



Marafiki Trust

**Annual Report and Financial Statements for year ended
31 Dec 2024**

Registered Charity Number 1187949



MARAFIKI TRUST
Charity Information

Trustees

Nicola Guise BSc.BEng

Elizabeth (Liz) Turnbull LLB

Rebecca (Becky) Smith B.Ed (Hons)

Registered charity number 1187949

Registered office

Inanda
Church Street
Wadenhoe
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Independent examiner

Judie Woods FCA DChA BFP
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The Trustees present their Annual Report and accounts of the Marafiki Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Structure

Marafiki Trust, also known as MT (the Charity) is registered with the Charity Commission with charity number 1187949. The Charity was originally formed in December 2019 and became a registered charity on 13 February 2020.

Governance and Management

The Trustees manage the affairs of the Charity. The Trustees who held office during the year are listed on page 2.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

The Charity does not have any employees. The Trustees carry out all day-to-day management of the Charity.

Objects

The prevention and relief of poverty in Kenya or the UK by providing: grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities and other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty and/or provide educational opportunities.

Our Vision

A world where all children have the opportunity to access a formal education no matter their age, sex, religion, background or ability.

Activities, achievements and performance

'Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid it is man made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.' Nelson Mandela

Marafiki Trust was born out of a desire on the part of its founding Trustees (Nicola and Liz) to support projects in Kenya to provide education and facilities for disadvantaged groups of children living in poverty in the slum areas of Nairobi. On a trip through Africa in 2016, they met the founders of a then Community Based Organisation - **Real Hope Community Youth Organisation ('RHYCO')** - who are now formerly registered in Kenya as a 'company limited by guarantee' (**Real Hope Community Foundation (RHCF)**) and subsequent visits cemented a deep friendship. In December 2021, new Trustee (Becky) visited Kenya as a sponsor and after a successful trip was invited to become a third Trustee of the Charity.

In addition to RHCF, the Trustees help to fund a small project - **Joyful Hearts Centre ('JHC')** established to support a small group of children with cerebral palsy, who are based within the same compound as RHCF.

Having renovated and moved into new leased premises ('Bella Ciao' - meaning 'beautiful welcome') in January 2021, in October 2022, upon expiry of their 2-year tenancy, the team, were able to purchase Bella Ciao with pro-bono legal support provided by Kenyan child-focused legal group ('Legal Sister'). Funding was provided jointly by International Needs Canada (INCA) and the Charity. INCA's share was funded by one donor. After considerable fundraising efforts with events and donations and a large grant from the Kajatawa Foundation, the Charity was able to raise over half of its share of the purchase price (which including legal fees and stamp duty equating to £117, 601.83). The remainder of the required purchase funds (£50,000) were loaned (interest free) to the Charity by a donor who wished to protect their identity. By 31 December 2024, the Charity had successfully repaid the loan, with a large generous donation of £19,000 made by Tess Barron.

From time to time, the Charity supports individuals outside of the programmes at RHCF and JHC. This year the Charity agreed to support Steve Maina (aged 25), a RHCF volunteer and **Organic Farmers Market (OFM)** staff member, to access High School through an adult education programme. Steve successfully completed Yr 1/2 at the end of 2024 with a commendable B grade and hopes to complete his formal education at the end of 2025.

As part of the Kenyan Government's 'Care Reforms' as provided for in the Children's Act 2022, the respite safe house at Bella Ciao is required to reintegrate children within 3 years of arrival. RHCF began a programme of reintegration in January, initially targeting 20 children. After a highly successful government directed (but not funded) programme of reintegration (recognised by the local Children's Department as a pilot and benchmark for other institutions), in December, 18 children began their new lives in either foster or kinship care or in some cases were returned to parents who had been empowered through the scheme. The lengthy process involved 7 stages beginning with identification, assessment, tracing, case planning, implementation, reintegration as the team continues to monitor and evaluate the home-based care.



A HAPPY ENDING: Oscar (pictured with his paternal Great Aunt (Winifred) and her husband ('Mr Tom')) arrived at RHCF in February 2023. Oscar had run away from home (aged 6) due to beatings from his step-mother. The Children's Department placed Oscar in the care of Real Hope whilst investigating his situation. He was a broken little boy. Neither his biological mother (who had abandoned him) nor his stepmother were prepared to take him back. His father wished to support him but would not leave the stepmother with whom he had more children. After a number of unsuccessful attempts to find a suitable alternative caregiver, Oscar's father suggested Winifred and Mr Tom (his aunt and her husband). Winifred had lost a child (a boy) at a young age and had not been able to have more children. Mr Tom has grown up children. Oscar has gone to live with them in their home in Western Kenya, where he has joined a new school. He could not be happier or more loved!

RHCF celebrated their 10 year anniversary with a combined reintegration, anniversary and Christmas party in December, attended by Trustees, Nicola and Becky.

Following their retirement, Trustee Liz and her husband Nick (a retired Maths teacher) visit Kenya for 5-6 months of the year. As well as engaging in Charity activities and visiting Gilgil where four RHCF children receive an education at the special school and reside in Kivuli hostels (funded by Kivuli Trust UK of which Liz is also a trustee), Liz has been able to see first-hand the reintegration process, host visitors and volunteers, arrange visits to the ballet as well as set up a popular knitting club enjoyed by children of both sexes and all ages.

Tutoring at Bella Ciao has gone from strength to strength with volunteers from Kenya and around the world supplementing the work of the teaching staff. So many children have gaps in their education due to absence, trauma and large class sizes/lack of individual attention. Sharon Land, previously a tutor in the US for over 40 years, now residing in Kenya with her daughter and family, tutors regularly twice a week working with children in need of

educational support. Nick has been volunteering at a local school as well as tutoring maths and physics, coaching chess and instigating Rummikub matches at Bella Ciao.

Sharon, *"Inside the walls of Bella Ciao, the bravest students I have ever tutored, determinedly work hard to make up for lost years of education before making their way to the loving arms of Real Hope."*

The Bella Ciao premises are now home to a small workshop ('Eco Glass Gallery') which recycles glass bottles turning them into glasses, bowls and other ornaments. The team, headed by Ken provides opportunities for youth empowerment and another exciting extracurricular activity for the children.

In April, New City Networks (a US charity) visited and instigated a music programme, empowering local youths in teaching music and dance. This activity is enjoyed by staff and children alike.

The Trustees have been delighted to continue with regular visits to Kenya in 2024 and to expand the volunteer programme for sponsors and supporters of all ages (see below).

Sponsorship

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' Nelson Mandela

Of the 130 children in the RHCF programme at the end of the year, 72 children had UK sponsors through the Charity with a number of children dual sponsored as they began High School in January. The remaining children are sponsored through **International Needs Canada (INCA)** and through RHCF direct (with support from other individual international donors and the **Organic Farmers Market (OFM)** in Karen, Nairobi, Kenya). Initially, RHCF sponsorship in the UK was £20 per month (with Gift Aid where appropriate) and JHC full sponsorship was £40 per month. During 2023, the Charity increased sponsorship to £25 per month (with Gift Aid where appropriate) for any new sponsors/sponsored children.

Of the 12 children registered at JHC, 1 child has a full £40 monthly sponsorship, and 3 children have part sponsors at £20 per month.

With recent changes to Kenya's education system, the Trustees are prioritising dual sponsorship for children transitioning to Junior Secondary School (JSS) and later to Senior Secondary School (SSS), many of which are boarding institutions. As of January 2024, children now move from Grade 6 (Primary) directly into JSS (Grades 7–9), followed by SSS (Grades 10–12).

The Charity continue to seek committed sponsors to help our children thrive in this new academic landscape.

The RHCF children have written to their sponsors three times this year and sponsors are kept regularly up to date with photos of their sponsored children through email and WhatsApp. The Trustees facilitate a letter exchange programme and deliver gifts when they visit. At the end of the year, in addition to receiving letters and Christmas decorations, sponsors received reports on their children's progress at school. With the help of one of its sponsors, the Charity continues to fund monthly joint birthday parties for all the children having a birthday in the given month.

BELLA CIAO (meaning 'beautiful welcome')

'Love is providing a safe place for loss and pain to heal, and for hope and joy to grow.' Topher Kearby

Bella Ciao continues to offer respite residential care in the form of a safe house for those children for whom home life becomes unacceptably difficult. The safe house was designed to accommodate up to 25 children to be cared for by a resident housemother and newly appointed housefather. Due to a shortage of institutions in the Kawangware area, the local Children's Department deemed the centre could hold 40 children. At the end of 2024, there were 40 children residing at Bella Ciao, and in addition RHCF introduced a small baby unit designed for a maximum of 2 babies in residence at any one time. In addition to the safe house, the premises includes accommodation for a resident social worker and his family as well as two security guards, a dining/meeting hall, a library and classrooms, wash facilities and toilets, kitchen and laundry facilities, offices and a playroom alongside accommodation for volunteers, which it is hoped will continue to generate income as well as providing an immersive experience for volunteers.

JHC continues to operate independently within separate accommodation in the Bella Ciao compound with both groups benefiting hugely from the interaction between the children and economies of scale and staff overlap.

Plans are underway to purchase neighbouring land to develop more permanent buildings to house JHC and the dormitories. Long term ambitious plans and developments include a complete rebuilding of the compound.

Fundraising

'It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.' Mother Teresa

The Trustees desire a 'hands on' approach to their support and giving to RHCF and JHC and want to ensure that their donations are maximised without overheads in the UK. The Trustees ensure that all donations and grants are used for the charitable purposes they are intended for. The Trustees cover all administration expenses in the UK e.g. the website hosting fee, and the Trustees personally cover all expenses (including travel, accommodation and food) relating to any trips they make to Kenya.

During the purchase process, links between RHCF and the owners of OFM grew and evolved such that primary school and JSS fees are being met as well as funding of the baby unit and a significant weekly contribution towards fruit and vegetables. This has been an immense help in enabling the Charity to focus on raising funds for the purchase of and repayment of the loan for Bella Ciao, alongside the other running costs. RHCF volunteers are employed at the Saturday and Sunday markets and offer car parking, hosting and set up as well as running a children's activity area.

In October, RHCF and Trustee Liz hosted a visit from Kay and Jim Ashton of the Kajatawa Foundation. Kay and Jim had already been hugely generous with their support of the Charity including assistance with the purchase and unrestricted annual grants. Following this visit, Kajatawa committed to a monthly donation of £1000 towards the running costs at Bella Ciao. This commitment has been invaluable in securing stability for the Charity's monthly contributions which inevitably continue to rise as numbers of children increase alongside rises in the cost of living.

Fundraising appeals during the year included securing funding for 5 Marafiki sponsored

children to advance to High School supported by their individual sponsors. In addition, flooding in Kenya saw several families lose all of their belongings and a successful appeal provided new mattresses and bedding and in some cases re-housing of families.

The Charity was delighted to be featured for a third time in the popular **Oundle Life** magazine.

The Charity has also received generous donations and support from **Oundle Rotary Club**, **Looe Valley Rotary Club**, **Stamford Strings**, **Kenton College, Nairobi** (who funded food parcels and Christmas gifts directly), **Hillcrest School, Nairobi** (who also sent weekly volunteers), **Sanderson House** (Oundle School), **St Anthony House** (Oundle School), the **Vaz family**, **New House** (Oundle School), **The Hilton International Development Trust**, **Cranbrook School** (Australia), **Oundle School Chapel** and **Doug Northwood**

Hayley Northwood and Steph Howes organised a 'Strictly Marafiki' ballroom dancing evening raising £800.

A Charity 'tea and scones' event with **Peterborough Flute Choir** in July was enjoyed by visitors to Wadenhoe. Proceeds also included a generous donation through sales of honey.

John Whyte continues to make regular donations from vegetable sales in Wadenhoe.

Joanna Turton donated funds for the ongoing supplies of books in the RHCF ('Bobbie's book corner') library in memory of her sister-in-law, the late Bobbie Turton.

Helen and Iain Russell held the third fabulous tennis tournament raising funds for Marafiki Trust in September, and Jess Tomey ran a half-marathon fundraiser.

Olivia Blakey (aka '*Mamma Shoes*') and husband Chris ('*Babba Shoes*') facilitated generous donations whilst out working in Kenya.

The Christmas appeal this year was to raise funds to pay for all the children to receive a colouring/puzzle book.

Throughout the year, funds have been received through '*Give as You Live*' customers nominating the Charity.

An omission in reporting last year was a generous donation of £2000 from the Ford family.

The Trustees would like to express their huge appreciation to all our supporters, child sponsors and donors without whom this valuable work would not have been possible.

Volunteers and Visitors

'Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.' Muhammed Ali

The volunteer programme grew from strength to strength with extended visits from Andrew and Annette, Max, Katie, Annabelle and Eleanor, Christabelle, Dan and Liv, Billy, Nick, Lydia and Xanthe.

Other visitors throughout the year included pupils and staff from **Oundle School** and **Healing Little Hearts** plus days spent with the Spencer family and Kay and Jim Ashton

from KAJATAWA Foundation, Medina from IRISi and a day of photography with Titch Tetley,

Dan: *'Can't thank you enough for the opportunity. Helping in Joyful Hearts was honestly one of the best, most rewarding things I have ever done.'*

Financial Review

Total income received during the period was £79240. Total expenditure during the period was £91077, including grants of £57868 to RHYCO and £2264 to JHC.

Included in the expenditure total is the ongoing repayment of the loan which financed the purchase of the Bella Ciao premises. The remaining £29000 was paid off this year.

As a result, the Charity has generated a net loss of £14838.

As a registered charity Marafiki Trust is exempt from corporation tax and income tax on charitable activities.

Donors in Canada (through International Needs Canada) continue to be the major supporters of JHC. Marafiki Trust continues to send £100 sponsorship monies per month which is donated specifically for JHC children.

Two small grants were made to Kenyan individuals for education purposes.

Of the £50000 loan repayments, approx. £30000 was raised through fundraising and grants, and the remaining £20000 was money designated from general Marafiki funds.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees' policy aims to maintain a sufficient level of general reserves to enable the Charity to continue to support at least three months' running costs in the general RHCF and JHC Funds. In addition, the Charity holds monies allocated for unrestricted Marafiki Trust use. The estimated free reserves required, on a prudent basis, is £5,000.

As at 31 December 2024, The Charity held £4914 of unrestricted reserves.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees regularly monitor risks at each meeting. The cost of living in Kenya has continued to rise significantly. The exchange rate has fluctuated considerably. The total budget for 2024 was 44% higher than in 2023. This budget is comprehensively established between INCA's accountant and RHCF, but with MT's agreement and involvement.

The Charity take sustainability very seriously. It was made clear that the Charity were unable to help with funding of the purchase of the adjacent land to Bella Ciao. It was agreed that, as three part-time volunteers, we do not see our fundraising capacity increasing significantly from our current levels.

The Future

Over the next year or so the Charity will be consolidating its efforts to ensure its long-term sustainable support of the children in the RHCF and JHC programmes. The emphasis has always been upon quality provision and the cap placed on no new children joining the centre until sponsors (and future dual sponsors) are secured for all existing children will remain in place. Our fundraising partners (INCA) in Canada are working on fundraising to purchase a small piece of land adjacent to Bella Ciao to facilitate larger premises for JHC and build better boarding facilities as the Charity continues to fundraise to meet ever increasing running costs.

"To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care." MANDY HALE

This report was approved by the Trustees on 3 October 2025 and signed by



Nicola Guise, Trustee



Elizabeth Turnbull, Trustee



Becky Smith, Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Marafiki Trust (the "Charity") for the period ending 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the Charity's trustees 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 can 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 are not kept in respect of the Charity 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Judie Woods FCA DChA BFP

Date: 4 October 2025

Receipts and Payments Account
For year ending December 2024
Charity Number 1187949

	Year ending 31/12/2024			Year ending 21/12/2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds	Total funds
Income from:				
Donations	18,559	49,887	68,446	72,329
Fundraising	7,840	-	7,840	5,060
			-	
Total Income	26,399	49,887	76,286	77,389
			-	
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	1,568	-	1,568	144
Charitable activities	33,476	56,080	89,556	56,212
			-	
Total expenditure	35,044	56,080	91,124	56,356
			-	
Net income/(expenditure)	(8,645)	(6,193)	(14,838)	21,033
			-	
Balance brought forward	13,559	13,528	27,087	6,054
			-	
Balance carried forward	4,914	7,335	12,249	27,087

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Balance Sheet

For year ending 31 December 2024

Charity Number 1187949

	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash in bank and in hand	12,249	27,087
Total assets	12,249	27,087
Funds		
Unrestricted income fund	4,914	13,559
Restricted income fund	7,335	13,528
Total funds	12,249	27,087

Notes to the Accounts for the year to 31 December 2024

1. Accounting policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

Charity Information

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Receipts and Payments Account when the Charity receives the cash or monies directly into its account. Donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value i.e.

The amount the Charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure. No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time.

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on a cash basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include administrative costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity, allocated to expenditure on charitable activities.

2. Control

The Charity decisions are made by the Trustees as a body which is detailed on page 2 of this report. No one trustee or group of trustees has dominant control.

3. Analysis of income

Income from:

	Year ending Dec 2024	Year ending Dec 2023
Income from:		
Donations	36,843	38,972
Child Sponsorship	24,460	23,282
Events	7840	5,060
Grants received	7,143	10,075.
Total Income	76,286	77,389

4. Payments to Trustees

The Trustees cover trip costs and any other administrative expenses like website charges, printing, postage themselves.

5. Analysis of Funds

Analysis of Funds	Balance at 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure		Net movement	Balance 31 December 2024
			Grants	General		
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted Marafiki	11,315	20,845	(27,213)	(1,568)	(7,936)	3,379
Unrestricted RHYCO JHC	2,243	5,554	(6,262)	-	(708)	1,535
Total unrestricted	13,559	26,399	(33,475)	(1,568)	(8,644)	4,915
Restricted funds						
RHYCO Child sponsorship	2,042	19,239	(20,475)	-	(1,236)	807
RHYCO general	243	1,167	(1,190)	-	(23)	219
RHYCO Sec Sch spon'ship	3,876	3,941	(4,415)	-	(475)	3,401
JHC Child sponsorship	50	1,304	(1,220)	-	84	135
JHC General	148		(100)	-	(100)	48
PEP	826	-	-	-	-	826
Counselling	1,219	0	(1,200)	-	(1,200)	19
Childrens Gifts	119	2,095	(1,418)	-	677	795
Peru Fundraiser	963	0	(377)	-	(377)	586
Xmas Nakuru/Annual Trip	1,394	31	(1,426)	-	(1,395)	(0)
Reintegration programme	2,500	0	(2,000)	-	(2,000)	500
Bella Ciao Purchase	149	19,372	(19,521)		(149)	0
Flood appeal	-	2,738	(2,738)		0	0
Total	13,528	49,887	(56,080)	0	(6,194)	7,334
TOTAL FUNDS	27,087	76,286	(89,556)	(1,568)	(14,838)	12,249

Notes on Funds

Unrestricted Marafiki: Funds with no restriction other than for our charity, i.e., could be used for a project other than RHCF or JHC (Joyful Hearts Centre). The Charity aims to keep a minimum of £500 in this fund for unforeseen issues/projects.

Unrestricted RHCF JHC: Funds that can be used for any aspect of RHCF or JHC

RHCF child sponsorship: Funds donated specifically for RHCF children sponsored by individuals (£20 or 25/month per child). Most donors give monthly though some donate annually so there is money carried forward each month.

RHCF general: Funds raised for any aspect of RHCF but not JHC or other projects.

JHC child sponsorship: Funds donated specifically for JHC children sponsored by individuals (£40/month per child divided between two sponsors)

JHC general: Funds raised for any aspect of JHC but not RHCF or other projects.

Parental Empowerment Project (PEP): Funds raised by a grant to cover a year of support in the programme to enable families (usually Mums) to set up in small businesses allowing them to start providing for themselves.

Counselling: Funds donated specifically to provide counselling in the new centre, particularly for children who have undergone significant trauma and abuse.

Children gifts: Funds donated for specific children or for birthday parties or Christmas gifts.

Peru Fundraiser: Funds raised specifically for a child in Gilgil who needs additional support for secondary school. She is personally known to the Trustees through Gilgil Special School.

Xmas Lake Nakuru/ Annual Fundraiser: Funds raised for Christmas gifts, to enable the children to have an annual educational trip.

Reintegration: Funds raised specially to help with the programme to reintegrate children who have been staying at Bella Ciao back into kinship care, foster care or back to their families.

Bella Ciao Purchase: Funds donated specially to support the purchase of the premises. Some of these funds were donated specifically after the purchase to help pay off the loan.