



WALKING WITH GIANTS
FOUNDATION
FOUNDED 2008

CELEBRATING 13 YEARS OF PROVIDING SUPPORT



Annual Report
and
Accounts
2020/21

CONNECT
SUPPORT
EDUCATE
RESEARCH



ABOUT THE WWGF

The WWGF supports and enriches the lives of individuals and families affected by life limiting and life threatening ultra rare forms of dwarfism, collectively known as Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism here in the UK and around the world.

WALKING WITH GIANTS FOUNDATION

PO BOX 85 - MAGHULL - LIVERPOOL - L31 6WW | CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1123246

Visit www.walkingwithgiants.org - Email enquiries@walkingwithgiants.org - Call 0151 526 0134

CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees: Chairperson: Andrew Marsh
Secretary: John Connerty
Treasurer: David Cranny

Charity Manager: Suzanne Connerty

Family Support Worker: Lynsey Cheeseman

Volunteers: Linda Marsh
Rebecca Russell
Joan Underwood
Lyn Gallagher
Stephanie Jackson
Pat Cheeseman
Mark O'Brien

Charity Number: 1123246

Charity Address: PO Box 85
Maghull
Liverpool
Merseyside
L31 6WW

Bankers: Lloyds TSB Bank Plc
Liverpool Law Courts
Merchants Court
2-12 Lord Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 1TS

Independent Examiner: Anthony Deegan
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service
Sefton Council for Voluntary Services
Suite 3B,
Burlington House
Crosby Rd North
Waterloo
Liverpool
L22 0LG

WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIR AND CHARITY MANAGER

We write this report during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it's been another difficult 12 months for our beneficiaries and the Walking With Giants Foundation, however, we are pleased to report that most of our services have remained open to support families through the difficulties they face here in the UK and around the world.

Once again, we have been able to achieve this through the dedication, commitment and innovation of our staff and volunteers.

Our small team have worked tirelessly to continue to put families first, ensuring there is always someone to talk to during this challenging time, initially during the lock-down at the start of the year.

Our Charity Manager, Family Support Worker and available volunteers have been utilising Zoom video conferences with families that include play and interaction, as well as emotional and practical support that many families need at this time.

We have also ensured that any family needing any financial support have been able to access our grants program.

All of the above is testament to our amazing staff and volunteers who have found ways to deliver services, whilst juggling many of the same issues as those they are supporting.

Our focus over the next 12 months will be to continue the support we have provided on top of achieving our normal yearly aims and objectives as the COVID-19 pandemic is with us for the foreseeable future.

We will continue to consult our service users to optimise how we work with them to provide the best resources and support we can develop. We look forward to working with you to make this a success.

Andrew Marsh (Chair)
Suzanne Connerty (Charity Manager)



ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present and confirm their report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 which have been prepared with charity's governing document, comply with the current statutory requirements and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015)

Our Aims and Objectives

The Walking With Giants Foundation charitable trust is governed by trust deed.

The Foundations' objectives are:

- The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.
- The advancement of health.
- The advancement of education.

The above objectives will be achieved by facilitating:

- a) The relief of poverty, distress and sickness of individuals identified with a form of Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism, along with their families and carers.
- b) To encourage and support persons affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism to come together on equal terms with persons not affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism to achieve complete integration within the wider community.
- c) To provide, in the interests of social welfare, facilities for recreation or other such leisure time occupation for the benefit of persons and their families who have need of such facilities by reason of their condition, youth, age, sickness or infirmity, poverty or social and economic circumstances.
- d) To promote, encourage or undertake organised research into causes of Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism and associated medical problems; and to disseminate such research anywhere in the world.
- e) To advance public education and understanding of Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism and the impact it has on individuals and their families.
- f) To advance education in individuals affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism.

The Walking With Giants Foundation strives to achieve the following aims for individuals affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism and any other they feel that falls within their objectives:

a) Facilitate Opportunities to Meet

Including but not limited to the following:

- Assisting individuals and their families affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism with annual membership costs for joining the numerous organisations associated with Dwarfism (i.e. Restricted Growth Association, Little People UK and Little People of America).
- Assisting individuals and their families affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism with travel and accommodation expenses to the numerous annual conventions (Walking With Giants Foundation, Restricted Growth Association, Little People UK and Little People of America).
- Assisting individuals and their families affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism with travel and accommodation expenses to any Walking With Giants Family Support breaks and meetings.
- Provide family retreats exclusive to individuals and their families affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism.

b) Provide for Adaptive and Medical needs

Including but not limited to the following:

- Assistance for family medical and dental expense outside of the coverage of NHS provisions and services.
- Assistance with expenses for adaptive equipment needed for the home, vehicle, or school outside of NHS provisions, statutory services and State Benefits.
- Assistance with travel, accommodation and medical expenses for medical care outside of the UK (if necessary).

c) Facilitate Education and Awareness

Including but not limited to the following:

- Provide support and education to families of individuals with Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism.
- Provide education programs and relevant literature to schools, the general public and mankind.

- Provide education and advice to relevant professionals within Hospitals and other Medical Institutes.

d) Research and Physician Support

Research

The Foundation will strive to facilitate research to:

- Promote, encourage or undertake organised research into matters related to Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism to disseminate such research anywhere in the world.

Physician Support

The Foundation will strive to facilitate a Medical Advisory Board to:

- Review any individual deemed to be affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism.
- Liaise with the Local National Health Trusts so that an individual diagnosed with Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism obtains the right support and treatment.

Trustees

For the purposes of these accounts, the Board of Trustees under the Trust Deed are deemed to be trustees. The trustees named on page 2 served throughout the year.

Appointment of trustees is governed by the trust deed. The trustees are authorised to appoint new trustees to fill casual vacancies or further enhance the charities aims and objectives.

Investment Powers

- The trust deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments using the general funds of the charity, but no such investments are presently held.

Development, Activities and Achievements

The WWGF founded in January 2008, is a national charity that's supports individuals and their families affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism (rare forms of restricted growth) here in the UK and around the world.

We try hard to develop a wider public awareness of the foundation within the general population of the UK, Europe and other parts of the world.

In this reporting year we have successfully:

- Celebrated 13 years of supporting individuals and families affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism here in the UK and around the world.
- Provide a network of family support and friendship to 118 families within the UK and around the world via our FB private Group page.
- Registered 20 new families onto the WWGF family register and connected them to doctors and specialists on our Medical Advisory Board.
- Provided 520 hours of direct family support via our Part-Time Family Support Worker.
- Helped 6 families with direct advice and support on submitting Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment claims and Appeals for their children.
- Via our Medical Review Board, UK Research teams and doctors and experts around the world, extended research and understanding of Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism.
- Continuously encourage and empowered more parents from the UK and around the world to participate in UK and American medical research programs to identify the causes and new types of Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism.
- Helped UK and American research experts on our medical review team via family participation identify more genes that cause some of the types of Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism. This has resulted in more research papers being released.
- Along with the Potential Foundation in America we helped part fund ongoing research to learn more about the underlying medical issues that affect individual with Majewski Osteodysplastic Primordial Dwarfism Type II (MOPDII) and Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism. Learning more about MOPDII and Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism in children can help doctors determine how to predict and treat life-threatening medical problems and conditions.
- Provided support and advice to parents of a child affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism who set up a similar charitable organisation in Germany to support German families affected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism.
- Supported 15 families in crisis and hardship via our COVID Emergency Fund Program to the sum of £919.40
- Supported 13 families in crisis and hardship through our General Grants Program to the sum of £5,421.60 to fund tablets, cooker, washing machine, television, specialist chair and a specialist suit to help a child walk.

Financial Review

Once again, the COVID-19 pandemic had a detrimental effect on our fundraising objectives, however, we are pleased to report another successful year due to the amazing fundraising efforts of the Charity Manager (Suzanne Connerty) and the prudence and due diligence of the Walking With Giants Board of Trustees.

Most monies received were received through our own fund-raising events, local support from members of the public in Merseyside. However, we have received donations from other parts of the country and around the world via donations from members of the public and an organisation in Germany that helps promote and supports individuals and families effected by Microcephalic Primordial Dwarfism.

We did not receive any external grants during the reporting year.

During the accounting period no trustee drew any monies for their services apart from travel and subsistence expenses on official business.

The Walking With Giants principal funding source is the receipt of unrestricted donations.

Future Developments

We are proud to state that the Walking With Giants Foundation is in a good position and we hope to continue this success over the next 12 months taking in account the restraints we had to endure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next 12 months will be concentrated on:

- Utilising our Family Support Worker to reach out to families and support them during the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Reach out to more ethnic-minority and international families via our social media channels and connections with other organisations here in the UK and around the world.
- Further promote our main grant making programme to the individuals and families we support.
- Promote our COVID-19 grant making programme to the individuals and families we support who find themselves in financial difficulty during the pandemic.
- Build on the research work and the findings with our Medical Review Board and other medical experts around the world.
- Constantly review the COVID-19 situation and determine if it is safe and wise to hold a convention or small meet-ups with families based in the UK.

Reserve Policies

As the charity has exceeded its level of anticipated income, the trustees consider that the charity has enough reserves to see the Foundation through to the next 6 months. This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Risk Management

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed to and consider that systems are in place to migrate those risks. All relevant systems are up to date, reviewed annually and sufficient for the governance of the Foundation. However, as we expand, we will review the existing systems and amend them if needed or create additional systems to eliminate any risks.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015(FRS102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on the 12th January 2022 and signed by:

Andrew Marsh – Chairperson: 

John Connerty - Secretary 

David Cranny - Treasurer 

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Walking with Giants Foundation For the year ended 31 March 2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Walking With Giants

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Walking With Giants for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Walking With Giants 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 Walking With Giant 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 can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of Walking With Giants as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed 

Anthony Deegan, MAAT, MICB. Pm.dip

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service,
3rd Floor, Suite 3b,
Burlington House,
Crosby Road North,
Waterloo
Liverpool
L22 0LG

06 January 2022

The Walking with Giants Foundation

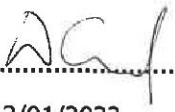
Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts		
Just Giving	6,348	18,818
Individual Donations	7,960	19,533
Other grants	-	10,500
One Stop Stores	715	2,051
Fundraising Events	22,971	14,723
Collection Tubs	349	100
Annual Convention Refunds	22,500	2,250
Job Retention Scheme	6,007	-
Total Receipts	66,850	67,975
Payments		
Storage Costs	1,567	1,393
Annual Convention	-	34,898
Equipment	46	1,253
On line donation costs	562	562
Website Costs	464	647
Fundraising costs	5,473	613
Family Support Meeting	224	-
Travel Costs	-	3,181
Family Support	6,444	2,095
Agent and Bank Charge	1	111
Gambling License	20	20
Meeting Costs	-	879
Insurance	509	937
Information Commissioner	35	35
Payroll service charge	552	528
Subsistence	-	124
Gross Pay	29,087	21,916
Motor expenses	45	554
Accountancy	100	-
PO Box Fees	555	-
Postage	-	14
Stationery & office supplies	1,303	344
Consultancy fees	-	49
Total Payments	46,987	70,153
Net (payments)/receipts	19,863	(2,178)
Cash Funds brought forward	31,429	33,607
Cash Funds carried forward	£ 51,292	£ 31,429

The Walking with Giants Foundation
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
At 31 March 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Monetary assets:		
Cash at bank	51,292	31,429
	<u>51,292</u>	<u>31,429</u>

Signed.....
Date ..12/01/2022.....