which began in May 2024 continued into this year and were the focus of life at Champions School and in King'ong'o District for several months, leading eventually to the school itself being flooded and considerable damage being done. Nationally the floods contributed, together with other local and international pressures, to continued rising prices for fuel and food and to loss of income for many families, resulting in some learners being unable to continue at Champions School as fees could not be afforded. However, the school soldiered on, rising to each crisis as it occurs with help from FKC where possible, assisted by generous responses from our marvellous supporters when needs have been shared. As in previous years, the following report aims to bring members up to date rather than stopping at the end of our financial year in May 2025.

2 The purpose and use of this report

The report seeks to give an overview of the work of FKC and events at Champions School during the year 2024 /25 and to bring members up to date with significant events. It is hoped that members will read the report before attending the AGM, coming prepared with any questions, concerns or comments, and if unable to attend the meeting, will email or write in with matters they wish to raise. For those joining the meeting by zoom, it will be possible to send in written questions on the night, to which we will be pleased to respond. Do join in by whatever means is possible for you, we are an association of members each of whom is important.

3 The floods in summer / autumn 2024

This year began dramatically for Champions' School, when floods swept through King'ong'o District in June, destroying homes and livelihoods and leaving many local families destitute. Kenneth's church launched a local appeal for goods and money to help rebuild homes, and their appeal was sent to FKC supporters together with the July newsletter. Supporters responded with much appreciated generosity and we were able to contribute £3500 to the Appeal fund. Using this and local support, mostly in kind, Kenneth and his church were able to provide emergency grants for food and shelter, then to facilitate the rebuilding of many homes by providing essential corrugated iron sheets for the roofs. Using the last of our funds, Kenneth later organised the replacement of three destroyed and primitive latrines, providing several families in each case with safe and hygienic facilities which will last for many years. FKC was thanked many times for their response to this need which affected so many of the families with children attending Champions' school and Kenneth's church.

In August when the floods eventually reached the school the focus turned to the immediate need closer to home. Although the school was not open, all the boarders were still present, so 36 children had to be cared for, 20 of whom had already, earlier in the year, experienced catastrophic flooding in their home village which had resulted in their being brought to Champions School. Teachers were very much aware of the likely effect of the flood on these children and much effort went into reassuring and caring for them. Some £2000 worth of damage was done to the school and its flood defences, and these were paid for by a very generous donation made on the spot by a member attending the AGM in October, following the presentation at the meeting. We are grateful so many times for the kindness of our supporters – this was one such occasion!

So far in 2025, although there have been periods of continuous heavy rain, the school's repaired flood defences have proved effective and flooding locally has not been an issue. However, many families have taken time to recover financially and school numbers were down for some months until fees could be found for children to resume their studies.

4 The school water supply.

It was reported last year that water from the two bore holes in the school compound, although plentiful and apparently clear, was contaminated by dangerous chemicals. The expert we consulted for a solution, suggested that whenever possible, the pump level in the well should be raised, as the closer to the surface it came, the clearer the water would be. One positive result of the floods was that the pump level could be raised and sure enough the water was no longer salty. It has since then been good to use for everything except

drinking; for that the school continues to use the church's supply from the town system, just to be safe. During the year it was suggested that the County authorities were intending to tax water obtained from boreholes, a cause for great concern to the school but happily, so far nothing more has been heard of this. It is hoped that it was just an unwelcome rumour.

5 Champions Preparatory and Junior Secondary School

Work has continued throughout the year to establish a junior secondary level in the school. For the first two years this simply meant using the teachers, and the rooms previously occupied by classes 7 and 8 in the old system as junior secondary years 1 and 2, with the addition of a lab and the employing of a lab technician. Now however they have reached year 3 in the new education system and the pressure is on to provide a third classroom and other needed facilities. During the year, in the expectation that basic requirements for the junior secondary classes will be met in the near future, the school was granted a new registration as a combined pre-school, primary and Junior Secondary School providing 11 years of basic education and including boarding facilities for 40 children. This is a major achievement.

6 Kenneth's new vision – the Vocational Training Centre

Kenneth refers to this scheme as the Champions of Hope Technical Training Centre, but this is not only rather a cumbersome title but does not clearly describe what he has in mind – so we have changed the title to aid our understanding! In last year's annual report I promised much activity this year in the development of this new scheme, which St John's Church has generously offered to fund to the tune of £1000 a year for four years, matched from FKC funds. Unfortunately the scheme has not progressed as hoped, although it is still very much to the forefront of Kenneth's planning. His first intention was to base the centre in an empty school building close to his church, but the landlord, sensing that overseas funding was to be made available, asked an exorbitant rent which made the scheme impossible. The aim is now to base the centre within the school compound, using new rooms which need to be provided for the junior secondary classes, when those spaces are not in use by the school. Trustees were concerned about the viability of this plan, given the restricted space in the compound, and, with Kenneth's agreement, asked the Clerk of Works who so efficiently ran the solar power scheme installation for us, to undertake a feasibility study and let us know what he thought could best be achieved. Sadly, we have waited a year for him to carry out the assessment, despite many promises to visit the school. Recently Kenneth has gone ahead with arranging for costs and plans to be drawn up by his usual local builder, and we await information as to what is proposed.

7 The boarder programme

The 16 children from Lodwar have remained in the programme into junior secondary school, and will be at Champions for a further year. However, the 20 children accepted as an emergency following the floods in Turbo Village seem likely to become permanent additions to the group as they have no family able to offer them a home. As more has become known about them, it has become clear that most of them were not actually orphaned by the flood, as Kenneth was told. Turbo village has a local orphanage able to accommodate up to sixty children. During the floods the home, though not itself flooded, became very overcrowded as more and more children were brought to it. The local Chief sought help from Kenneth to take twenty of the older ones into Champions School to relieve the pressure on the home. However annoying this deception was, the children have all settled well at school and are making good progress. As the Lodwar orphans reach school leaving age, they will probably not be replaced by others from the northern villages until these twenty Turbo children have completed their education, so FKC will be in a position to assume responsibility for 16 of them, covering the cost of their education and maintenance. For now, we help only with essential school equipment, uniform etc.

8 RECENT EVENTS

From April to June 2025 a series of events, some more serious than others, occurred which threatened to destabilise the school, a series of crises now safely past. It began with school

transport. The increased cost of fuel caused the charge for use of the van to increase so far that parents could not afford it, and withdrew their children from the school, with the resultant loss of 15 vital school fees. Trustees agreed to fund the fuel costs (£120 per month) if this would bring the children back – which it did, instantly. Currently fuel costs have risen further and parents are paying a third of the cost now, with FKC covering the rest. No sooner was this resolved than the van needed four new tyres, its annual safety inspection and insurance, which FKC paid as no reserve had been able to be built up over the year to cover these costs. Finally, the van's cylinder head gave out! In the UK this would be the signal for a new van, but for the school it was a real blow, the loss of a much needed asset to school life as well as the pupil transport. So we have paid for the new cylinder head and Kenneth reports, "The van is new again!"

Next, a group of Safety Inspectors appeared unannounced at the school, and after looking round, informed the worried staff – Kenneth was not on site – that all doors had to be turned round to open outwards and almost all grilles had to be taken off windows. The work was to be done within two weeks or the school must close until the work was done. We have established that this national sweep of all private schools followed a sharp rise in school fires set by disgruntled students following disruption caused by the pandemic. We agreed to fund the work, carried out immediately.

Finally, inspectors routinely visiting the school found that they did not have the resources to teach the new curriculum which had been phased in over the past three years. Teachers were doing their best to work to the new system by picking up what they could from the Internet and by the purchase of occasional books, but this was no longer permissible – an edict was issued, the full set of resources must be purchased at once. This was clearly a last straw for an exhausted Kenneth. In a very unusual move he rang Sandra to ask for help. It seemed that there was no way to assist other than to fund the purchase of the needed resources, so that is what was agreed. The school is now back on course for success.

9 Fund raising

In October 2024 we held our very last clothes sale, agreeing that this very successful way of raising funds was no longer viable, the work involved being too hard and the amount of help available for the events decreasing as our wonderful band of volunteers became older and less able. We were left with 41 wardrobe boxes of excellent quality clothes and many boxes of shoes and a problem as to how to turn this stock into money for FKC. To our delight one of our very good customers offered to buy it all, and paid us handsomely for it, quite the best solution we could possibly have hoped for and a fitting end to an era.

Trustees are considering how to raise funds for future needs such as those outlined in paragraph 8 above. Whilst we are planning to reduce FKC's operation to a more routine support for the orphans, it is recognised that crises will continue to occur and we will want to help if we are able. Occasional sales are still possible, as we have a good reputation in Alvaston as the place to find a bargain, and one-off fund raisers are always welcome when opportunities arise. But in the meantime there is one potentially useful source of help that for some reason has never caught on with our supporters – the use of "Give as you Live", the online shopping plan whereby a small percentage of the cost of purchases is donated by the seller, through Give as you Live, to FKC. Maybe we should have a campaign to ask everyone to sign up.

10 Conclusion

It has been a busy year which as always has flown by as we have struggled to keep up with and respond to events. It is good to see Champions' School developing steadily and retaining its excellent reputation in the area and with the local education authority. Finding matters which needed to be put right on the recent inspections did not dent that respect. What the local authority appreciates is the school's immediate action to correct problems as they arise. From our perspective, the school continues to provide a safe refuge for at risk orphans as well as a good education for all its learners, and it is also good to see the school becoming involved with the needs of the local community when needs arise, as during the floods at the beginning of the year.

It remains for me to record thanks, as always, to all our loyal supporters and volunteers, and to our Chairman and Trustees. Also to the members of Alvaston Methodist Church, our home base, and the people of St John's. Mickleover for their continuing support and for hosting our AGM. The combined efforts of everyone involved with FKC have resulted in another successful year for the association, in which young lives have been protected and set on the road to successful adulthood. Thank you all.

Sandra Noon (Secretary)

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 Thank you

Every year we have reason to be enormously grateful to John Byrne and Shirley Austin, two good friends of the association who generously help us keep our financial affairs in order. John takes our income and expenditure records for the year, and puts them into the format required by the Charity Commission, a complex task which he has undertaken for us since our early days. We are especially grateful to John for continuing to look after FKC in this way now that he has retired from his busy life in Derby and moved to live in Yorkshire. Thank goodness for email as an easy means of communication! Once the accounts have been approved by the AGM, they then go to Shirley for independent scrutiny. She takes John's workings, our spreadsheets and the bank statements and examines every entry to ensure that all is as it should be, before signing off the records as being a proper account of our position.

2 Another huge thank you

A first glance at the figures clearly shows that although our fund-raising efforts are very important to us, the great majority of our income comes from the donations made by individuals and the Gift Aid which we are able to claim on those donations. Quietly, month by month, our bank account is increased by regular donations by standing order, and every so often an unexpected addition occurs when a supporter transfers a sum of money to us. Every gift is very welcome – but not all are acknowledged, for which an explanation is due. When we receive donations in cash or by cheque, we do eventually send thanks and a receipt – many apologies that this sometimes takes us a long time – but gifts by standing order or bank transfer do not need a receipt and so no thanks are sent. Please accept our grateful thanks here and now for your generosity and for remembering FKC in the midst of such demand on your resources. We daren't promise to "do better", life with FKC is constantly busy and keeping up with administration is a constant battle, but be assured that every donation received is a cause for gratitude and celebration!

A special mention

We are always especially grateful when we receive bequests in wills and donations in memory of loved ones. In the accounts these gifts are included in the individual donations but they are not "lost" to us, they are recorded separately and used for specific purposes which we hope will honour the people in whose memory we receive them. Over the years FKC has made so many good friends who have remembered us in this way, and special thanks are in order.

3 Comment on the figures.

We will be pleased to take any questions on the figures at the AGM, or by email if you are unable to attend, but one or two items are worth a mention now in case they cause concern. First, there is a blank on the line for insurance costs! The association does hold proper insurance for its activities, it was paid by personal bank card because the association does not have a card account and then the refund from funds was overlooked. This has now been put right.

There is no mention of Gift Aid in the figures, the sum is included in the first entry, individual donations. We claimed £7500 in the year, and have a further four years in hand to claim when we need it, at a similar sum per year.

Looking at the bigger picture, income this year was slightly higher than last year, and expenditure rather less, so we have a surplus on the year rather than a deficit. Whilst this is obviously useful, it arises mainly because we are awaiting plans and figures before we decide how best to tackle the need for new buildings in the school compound, and that undertaking will no doubt involve considerable expenditure in 2025/26. However, this will be proper investment in the future success of the school and so will be a positive move.

On the whole the association's finances are in good shape, thanks to so many of our loyal supporters; Champions School and its orphaned boarders can continue to rely on us for support as needed.

Jennifer Atherton (Treasurer)

FRIENDS OF KENYA'S CHILDREN
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
For the period 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds
Receipts				
Donations,legacies and grants (note 2a & 2b)	36,511	3,546	-	40,057
Fundraising events,raffles,collections etc (note 2c & 2d)	7,077	-	-	7,077
Admin				
Membership Fees	715		-	715
Sub total	44,303	3,546	-	47,849
Loans Received (see note 3)	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments received (see note 3)	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	44,303	3,546	-	47,848.92
Payments				
Grants and Donations Paid (see note 4a & 4b)	28,785	5,400		34,185
Printing,Postage and Stationery	932			932
Bank charges	234			234
Insurance		-		-
Charity Expenses / Repairs/ Maintenance (see note 4d)				-
				-
				-
				-
				-
Sub total	29,952	5,400	-	35,352
Repayment of loans - (see note 5)	-	-	-	-
Loans Made - (see note 5)	-		-	-
Total payments	29,952	5,400	-	35,352
Net of receipts/(payments)	14,351	- 1,854	-	12,497
Transfers between funds (see note 2e)	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	25,225	6,452	-	31,676
Cash funds this year end	39,575	4,598	-	44,173

FRIENDS OF KENYA'S CHILDREN

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

		Unrestricted	Restricted
Cash funds (see note 6)	Bank accounts	39,575	4,598
		-	-
	Total cash funds	39,575	4,598
Other monetary assets		-	-
Investment assets		-	-
Assets retained for the charity's own use		-	-
Liabilities		-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		-	-

FRIENDS OF KENYA'S CHILDREN

Notes to Financial Statements

1 The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 Receipts Analysis

a Unrestricted funds :

Individual donations & bequests	33,442	
Donations from Kingsfold MC	970	
Donations from N Blatherwick Whist evenings	770	
Donations from Open Garden Day	696	
Donations from St John's for Flood Relief	400	
Donations from Mayfield Road MC	130	
Donations from Other < £100	103	
	36,511	-

b Restricted funds :

Individual donations for Child Sponsorship Fund	2,433	
Donations from St John's for Sustainability Fund	1,000	
Donations from Derby Opera Co for Sustainability Fund	113	
	3,546	-

c Events,Sales etc :Unrestricted Funds

Easter Fair	1,829	
June Half Price Sale	1,280	
Final Clothes Sale	2,844	
Bamfords Auctions sale proceeds	525	
Christmas Fair Stalls at AMC	354	
Miscellaneous sales of books,coins,crafts etc	147	
Metal Man (Simms) sales	99	
	7,077	-

3 Loans received and loans repayment received in year :

-

4 Payments Analysis

a Unrestricted funds :

Boarder maintenance	15,940	
Flood Relief expenditure	5,900	
Clothing	1,660	
Staff support	1,375	
Floats for sales etc	1,000	
Director support	720	
Easter Fair proceeds to AMC	660	
Gift for John Deng	510	
Medical Expenses	500	
Orphans Party	400	
Transport & Travel	120	
	28,785	-

b Restricted funds :

Child sponsorship	5,400	
	5,400	-

5 Repayment of loans and loans made

-

6 Bank account reconciliation

Balance as per statement Account No.1	35,482	
Balance as per statement Account No.2	8,691	
Final closing balance	44,173	-

Last year

38,320
4,092
755
43,167

-
-

43,167

47,149
566
232
283
1,200
-
-
-
-
49,430

-
-

49,430

-	6,263
-	
37,940	
31,676	

Endowment	
	-
	-
	-

Endowment	-
-----------	---

Current value	-
---------------	---

Current value	-
	-

When due (optional)	

Date of approval	

Report to the Trustees of Friends of Kenya's Children Introduction I have examined the accounts of Friends of Kenya's Children for the year ended 31st May 2025 as an independent examiner, and have compared the accounts prepared for the Annual General Meeting with the financial records kept for that year by the charity's Treasurer on behalf of the Trustees. Basis of independent examiner's report My examination includes a review of the accounting systems and records and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items in the accounts, or concerns regarding systems, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. Independent examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which causes me to believe that in any material respect the requirements: to keep appropriate accounting records to have robust systems in place for the management of finances, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records has not been met. Signed SAut Date 26/3/26 Mrs Shirley Austin 5 Sporton Close South Normanton Derbyshire DE55 2HH