

# **The Mary Wood Trust**

## **Annual Report –2024/2025**

### **Charity Name**

The Mary Wood Trust

Registration Number ----- 1144311

Registered address --- 9 Handforth Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 2LX

### **Charity Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Trustees**

Chairperson --Clare Ramsden

Treasurer — Dr Peter Wood

Trustees — Kath Smith, Ann Gover, Pippa Hutchins, Rachel Wood

Trustee selection method – By personal invitation and approval by existing trustees.

### **Our Aims and Objectives**

- 1.To provide scholarships for education and training with a view to improving disadvantaged young peoples' life skills and opportunities in Uganda.
- 2.To advance education and relieve poverty by providing sponsorship, training, funds or items for disadvantaged children, young people, and those in need in Uganda.
3. To develop facilities in Kinkiizi, Kanungu district, in particular but not exclusively, at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School (NGSS) and Ruth Memorial Nursery School (RMNS), in order to achieve the aims outlined in 1 and 2 above.

Three trustees' meetings were held during the year – in June, October and March, all via Zoom.

These regular meetings are essential for the smooth running of the charity. As well as keeping all the trustees up to date with the activities in Uganda, we also make decisions about finances, forward planning and how best to fulfil our aims and objectives.

There is full transparency about how our money is spent. We endeavour to make sure that the money we send out to Uganda, and spent there, is fully accounted for, receiving copies of receipts wherever possible.

Money sent for student sponsorship or building projects at NGBSS is channelled via the Diocese of Kinkiizi, where the contacts we have there are trusted and reliable, the relationship having been built up over many years. The fees for university and further education tuition are sent directly to the individual respected institutions. Where this is not possible the money is sent direct to the student and she sends a receipt to us for the fees paid.

The trustees all give their time freely for their involvement in the charity and any trips made by trustees to Uganda are totally self-funded.

## **Activities and Objectives**

### *Activities over the past year*

**Ruth Memorial Nursery School (RMNS)** is situated in Kihiihi. It continues to provide a basic primary education for approximately 75 young children from the local area. All the children come from poor families, many of whom have been affected by AIDS/HIV.

Ephraim Tumwesigye is the founder and director of the nursery school. It is named after his wife Ruth, who was a teacher, who sadly died in a traffic accident some years ago. He is a retired headteacher and he and his board of management (which includes family members) are responsible for the smooth running of the school. They make sure that all local guidelines and restrictions are followed. The school staff consists of a headteacher (who has some nursery qualifications and many years of experience) and 4 other women who are not formally trained. There is a night watchman, and we pay the salary for the cook.

It is a constant struggle to pay the staff as many parents and/or guardians cannot always afford the meagre fees that are charged. However, the children are assured of a good, nourishing meal each day as the Mary Wood Trust pays for the milk, maize flour, beans,

rice and pancakes which they receive. We are most grateful to a generous sponsor who enables this.

We have continued to pay for all the stationery needs that are requested as well as soap to help with ongoing hygiene. During our visit in April, we were able to hand over donated polo shirts for all the children, as well as new footballs, colouring books and pencils. Over the past year we have also mended a number of the outdoor metal seesaws. These break very easily with their constant use. It is hoped that in future there may be the chance to provide some more contemporary outdoor play equipment, made locally, which could withstand the energetic play of 75 young children.

### **Nyakabungo Girls Boarding Secondary School (NGBSS)**

This is a Church of Uganda school, and it is the only girls' boarding school under the umbrella of the Diocese of Kinkiizi. Its rural situation, on sometimes impassable roads, makes it very difficult to access, particularly when it rains. This emphasises the importance of its boarding status as many students live some distance away.

The Mary Wood Trust has been involved with the school since 2002 and has continued to grow in its sponsorship of students and improving the infrastructure of the school. This is seen by all the additional buildings and facilities provided by the MWT over the past 22 years.

We continue to support 40 girls at the school, most of whom are chosen from very needy backgrounds. Many would not otherwise get the chance to continue their secondary education.

We provide mosquito nets to all new girls entering the school and we are also managing to continue with our commitment to provide sanitary towels to all girls and female teachers during term time. The new incinerator is now up and running and put to good use.

The sewing room is being well used, especially with the government's new policy on offering vocational subjects. We provide the salary for the part time sewing teacher.

Each year the school celebrates Mary Wood Day on March 8<sup>th</sup> to coincide with International Women's Day. We provide a cow for that day, so that the girls and staff

can enjoy a meal that includes meat which is a huge change from their daily diet of beans.

The school celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024 and trustee Clare Ramsden (with her husband Oliver) were honoured to share in the celebrations to mark this event on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The newly formed school band were put through their paces and provided suitable music to mark the occasion. The new A- level and Fine Arts block, “Margaret Block”, was officially opened. This three class-roomed building was built using a donation from the Linden Trust, given in memory of Margaret Pearson, founder of the Linden Trust, and great supporter of the Mary Wood Trust. Providing this wonderful facility has given much needed classroom space as well as uplifting the status of the school.

### **Nyakatare Health Centre**

Situated in Kanungu Town, NHC is a Diocesan Health Centre and provides good quality medical and maternity care to the local community. We continue to offer limited support to the health centre, recently financing the mending of the portable ultrasound machine. We continue to enable community health outreaches from the clinic where resources are taken out into the local villages. Most people have no form of transport and so by taking the services to the people they can receive ante- and post-natal care, family planning advice, HIV testing, dental and health education and child immunisation.

### **Further Education**

The majority of the girls we sponsor at NGBSS, stay and take their A level exams. Many of them do well enough to be considered for further studies. We are in a position to be able to offer support to a few of those who wish to go on and study further at a local university. We have to make difficult decisions as to who to sponsor and this is usually done by choosing those with the best grades achieved in the exams. This year one of our girls is studying to be a lawyer and another has secured a place at Makerere University to study for a degree in Business Statistics.

We provide each girl with a reconditioned laptop and make sure that they have reasonable accommodation and adequate resources to study well. We also encourage some input from them and their families, so that everyone has a stake in the girls’ success.

We are very proud of all our girls who make it this far and we keep in touch with them and follow their progress.

Where possible the money for their fees is sent direct to the university. Where this is not practical the girls receive the money from us and then send us receipts from the university once the fees etc are paid. We are satisfied that the money we spend on these girls is well used and will benefit them in the long run.

### **Newsletters and raising awareness**

It is very important to keep all our supporters up to date with what is going on with the charity and how we are spending the charity's money. This year we have sent out 2 newsletters and also published an article in the St Bartholomew's Church, Wilmslow, parish magazine. One of our trustees has also given a presentation to a Women's Institute group in Plumley.

Our supporters and regular donors are very loyal, and we are very grateful for this.

We also use Facebook as a way of updating our supporters on various events and activities that we are involved in.

### **Future Plans**

At NGBSS there are a number of needs such as a providing a new main hall, and renovating an existing classroom block, which has leaking roofs and cracking walls. There is also a plan in place to introduce a bakery project and also a soap making enterprise when funds allow.

We will continue to provide sanitary products to all the girls at NGBSS as well as mosquito nets for all new students.

We hope to be able to offer more support to NHC, especially now that they have had substantially reduced funding because of the withdrawal of US Aid from Uganda.

## **Financial Review**

### **Overview of the year Financial Review 2024/2025**

We have continued to be blessed by receiving regular donations from many individuals.

## **Income**

Our total income fell by £29,837 to £52,170, as in 2023-2024 we have received a sizeable one-off donation for the new A-level Block.

Principal sources of funds

Most of the Trust's income came from:

Charities - £7,200 (£7,000 from the Linden Trust and £200 from the Redsetter Trust)

Individuals - (direct giving - £26,671, via PayPal - £4,218)

HMRC - Gift Aid reclaimed - £4,707.

Interest on Investments - £4,988

eBay Sales - £163

## **Expenditure**

Our expenditure of £48,408 is similar to levels two years ago.

Our main areas of expenditure were:

NGBSS Building work £15,091

Further Education Students - £10,287

NGBSS Student support - £9,684

Nyakatare Health Centre - £2,111

Ruth Memorial Nursery School Food etc - £4,794

## **Fundraising**

Plant and cake stall

Presentation to women's group

e bay sales

Facebook marketplace

## **Reserve funds**

In the unlikely event of the charity having to fold, we hold reserve funds specifically for this purpose. This would enable the charity to fulfil the commitments that we have made to the students at NGBSS, RMNS and the various institutes of further education, so that students could finish their respective educations.

## **How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity.**

By providing sponsorship for 40 girls at Nyakabungo Girls Boarding Secondary School (NGBSS), all of whom come from needy backgrounds, we are helping to ensure that they have a good secondary education and therefore a good start in life. This in turn

will improve the standard of their own families and hopefully uplift their whole communities in the future.

By providing mosquito nets each year to all students, we are ensuring that the girls have the best chance of staying healthy.

The provision of sanitary towels to all girls and women at the school ensures that no one is left in need and their dignity is maintained.

The improvements to the fabric of both NGBSS and Ruth Memorial Nursery School (RMNS), gives everyone a clean and safe environment for the children and young people to learn in.

Our continued ability to support some girls beyond NGBSS is hopefully going to produce useful and educated and informed citizens who will make a difference in their own families and the community beyond.

By providing daily food and milk for 75 children at RMNS we are ensuring that the children have daily nourishment. The provision of soap for hand washing helps to keep the children from becoming ill. Replacing broken play equipment and providing new footballs gives the children a chance to enjoy healthy exercise. Providing all the stationary needs for the school is important in keeping up the standards of the school.

Supporting Nyakatare Health Centre with its community health outreaches has a far-reaching benefit to the wider community.

### **Privacy Policy**

The Mary Wood Trust has written a privacy policy which is available to view on our website.

<b>The Mary Wood Trust</b>		<b>1144311</b>	<b>CC16a</b>
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>			
For the period from	06/04/2024	To	

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
AMAZON SMILE	-	-	-	-	22
CHARITABLE TRUSTS	-	7,200	-	7,200	35,200
CHURCH DONATIONS	-	1,000	-	1,000	975
CAF VOUCHER	-	590	-	590	320
DEPOSIT INTEREST	4,988	-	-	4,988	3,491
EBAY SALES	-	163	-	163	109
HMRC GIFT AID	1,956	2,751	-	4,707	3,984
PAYPAL GIVING FUND	128	1,505	-	1,633	2,514
PERSONAL DONATIONS	5,514	22,157	-	27,671	32,492
PERSONAL DONATIONS VIA PAYPAL	-	4,218	-	4,218	2,780
STEWARDSHIP	-	-	-	-	120
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>12,586</b>	<b>39,584</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,170</b>	<b>82,007</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>12,586</b>	<b>39,584</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,170</b>	<b>82,007</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
FURTHER EDUCATION	-	10,287	-	10,287	9,446
KINKIIZI STUDENT SUPPORT	-	1,277	-	1,277	714
NYAKATARE HEALTH CENTRE	-	2,111	-	2,111	2,220
NGSS BUILDING WORK	-	15,091	-	15,091	41,203
NGSS FINE ARTS	-	843	-	843	597
NGSS KITCHEN	-	-	-	-	1,537
NGSS NETS	-	504	-	504	161
NGSS SAMARITAN	-	303	-	303	-
NGSS SANITARY PADS	-	1,401	-	1,401	1,417
NGSS SEWING ROOM	-	1,131	-	1,131	618
NGSS SPORTS	-	-	-	-	285
NGSS SUPPORT	-	9,684	-	9,684	9,463
RMS FOOD	-	4,794	-	4,794	4,462
RMS GENERAL	-	258	-	258	1,736
GENERAL	724	-	-	724	2,734
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>47,684</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>48,408</b>	<b>76,593</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>47,684</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>48,408</b>	<b>76,593</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>11,862</b>	<b>(8,100)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,762</b>	<b>5,414</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>(41)</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>70,717</b>	<b>44,088</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>114,805</b>	<b>109,391</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>82,538</b>	<b>36,029</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>118,567</b>	<b>114,805</b>



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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	CO-OP BANK (CURRENT)	7,910	-	-
	CO-OP BANK (SAVINGS)	10,657	-	-
	REDWOOD BANK (SAVINGS)	10,000	-	-
	CCLA (SAVINGS)	53,971	36,029	-
		82,538	36,029	

**Total cash funds**

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

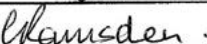
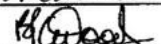
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Clare Ramsden	14/11/2025
	Peter Wood	14/11/2025





**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**

The Mary Wood Trust

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

5<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1144311

**Set out on pages**

CC16a

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2025.

**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:**

**Date:** 14/11/2025

**Name:**

George Large

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

**Address:**

166 Beeches Road

Chelmsford

Essex CM1 2RZ