

LONE BUFFALO

Trustees' annual report for the period ended 31 December 2023

Registered charity number 1169163; registered on 13 September 2016; the constitution was amended on 7 November 2018
Principal address
7 Mount Harry Road
SEVENOAKS
TN13 3JH

Trustees during the period to 31 December 2023 were

Jackie Thomas
Andrew March
Jeremy Richens

Richard John
Gillian Charlton (appointed 4 December 2023)
Gary Rolfe (appointed 4 December 2023)

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and its constitution was adopted on 23 June 2016. The charity is managed by the chief operating officer, who is based in Laos, with local staff and guidance from the charity's trustees and other volunteer support. All trustees and volunteers give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits. In the event of a vacancy arising for a trustee, one will be sought from the present supporters of and donors to the charity.

Objectives

Each year the charity reviews its objectives with reference to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The charity's objectives for 2023 were to advance the education and improve the life chances of the young people in and around Phonsavan, Laos through the provision, maintenance and support of the Lone Buffalo English Development Centre. The charity intends to continue to pursue these objectives for 2024 and for the foreseeable future by raising funds and supporting the centre financially.

Activities

The objectives are achieved by providing to students in Phonsavan:

- (a) English language education and training;
- (b) Sport and leisure activities to promote health and social wellbeing;
- (c) Activities and other opportunities to develop skills, capabilities and resilience of young people, so they can participate in society as mature and responsible individuals;
- (d) Presentations and field trips to inform young people about their local community and country; and
- (e) Assistance with volunteer placements in local services and further education opportunities.

The main term runs for ten months from September to June although the Lao teachers do continue beginners classes through the summer for those students who can study in July and August.

Main achievements

This, the first full year since the pandemic, has seen the activities of the centre develop across a broad range of activities. Overall school attendance at 90% was the highest for some years with 180 students in the last quarter (57% female) between the ages of 11 and 18 being provided with up to 6 hours per week of structured English language lessons taught by qualified teaching professionals together with the opportunity to participate in team sports, mainly soccer, and individual exercise in the school gymnasium. There were 81 new students offered places for the current year and 87% of the students who completed their final year at High School in 2023 have already started tertiary studies.

Barrier Free Learning continued to be a massive positive as both teachers and students continued with the technology and new learning platforms, enhancing the whole learning experience. The Community Teacher development initiative has successfully worked with young graduates from the local teacher training college to develop the teaching team. The third Develop Together life skills programme was completed in early 2023 with more success for participants (gains in confidence, dealing with stress, parent support etc) and the fourth programme is underway providing 20 life skills workshops for 77 students. Green Buffalo was a new initiative to encourage teachers and students to protect their environment and has proved to be extremely popular. The Student Coffee Co-operative continued to develop basic business skills and promote local produce. The Lone Buffalo Girls Football Club continued its development with female students/alumnae managing the coaching, management, promotion and accounts and up to 30% of female students participating. Finally the LB Media Crew won another international award for their film 'Peace Bomb' at an international festival in Taiwan.

Financial review

The charity receives donations from individuals and corporate bodies and sponsorship from the US and UK and other embassies in Vientiane, Laos, and others, towards the cost of specific activities. All funds received, except for some minor costs of governance, are used to support the school.

The charity maintains a cash reserve within unrestricted funds which is sufficient to cover at least six months regular support for the school. However because donations and sponsorship, especially from corporate bodies and embassies, are not received on a regular basis during the year and remittances to support the school are made only when needed by the school, the level of the reserves will from time to time exceed this minimum level.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

.....
Jackie Thomas

Date.....

LONE BUFFALO

Receipts and payments account for the year to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Corporate donations	26,117	14,047	40,164	30,295
Personal donations	25,417	-	25,417	23,280
US Embassy	-	8,558	8,558	8,813
NZ Embassy	-	13,123	13,123	-
Gift Aid recovery	4,209	-	4,209	4,552
	<u>55,743</u>	<u>35,728</u>	<u>91,471</u>	<u>66,940</u>
Payments				
Support for school	44,432	23,950	68,382	46,993
Cost of generating funds	216	-	216	216
IT costs	1,985	-	1,985	2,485
Bank charges	398	-	398	238
	<u>47,031</u>	<u>23,950</u>	<u>70,981</u>	<u>49,932</u>
Net of receipts and payments	8,712	11,778	20,490	17,008
Funds at 1 January 2023	46,333	8,813	55,146	38,138
Funds at 31 December 2023	<u>£55,045</u>	<u>£20,591</u>	<u>£75,636</u>	<u>£55,146</u>

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2023

Cash at bank	<u>£55,045</u>	<u>£20,591</u>	<u>£75,636</u>	<u>£55,146</u>
--------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

Approved by the Trustees on ddd and signed on their behalf by

.....
Jackie Thomas

Date.....

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Lone Buffalo

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lone Buffalo Charitable Incorporated Organisation (the CIO) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

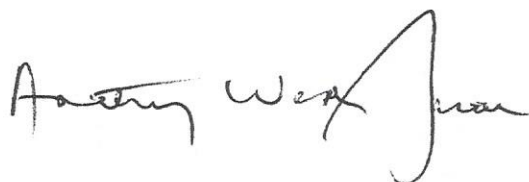
I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I 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 the CIO 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:

Name: Anthony S Weston Smith
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales
Address: 132 Oakhill Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1NX
Date: 25th July 2024