

Charity number: 1152159

A Child of Mine

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2023

Prepared By:
Carthy Accountants Limited
Certified Practising Accountants
33 Eastgate Street
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Staffordshire
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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2023**

TRUSTEES

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CHARITY NUMBER

1152159

ACCOUNTANTS

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Certified Practising Accountants
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**ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2023**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2023

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees of A Child of Mine are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30/06/2023

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the charity in the year under review was to provide emotional and practical support to bereaved parents and families .

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trustees of A Child of Mine are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements for the year ending 30th June 2023

A Child of Mine is governed by its constitution, adopted 23rd April 2013. There are currently 6 Trustees who will be re-appointed or appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

Upon appointment, all Trustees are provided with an introduction to the charity by the Chair and others as deemed appropriate. The board of Trustees come from a range of professional backgrounds relevant to the charity's objectives. The Trustees meet regularly, and 7 meetings were held during this financial period 1st July 2022 – 30th June 2023.

RISK REVIEW

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to the major risks. These procedures are periodically reviewed.

OVERVIEW

A Child of Mine (ACOM) continues to be run in a well organised and positive way. Thanks, must go to the charity's Trustees who all bring valuable skills and knowledge. They have continued to help raise awareness of A Child of Mine, and its objectives. We are looking forward to expanding the charity in the coming year, bringing in new resources and increasing our fundraising activities.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the charity as defined in the constitution are to relieve mental and physical sickness of person's resident in England and Wales suffering from the bereavement of a child by the provision of advice and support through, email, telephone, face to face, working with healthcare professionals to improve bereavement care, social media and through an online website. We also aim to promote and protect the physical and mental health/wellbeing of sufferers whose child has died in England and Wales through the provision of financial assistance, support, education and practical advice. (Financial assistance will be provided to families whose child has died under the age of 18 and are resident within Staffordshire).

ACTIVITIES

A Child of Mine has continued to focus its activities set out in the constitution. There are many activities which contribute to achieving our objectives: We provide emotional & spiritual support, financial support, advice, practical guidance, information, and vital peer support directly to bereaved families after a child's death, through group work and 1-2-1 sessions.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2023

TRUSTEES' REPORT

We strive to improve professional care for families whose child has died. We do this by working closely with both bereaved families and multi-agency professionals to help improve care and educate on the needs and experiences of bereaved parents. We further this by the provision of information for families and professionals, attending regular meetings with key healthcare professionals, lecturing, networking, focus groups and multi-agency alliances. We partner with other relevant charity organisations to work together ultimately supporting our beneficiaries. We also sit on some prevalent bereavement groups across the West Midlands including: the regional networking group for the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), a lay member for the Staffordshire Child Death Overview Panel and for the Black Country Neonatal death reviews, the National Children's Hospitals Bereavement Network, Staffordshire Bereavement Alliance, Friends of Stafford Cemeteries and an independent chair for LeDeR (Learning from the lives and deaths of people with learning a disability and autism).

For families within our area of benefit we provide small financial grants (via referral). We offer several different support groups every month, which include a 'Stay and Play Playgroup', for bereaved parents and their children born before or after loss. A teenage group for bereaved young people, building confidence through humour and creative activities. A drop-in peer support group for bereaved parents, in partnership with local child death nurse specialists. These drop in's run at two venues across Staffordshire. We also run 2 baby loss support groups specifically for those who have lost in early pregnancy and those who have experienced a stillbirth/baby loss. All these groups have been well attended this year and have continued to provide valuable support for those who need it.

We provide 2 memorial services for families within Staffordshire, these services are hosted by Penkridge Methodist Church and St Mary's Church in Stafford. They offer a safe place to come and remember those children or babies that were lost too soon. They provide an emotional outlet and a place to meet others who have also lost children. "We love coming to your services, and just being with other who get it, brings us comfort" – Ashley, a bereaved father.

ACHIEVEMENTS

For the last few years, we have spoken about how proud we are to have been able to grow in such a difficult climate. However, we are extremely proud once again to have increased our reach and to a much wider area as we took the decision to alternate a couple of our groups between online and face to face. We continue to work hard to keep our services and our engagement with the families we support a priority. We also marked our 10th year of being a registered charity in May 2023 and are looking forward to the next year ahead albeit we appreciate still in challenging times for the charity sector.

We are always proud to be acknowledged and respected by our peers, including the bereavement teams within the main Children's hospitals across the UK and, being regarded as the "go to charity for child loss" by the palliative care team in Great Ormond Street. "I hold you in high esteem and think what you do for bereaved parents is phenomenal. I will continue to promote your work with A Child of Mine." - Bereavement Service Manager at Great Ormond Street.

We are honoured to continue our position on the National Children's Hospital Bereavement Network which has continued to be an online meeting with a face to face once a year. This is a huge testament to the work we are doing and has enabled us to develop new key relationships with other children's hospitals across the country and gives the group a parent voice. Our work with the Child Death Overview Process (CDOP) has grown this year and we are honoured to be working more closely with the specialist nurses to provide education for student nurses and other agency staff. These relationships help us develop and further our aims as a charity, and they are vital for us to move forward to provide the best possible support we can.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2023

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Our work with the Bereavement Team at Birmingham Children's Hospital has continued but there have been some changes in the team, so we are looking to connect with the new members. We do regularly receive family referrals from them within our area of benefit and we still provide support on their staff study days when required. The feedback from this is always outstanding and proves that a parent's experience is extremely valuable to help professionals improve their care and relationships with families. "I found this really helpful to support me in saying the right thing to parents who are going through a bereavement." - Family support worker.

Our National Bereaved Parents Day was held on 3rd July 2023 this was the 3th year of hosting the day and this year reached over 5 million people which was incredible. We know that there are many awareness days for loss over the year, with baby loss awareness week in October probably the best known. However, we wanted to acknowledge and join every bereaved parent whether they had lost in pregnancy, or after or a child at any age. The day was so impactful, and it was wonderful to see other charities and organisations sharing and supporting the day with charities like Ronald McDonald House Charities UK, Sands, Samaritans, and NHS joining in.

Working with business' is extremely important for us as it helps develop relationships within our community and ways in which we can work together for mutual benefit. This year we were lucky to work with a charity called Pilotlight, they offered us a mentoring program with Directors from Autotrader. The aim was to develop a strategy for A Child of Mine to approach corporates to offer leaders and managers a way to support their staff after a loss. A way to improve staff retention and wellbeing. This project is still in development, but Autotrader have helped us with collateral and resources and helped to identify specific companies to approach. We look forward to rolling out this project in the next year.

During 22/23 we have supported directly over 600 people through signposting, peer/emotional support, information, or by attending one of our groups. However, as last year we worked hard to increase support and engagement with our families. It has been good to be back face to face after last year's restrictions and a sense of normality has returned.

This year we also finally established our bereaved dad's group which had been delayed from past years due to Covid restrictions. It has been good to get them together and we arranged a night out for them which they very much enjoyed. Dads can be forgotten after loss, and they deal with their grief differently to the mother so it is great we can provide a safe place for them to meet.

We have also continued to increase our resource library that our families can utilize. The library is still a work in progress as we add new titles to its inventory, but we have a large variety of books about different kinds of loss and written from different kinds of perspectives, mothers, fathers, and grandparents and a selection of bereavement books for children. We have found the library has been a great support for our families that couldn't afford to buy a book, or who just wanted to try reading a few different books without committing to buy. We lend out the books to any family that feels it would be of help.

We have found fundraising has continued to be challenging again this year due to the lasting impact of COVID. We are seeing a change in how fundraising is done however, after reluctantly postponing our annual charity ball for the past 2 years, we were delighted to be back this year. The ball is our main fundraiser, and we were delighted that this year we raised just under £12,000. We also added a couple of other new fundraising events to our calendar this year in a jewellery making workshop and a watercolour experience. These events were very well attended and successful, and we very much look forward to hosting these events again next year.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF A CHILD OF MINE

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30/06/2023 .

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2023

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees continue to consider the appropriate balance of financial stability and investment in charitable activity. The board regularly review the levels of an appropriate reserves policy. Given the length of time likely until we recover fully after covid and the cost of living crisis, it is important we continue to hold a level of reserves which can sustain our activity until we have a better picture of what fundraising might look like, both in the short- and medium-term. We aim to hold a target level of free reserves of around £40,000, which the trustees consider to be approximately six months of core expenditure, including staff salaries, accommodation costs and general running costs.

Designated reserves which are set aside for a specified future use.

We currently have around £11,500 of designated funds set aside to support specific projects and pieces of work and cannot be used for the general running costs of the charity. We hope these designated funds will increase in the coming year as we start working on new projects and partnerships.

THE FUTURE

We are looking forward to the next 12 months and growing ACOM further and in 2024 we celebrate 11 years of being a registered charity. We are still very aware that we are in a difficult environment after 2 years of a global pandemic, we have seen a decrease in our income and acknowledge that the cost-of-living crisis will also affect funding and community fundraising in the short/medium term. However, building on our services and relationships with healthcare professionals and increasing the communication and reach within our community we are confident that we will continue to sustain and fund our charitable activities.

We aim to look at further developing our support, and in particular the mental health and wellbeing of our families. We aim to offering wellbeing workshops, pamper days and other ways to support our bereaved families and to improve their wellbeing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in the charity to date. To our fabulous trustees, staff, supporters, and volunteers without whom, we would not be able to make such a difference to our family's lives.

The report was prepared in accordance with the special provisions within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 16/03/2024

Pamela Kearns
Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2023


Date:

Carthy Accountants Limited
Certified Practising Accountants
33 Eastgate Street
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST16 2LZ

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 30/06/2023**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Income from generated funds				
Income from Investments	-	-	-	3
Income from charitable activities	36,925	28,493	65,923	52,741
Total Income and endowments	36,925	28,493	65,923	52,744
Expenses				
Costs of generating funds				
Expenditure on Raised funds	(1,560)	1,560	-	-
Expenditure on Charitable activities	49,386	27,748	77,639	49,797
Total Expenses	47,826	29,308	77,639	49,797
Net gains on investments				
Net Income	(10,901)	(815)	(11,716)	2,947
Transfers between funds	(470)	470	-	-
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets				
Net movement in funds:				
Net income for the year	(11,371)	(345)	(11,716)	2,947
Total funds brought forward	99,543	19,316	118,859	115,912
Net funds carried forward	88,172	18,971	107,143	118,859

This statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

BALANCE SHEET AT 30/06/2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	3	3,067	2,009
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors (amounts falling due within one year)	4	1,163	3,126
Cash at bank and in hand		105,664	114,232
		<u>106,827</u>	<u>117,358</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	5	<u>2,751</u>	<u>508</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>104,076</u>	<u>116,850</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>107,143</u>	<u>118,859</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Unrestricted funds	6		
General fund		67,814	99,542
Designated funds		20,358	-
Restricted funds	7	<u>18,971</u>	<u>19,317</u>
		<u>107,143</u>	<u>118,859</u>

For the year ending 30/06/2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the board of trustees on 16/03/2024 and signed on their behalf by



Pamela Kearns
Trustee

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a. Basis Of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

1b. Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

1c. Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1d. Allocation And Apportionment Of Costs

All costs relate to the single activity of the charitable company and are recognised accordingly.

1e. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for the specific future purposes or projects.

1f. Depreciation

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Equipment	reducing balance 25%
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1g. Turnover

Turnover represents the invoiced value of goods and services supplied by the company, net of value added tax and trade discounts.

2. EMPLOYEES

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Average number of employees	3	2

3. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 01/07/2022	4,614	4,614
Additions	2,081	2,081
At 30/06/2023	<u>6,695</u>	<u>6,695</u>
Depreciation		
At 01/07/2022	2,605	2,605
For the year	1,023	1,023
At 30/06/2023	<u>3,628</u>	<u>3,628</u>
Net Book Amounts		
At 30/06/2023	<u>3,067</u>	<u>3,067</u>
At 30/06/2022	<u>2,009</u>	<u>2,009</u>

4. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	1,163	3,126
	<u>1,163</u>	<u>3,126</u>

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Taxation and social security	-	508
Other creditors	111	-
	<u>111</u>	<u>508</u>

6. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	99,543	36,925	(47,626)	(21,028)	67,814
Butterfly boxes	-	-	-	6,030	6,030
Pamper days	-	-	-	6,528	6,528
Christmas presents	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
10 year anniversary event	-	-	(200)	5,500	5,300
10 year event contingency	-	-	-	500	500
	<u>99,543</u>	<u>36,925</u>	<u>(47,826)</u>	<u>(470)</u>	<u>88,172</u>

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Dads Group	1,000	-	(152)	-	848
Our Space	4,894	-	(2,409)	-	2,485
Sunshine and Rainbows	3,720	3,500	(4,847)	-	2,373
Mariposa	1,172	-	(633)	-	539
Publications	4,000	-	(1,659)	-	2,341
Advertising	600	-	-	-	600
PPE	550	-	-	-	550
Resource library	-	1,000	(228)	-	772
Penkridge groups	-	500	-	-	500
Pamper Day	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
National Lottery	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Butterfly boxes	380	-	(850)	470	-
Christmas gifts	-	1,000	(912)	-	88
Computer equipment	-	3,000	(2,619)	-	381
Gayle 1-2-1 costs	-	7,494	(5,000)	-	2,494
Summer ball sponsor	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
	<u>19,316</u>	<u>28,494</u>	<u>(29,309)</u>	<u>470</u>	<u>18,971</u>

A Child of Mine

Incoming Resources
for the year ended 30/06/2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Investment income		
Interest received	-	3
	-	3
	-	3
	<u>65,923</u>	<u>52,741</u>
	<u>65,923</u>	<u>52,744</u>

A Child of Mine

Expenses
for the year ended 30/06/2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Expenses		
Costs of generating funds		
Charitable Activities		
Support groups	16,041	4,425
Wages and pension costs	31,647	33,471
Office Hire	3,942	3,788
Travel and other expenses	2,780	1,201
Fundraising	12,673	813
Postage and stationery	3,852	1,924
Publications and information packs	1,419	418
Insurance	627	643
Just Giving charges	274	504
Accountancy fees	600	-
Professional fees	-	355
Stationery & office supplies	623	-
Telephone and email	1,075	994
Subscriptions	1,063	591
Depreciation of equipment	1,023	670
	<u>77,639</u>	<u>49,797</u>
	<u>77,639</u>	<u>49,797</u>