

BiG KIDS Annual Report (Year ending 31st March 2021)

BiG KIDS' fourth year of operation was challenged by the global pandemic, with national lockdowns and restrictions in place. Work moved from mainly in person to mostly online, and the team shrank back to two, with overseas full time volunteers returning home to America.

So with the need to stay home, BiG KIDS moved online. Sam & Ste reworked the previous monthly roaming youth group (Friday Night Live), to become a half an hour weekly stream on Facebook that kids and families could tune in to at home.

Once the summer months came and restrictions changed, a 'hybrid' holiday club was created based loosely around the Wizard of Oz film. Kids received a box of crafts and activities, with videos to enjoy watching at home released each day.

September brought fresh optimism of what a 'new normal' may look like. Conversations with schools started back up, and churches were exploring what could be done that people would feel comfortable attending.

BiG KIDS produced seasonal music videos for Harvest and Remembrance and tailored 'virtual church tours' for local primary schools. They also worked closely with The Genesis Project to create weekly videos and activity packs that were delivered to 30 children each week.

However, another lockdown came along. With the uncertainty again of what Christmas would look like, more videos were made for use in schools and churches. A Christingle song, short Christmas poem videos and a Christmas Eve puppet show were created and recorded.

Once January 2021 arrived, another lockdown was announced and more videos were created. More activity bags were sent weekly to families through The Genesis Project, plus a Lent music video was produced as well. Plans for spring and summer included videos for Easter plus meetings to explore what summer activities would look like, and when weekly School visits could restart, with the realistic expectation that this would be around September 2021 for the start of the new academic year.

Throughout the year, the videos were made available for free online via Facebook and YouTube. The videos went far and wide, across our local area, nationally and internationally as well. Thought was given to how this venture and the creative output of BiG KIDS could become a permanent feature of the charity's resources.

Finances remained reasonably strong considering the face-to-face work had mostly stopped due to covid and national restrictions. Almost all regular givers continued to support the charity, though fundraiser events had to stop, one-off donations were less frequent and income from activities was obviously less than it would have been if people had been allowed to meet in person. We were extremely thankful for all those individuals and churches that continued to give money and support the work of BiG KIDS throughout this challenging year.

Trustees Meetings moved online via Zoom, where virtual reports were given. Support was offered to the team, and discussions included thoughts on how best to support churches and schools both through the pandemic and afterwards, as well as how the charity could increase income to further the reach and strengthen the output in new fields.

Big Kids			
Finance Statement @ 31st March 2020			
		April 2019 - March 2020	April 2020 - March 2021
Income			
Grants		2,205	-
Donations		21,594	12,083
Regular Giving		11,969	12,722
Gift Aid		3,552	3,033
Activity / Events		1,682	2,009
Fund Raising		159	156
Gap Year Fees		-	-
Bank Interest		56	15
Loans		-	-
TOTAL INCOME		41,216	30,018
Expenditure			
Payroll		29,700	36,450
Staff Expenses		896	-
Activity Cost		2,684	944
Publicity		156	-
Insurance		261	277
Admin incl P&S		24	120
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		33,721	37,791
NET INCOME		7,496	(7,773)
		38,589	30,816
Closing Bank Balances			
Community Account		2,162	862
Business Money Manager		36,427	29,954
TOTAL BANK BALANCES		38,589	30,816

Examined and Verified by Gary Cox (Independent Examiner)

GARY COX

22nd April 2021