



Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

For the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Charity number 1126408



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' annual report for the period

From: 1 July 2022

To: 30 June 2023

Charity name: Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry

Charity registration number: 1126408

Objectives and activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>We are a Christian Charity committed to social justice and the provision of care to the most vulnerable children regardless of religion or social background.</p> <p>Our charity's prime purpose continues to be to benefit the public and advance the lives of children and young people by relieving the needs of those identified as suffering because of their youth, sickness, abandonment or financial hardship.</p> <p>These objectives are principally being achieved through the provision of support to help young people develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible adults.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Our charitable activities to date have focussed on the provision of support to the many orphaned and abandoned children who live in extreme poverty in the district of Rukungiri, South West Uganda. Whilst our stated purposes, aims and objectives are not geographically restricted, we consider this area of Uganda will continue to be the focus of our activities for the foreseeable future. The prime objectives are to alleviate the problems associated with orphans and abandoned children being homeless or unable to access education, therefore leaving them vulnerable to emotional, physical and sexual abuse on the streets.</p>

		<p>The focus of our work to date:</p> <p><u>The Children's Village</u> - The provision of two "Family Style Homes" for homeless and abandoned children.</p> <p><u>The Child Sponsorship Programme</u> - The sponsorship of individual children who live in the community and are identified as being most in need.</p> <p><u>The Education Programme</u> - The provision of good quality Pre-School Nursery & Primary Education facilities and opportunities for students to progress to Senior School and Vocational Training.</p> <p><u>The Protected Springs Programme</u> - The provision of clean water to an acceptable level of purity.</p> <p><u>Bible Based Holiday Clubs</u> - The provision of two clubs run on separate sites during school holidays for children 6-18yrs.</p> <p><u>Youth Sports Development Programme</u> - The provision of sports activities to offer the poorest children the opportunity to gain skills.</p> <p><u>The Community Support Programme</u> - The provision of support for families in need; including crisis intervention.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	We confirm that we have fully complied with section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Our charity could not operate effectively without the significant but unmeasurable contribution made by a group of committed volunteers in the UK. Together with the Trustees they undertake the many tasks associated with day to day activities which would otherwise be undertaken by paid staff. We have no paid employees in the UK. In addition to individuals who launch fundraising initiatives, we have eight</p>

		<p>Advocates and six Trustees who meet regularly and arrange fund raising events and help to make people aware of the work the charity is doing. In this connection, we understand our responsibilities in respect of fundraising. Taking note of Charity Commission guidance "Charity Fundraising: a guide to Trustee Duties (CC20)", we are satisfied that we comply with charity law and best practice. All events are overseen by trustees who are also actively involved.</p> <p>All of the Advocates and Trustees have been to Uganda and have funded their own visits to see the work first-hand and observe the development of the charity.</p> <p>To date 62 people have joined one of our Mission Visits including many donors and sponsors. We continue to offer this life changing opportunity to people.</p> <p>A founding trustee, who discharges all book keeping duties, is assisted by a volunteer when preparing the year end accounts and claiming Gift Aid. Our unpaid Independent Examiner is also a volunteer and a supporter. She does not have a close relationship with any Trustee and is not involved in the day-to-day administration or decision making.</p>

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Our charitable activities are delivered by an NGO which we formed specifically for that purpose. Two of the UK Trustees sit on the NGO board to help ensure decisions made in the UK are followed by the NGO Management Team and staff. Money is transferred from the UK to Uganda only when needed so the Trustees in the UK maintain control of funds as long as possible. Management Accounts, prepared by our NGO Manager are sent to the UK monthly and are supported by copies of the NGO Bank Account Statements. Trustees check the original records during their visits. To further control funds the two UK Trustees who sit on the NGO board are also signatories on the NGO Bank Account.</p>
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We are aware of the ever-increasing incidences of fraud and appreciate we are not immune from the possibility of attack. Whilst no system is fool proof, we have a robust system of controlling expenditure and at our Trustee meetings in the UK we visit the topic regularly. We remain aware of the possibility of cyber-crime and whilst not complacent, have concluded that our present system limits our vulnerability.

The Children's Village continues to provide 24 orphaned or abandoned children with a secure and loving home. Many of these children would simply have died without the medical, emotional and nutritional care they receive in our two Family Style Homes. The latest child to be welcomed into the village had been abandoned in the local trading centre; she is around 3 years old. Where possible we continue to maintain contact with a child's wider family to assess whether a reunification plan can be put in place. When a child reaches the age of 18 they are required by law to move from the Children's Homes.

The Moving On Programme is a new initiative. In order to support and plan for the young people who have no family and reach the age of 18, we are constructing a small "Twin House" near to our Children's Village. There we aim to offer these young people a period of transition with full support to ensure they can adjust to community living.

The Child Sponsorship Programme is currently supporting a further 145 children to live in the community. Many of these children are orphans living with elderly grandparents. Sponsorship improves their access to education, vocational training, nutritional food, sanitation programmes, and income generating activities. During our personal home visits we have observed families who were formerly robbed of all hope be empowered to reach their God given potential and enabled to transform their own lives. Bursaries have enabled children to progress to Secondary Education and Vocational training. Examples of this year's success of this

programme are that one young person has successfully completed his Carpentry Course, whilst three others gained qualifications in tailoring and Motorbike Mechanics.

As food prices and shortages have escalated across the country our sponsored children all continue to receive food and soap to help them manage their nutritional and hygiene needs. When funds allow we also construct latrines for families that do not have this facility and have successfully managed to provide four more latrines this year. Thus further improving the hygiene of all these families.

The Education Programme was developed to benefit over four hundred and sixty children, who attend the BOHCM Nursery & Primary School. Bursaries enable the poorest children to access this good quality education and no child is ever turned away due to lack of ability to pay school fees. We remain a non-profit making school. A free meal is given daily to every child, which not only improves their health but enhances their ability to concentrate and learn. Sadly many of the children do not know when they will next receive a meal. The teachers and support staff all report the benefits of having a permanent job and the positive impact this has on their ability to care for their own families. Furthermore, other opportunities for work become available for local builders and carpenters who are employed as needed. Our installation of a another Rain Water Harvester not only greatly improved our capacity to store water for the school but again provided much needed work to a team of builders.

The Protected Springs Programme continues to be an essential initiative. To date we have constructed 46 clean water facilities with each one providing over 200 people with daily clean water. Access to clean water has not only improved general hygiene for these families but has significantly reduced water borne diseases such as Typhoid and Dysentery thus decreasing infant mortality rates. Our latest Protected Spring was constructed in November

		<p>2022 and is greatly appreciated by the local community.</p> <p><u>The Bible Based Holiday Clubs</u> which normally run for children aged 6 – 18yrs on two sites during school holidays are planned to recommence in December 2023. We look forward to a time when we can welcome over 400 children to each session and to meet the parents and guardians who are always eager to attend the final sessions and see what their children have been enjoying.</p> <p><u>The Youth Sports Development Club</u> which had recommenced in January 2022, welcome the children every Sunday afternoon where they continue to develop many skills such as sharing, socialising, appropriate behaviour and sports skills. For these children who come from impoverished homes, the opportunity to gain skills, have fun and develop their self-esteem has proved invaluable.</p> <p><u>The Community Support Programme</u> is not the main focus of our work. However, our experience is that families who have benefitted from our initiatives such as replacement rooves, pit latrines or medical intervention, frequently require subsequent longer term assistance to enable them to become self-sufficient. We are pleased to report that our flexible and individual approach continues to improve the lives of many families, especially the children.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p><u>Expenditure</u></p> <p>Charitable Activities spend continues to be well in excess of 95% of our annual expenditure. The Trustees are proud of this achievement and recognise that this has been made possible mainly because there are no paid staff in the UK. All work in the UK is undertaken by the Trustees and volunteers.</p> <p>We are not immune from the effects of inflation. Although less than the UK figures and thankfully now falling, in August 2022 Uganda reported a rate of over 9%.</p> <p>Although we have no wage or salary costs in the UK, Teachers and other staff in Uganda need to be paid a competitive wage to enable us to retain and recruit good staff. With education spend up by 60% we wish to explain that our school is now full with 465 pupils. During this expansion period, we needed to promote two teachers, one to Deputy Head and another to Director of Studies. Also, two "floating" teachers were required to cover staff sickness, training days and extra curricula activities. An additional issue is that the Ugandan Government now requires teachers to have two years extra training. This is causing a teacher shortage so they can command higher salaries. The cost of providing each schoolchild with a free daily meal has increased to £1K per month.</p> <p>Under the heading Building Work, we now include all such work except the construction of protected springs. Those are a separate programme. As examples, this year we built 4 latrines for community families, a Rain Water Harvester at our school, two retaining walls to prevent land slippage and tiling and redecoration to one of our homes in our Childrens Village. Also, we have started to build a house as part of our new "Moving On Programme". (See page 4).</p> <p>During the year, with the relaxation of restrictions imposed during the pandemic, we have been able to</p>
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reintroduce activities we had been forced to curtail. This has inevitably increased costs.

As stated above, this year we have made significant investments for our future and it is not surprising to see that our Charitable Activities total has increased to £109.7K against £75.2K in 2022. An analysis is included in the accounts to aid transparency. It should be noted that as we have changed our recording system, previous year's figures are incomparable.

Principal funding sources

Total income is very similar. To aid clarity, our accounts show Gift Aid receipts separately from Donations. £12.0K and £65.5K respectively. Last year's combined figure was £78.2K.

The Trustees continue to make donations according to their personal circumstances and this year have collectively donated £6.9K against £3.7K in 2022. The total of these donations comfortably exceeds the total expenses claimed.

We have been able to put extra effort into fundraising and are pleased to report income has increased to £6.2K, against £1.6K in 2022, with no increase in costs.

Whilst our supporters continue to be affected by the increase in the cost of living, they number over 200. We are not reliant on any single donor, or group, to maintain income at an adequate level.

We continue to appreciate the prayers and financial support from all our supporters.

Investment

Funds are held in the UK until actually required in Uganda. Money not needed immediately is held in our UK Community Bank accounts or in short-term notice accounts with UK institutions, authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. All accounts are FSCS

		protected. During the year we have changed our notice account provider to take advantage of higher interest rates offered.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	During our meetings, we discuss the need for a Reserves Policy. Whilst we are well aware of Charity Commission guidance, we have decided against having such a policy at this time. We will keep this subject before us at future Trustees meetings but meanwhile believe the “amount of reserves held” figure is more than adequate based on our current and envisaged turnover.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£94K
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, governance and management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document: for example, trust deed, memorandum and articles of association etc	Para 1.25	When we founded the charity in 2008, we established it as a Charitable Company. Since 10 May 2019 it has been a CIO.
How is the charity constituted? for example limited company, unincorporated association, CIO	Para 1.25	As a CIO with effect from 10 May 2019. The Constitution is based on the Charity Commission Foundation Model
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are selected by invitation of existing trustees whenever a need arises. We now have 6 trustees which we believe is an advantage. Due to her long term support as an Advocate, experience as a fund raiser and the first-hand knowledge gained of our work whilst in Uganda, we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Joan Young to the trustee's board. Four of the current trustees are founding trustees. All have visited Uganda and subscribe to the Statement of Faith*, as shown below.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		<p>*Statement of Faith</p> <p>We believe in ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The one true God who lives eternally in three persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. • The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God – fully trustworthy for faith and conduct. • The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement. • The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ – born of the Virgin Mary, truly divine and truly human, yet without sin. • The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God. • The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world. • The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ. • The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness. • The church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers – given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love. • The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.
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Reference and administrative details

Charity name	Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1126408
Charity's principal address	10, Government Row, Enfield, EN3 6JN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mr G Skerratt			
2	Mrs B Skerratt	Chair		
3	Mr M Shennan			
4	Mrs M Wood			
5	Mrs L Murphy			
6	Mrs J Young		1 July 2022 to date	
7				
8				
9				
10				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name	None.

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year
	None.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None.
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (optional information)

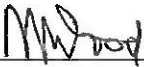
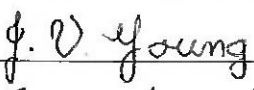
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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	MONICA DAPHNE WOOD	JOAN VERA YOUNG
Position (for example Secretary, Chair, etc)	TRUSTEE	TRUSTEE

Date 11th April 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry

On accounts for the year
ended

30 June 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1126408

Set out on pages

16-18

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2022.

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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

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

Signed:

D. Collins

Date:

14/03/24

Name:

Diane Collins

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

None

Address:

6 Elm Gardens


Enfield

EN2 0HS

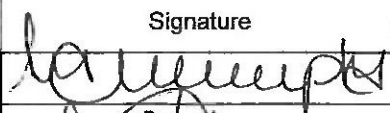

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry		1126408		CC16a	
	Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	1 July 2022	To	30 June 2023		
Section A Receipts and payments						
	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Voluntary Receipts (Donations)	65,512	-	-	65,512	67,710	
Activities for Generating Funds	6,292	-	-	6,292	1,591	
Interest	322	-	-	322	270	
HMRC Gift Aid	12,059	-	-	12,059	10,489	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	84,185	-	-	84,185	80,060	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	84,185	-	-	84,185	80,060	
A3 Payments						
Charitable Activities (See attached)	109,667	-	-	109,667	75,173	
Costs of Generating Voluntary Receipts	2,459	-	-	2,459	884	
Fundraising Costs	654	-	-	654	639	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	112,780	-	-	112,780	76,696	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	112,780	-	-	112,780	76,696	
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 28,595	-	-	- 28,595	3,364	
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	122,584	-	-	122,584	119,220	
Cash funds this year end	93,989	-	-	93,989	122,584	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	4,957	-	
	Savings accounts - Instant Access	39,032	-	
	Savings account - Notice Required	50,000	-	
	Total cash funds	93,989	-	
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Estimated Gift Aid to be claimed	11,000	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	None		-	
	We have given no guarantees		-	
	We have no debts outstanding		-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		LYNN MURPHY	11.4.2024	
		GEORGEY SKERRATT	11.4.2024	

Analysis of Charitable Activities Expenditure	
	2023
<u>Programme</u>	<u>£ K</u>
The Children's Village	17
The Child Sponsorship Programme	22
The Education Programme	24
The Protected Springs Programme	1
Bible Based Holiday Clubs	0
The Youth Sports Development Programme	1
The Community Support Programme	6
Constrction / Building work	13
NGO Manager & Field Staff wages	11
Administration in Uganda	4
Truck & Transportation	3
Trustees' Expenses *	4
Other	4
TOTAL	110
* The Trustees donate funds to the charity which exceed expenses claimed.	