

## **Joy of Learning**

Trustee Report for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Joy of Learning present their annual trustee report and accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, and confirm they comply with the requirements of Charities Act 2011.

Joy of Learning was registered with Charity Commission on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and has the legal structure of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Joy of Learning was officially launched via a Zoom launch night on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022.

### **Objectives**

Our objectives, as outlined in our Constitution are:

1. For the public benefit to advance the education of children who are either current or former residents of Sanyu Babies' Home and on occasion their siblings or children living in the same household of the primary caregiver in Uganda by providing or assisting in the provision of school fees, relevant educational goods, equipment and materials and food and clothing.
2. The prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship in Uganda for the primary caregivers of children who are either current or former residents of Sanyu Babies' Home by providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient in order to independently support the child.

### **Aims for the Year**

- Widen the charity's network and build up awareness and public support.
- Work to meet our objectives, as set out in our constitution by supporting children who have been reunited with family members after living at Sanyu Babies' Home, and their families.
- Continue to work towards enabling education for the reunited children and their siblings by finding Educational Sponsors.

When planning the aims and activities for the year, the trustees of Joy of Learning considered and have had due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance, particularly the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of education and the prevention or relief of poverty.

## **Review of activities and achievements**

### **General**

Joy of Learning has had a successful and fruitful year, and we have begun to successfully meet our objectives and widen our reach. We have been able to continue to provide basic food and hygiene support to families all over Uganda. We have been able to launch our Educational Sponsorship programme and begin to meet our goal of getting children 'from Sanyu to School'. We have been able to run a pilot study on a new project we hope to run titled 'Safe Sleep' and we look forward to seeing the long-term benefits of this project in the future.

We have continued to grow our presence on social media and send out a bi-monthly newsletter to our supporters. Our newsletter mailing list has grown significantly during the past year, particularly thanks to some of the fundraising events that have taken place. We have updated our website so that it is personalised to us and uses our own Joy of Learning photos now that we are more established. We are so grateful for the fundraising that has been done for Joy of Learning and for the significant sum of money raised through our supporters' efforts. We have been able to widen our network this year, speaking in a variety of settings about Joy of Learning, like at Girlguiding groups and at a Women's Institute meeting.

During the last financial year, we have worked with 21 families in total, an increase of 3 compared to the previous year. Two of these families had urgent medical needs which is why they were prioritised. At the end of the financial year, we had a further 11 families on our referral list. We will conduct initial visits to these families to assess their needs and partner with them as finances allow in the future. We carry out quarterly visits to each of the families we support providing essential food and hygiene products. We assess each family's needs upon partnering with them and re-assess regularly to ensure that tailored support to each family is given. As part of our hygiene support, we provide toothbrushes and toothpaste. To ensure that maximum benefit is reached, each family takes part in a teeth cleaning workshop conducted by our team when receiving these items for the first time. This is to ensure that each family understands how to brush their teeth and have good oral hygiene and why it is important to do so. Occasionally, we also provide basic clothing and shoes to the families we work with. Some of the clothes and shoes are donated to us, and others we purchase in Uganda.

This year we chose to fundraise specifically for Christmas so that we were able to give the families we work with some Christmas treats to help them have a good Christmas. From the fundraising, we were able to buy each child a small gift and also each family a collection of food and drink items to ensure that they could have a feast on Christmas Day. This was definitely one of the highlights of the year for us, and we hope to be able to do something similar next year.

### **Medical**

We provide regular deworming treatment to the families we support as is recommended in Uganda. We also provide support with occasional medical needs as and when they arise. Examples of occasional medical support given during the last financial year are enabling individuals to access treatment of malaria, treatment of bacterial infections, arranging an eye consultation and purchase of prescribed glasses and facilitating an x-ray and treatment of a swollen leg. A number of the children we support have epilepsy and we support them to attend regular appointments with a Paediatric Neurologist and fund their necessary medications.

### **Educational Sponsorship**

With the opening of our bank account, we were at last able to launch our Educational Sponsorship programme. In Uganda, education is a luxury for many families due to its cost. You are not only required to pay for school fees, but you must also pay for school requirements including items like books, pens, pencils, toilet paper and brooms to sweep the compound! Our programme finds sponsors who pay £15 a month which pays for a child's school fees and school requirements. By the end of this financial year, we had 41 active sponsors who enabled 38 children to attend school. These children were from 10 different families and attended schools all over Uganda. 17 of the children attended Nursery School and 20 attended Primary School. The remaining student opted for vocational study and joined an Electrical Engineering programme. During the last year, we have not had any students in Secondary School. At the end of the financial year, we had 34 children on the waiting list to be matched with Educational Sponsors. The cost of schooling in Uganda fluctuates significantly depending on the age, location and type of school. For some of our students, their school costs are considerably higher than our average, so they are assigned multiple sponsors as necessary.

### **Safe Sleep**

During the last year, we were able to run a pilot study of a new project we would like to run; Safe Sleep. Lots of the families we support do not have a safe place to sleep, particularly the children. We found that though we were enabling children to attend school by finding them educational sponsors, some still had poor attendance due to frequently getting sick, especially with malaria. We found that many of the children we support sleep on the dirty ground with limited bedding and usually no mosquito net. We realised that in order to fully support children in their education, we need to ensure that they are able to have a Safe Sleep. In December, we selected two of our families most in need of support. At each home, we installed a triple decker bunk bed, complete with mattresses, bedsheets, blankets and mosquito nets. Three months later at our visit in March, we engaged with the family about their health. Not one family member had contracted malaria since we installed the beds. This gave us the evidence we needed to progress with the project next year. We plan to work through our families as and when we can, providing them with a Safe Sleep, and in turn continuing to enable them to access their education.

## **Fundraising**

A number of fundraisers have been held to raise money for Joy of Learning, some organised by the charity and others organised by generous supporters. Money has been raised in a variety of ways including a concert, Ugandan craft sales, a barn dance, a Christmas Tree Festival, a swimming challenge and a Christmas Fayre. One local Brownie Unit chose Joy of Learning as their charity of the year so raised money by bringing a small weekly donation to meetings and having an event in the summer.

The fundraising events collected donations in cash, electronically by card reader and the sum from the Brownie Unit's fundraising was paid by cheque. In total, £6215 has been added to Joy of Learning's funds by fundraising events during this last financial year.

## **Financial Review**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, our charity bank account was opened and we were able to at last start operating fully. Having a bank account has improved our financial stability, and we were finally able to start receiving regular donations and start to have more fundraising events. On our website, we were able to set up a donate page, giving donors the opportunity to donate quickly and easily via PayPal. This has meant that we have been able to receive donations from a wider network of people.

At the beginning of the financial year, the charity's funds amounted to £1605, which was held in cash until it was possible to pay it into the new bank account. Our total income for the past financial year was £16,022 with funds coming from 3 different avenues. With our bank account opening, we were able to launch our Educational Sponsorship programme and £4274 of our total income was from sponsorship payments. The remainder of the income was from fundraising efforts; £6215, and from general donations; £5533. The total sum of outgoings for the past financial year was £16,783. This money was spent on the ground in Uganda on charitable activities such as food, hygiene and medical support for the families we work with as well as educational support including school fees and school requirements. Money was also spent on general running of the charity, purchasing necessary supplies both in the UK and in Uganda. At the end of the financial year, the charity had a total of £844. In the future, we plan to put a reserves policy into place so that in times of economic uncertainty, the charity would be able to stay afloat whilst plans are put in place to stabilise the finances.

### **Future plans**

We plan to register with HMRC so that we can claim Gift Aid, and as previously mentioned, we also plan to draw up a reserves policy.

We hope to grow our Educational Sponsorship programme and enable more children to attend school, as well as spreading awareness of Joy of Learning in general. We would like to widen Joy of Learning's network by speaking about the charity at different events, clubs and groups, in the hope that, this generates future fundraising opportunities.

With the success of our pilot study of Safe Sleep, we hope to start to implement our Safe Sleep project with a number of families as funds allow.

As and when our budget allows, we aim to meet and partner with more families, as we already have a referral list which we anticipate will increase.

In the longer term, we hope to work more with caregivers regarding their income. We want to look at if it can be increased by setting up a new business, mentoring their current business or the like. This would mean that in the future, some of our families might become more self-sufficient.

### **Trustees, Structure, Governance and Management**

Joy of Learning is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is governed by its trustees. Joy of Learning has had three trustees that have served throughout the entire financial year; Emily Cheer, Hollie Glanfield and Angharad Denham. Amy Mason has continued to serve as Publicity Officer, and Barbara Nankya Mutagubya as In-Country Coordinator. The trustees are responsible for the overall management of Joy of Learning and meet regularly on Zoom with other team members such as the Publicity Officer and In-Country Coordinator. All trustees and team members give their time freely and no expenses have been paid to them. Emily Cheer, Angharad Denham and Hollie Glanfield are all among the first trustees of the charity, having been appointed as the charity began, and their first term to serve is 5 years. After 5 years, they can be re-instated for another 3 years should they wish, or they can step down as trustee. When selecting new trustees, current trustees will be making their decision considering the skills, knowledge and experience needed. New trustees will be appointed for a term of 3 years by a resolution at a trustee meeting. As 3 trustees is our minimum number for governance, we aim to grow the Joy of Learning team next year by welcoming new trustees and team members.

## **Safeguarding**

Joy of Learning has a safeguarding policy drawn up that has been signed by two trustees/team members. Joy of Learning has an appointed Welfare Officer (Barbara Nankya Mutagubya) who is responsible for reporting any safeguarding concerns to the appropriate parties in Uganda. Any trustee, team member or volunteer who will be working directly with any children and vulnerable adults, is required to have a valid DBS or police check.

## **Volunteers**

During the last financial year, we have had 4 individuals volunteer their time who were not already part of the Joy of Learning team. Two of these volunteers represented Joy of Learning in the UK at different events, and the other volunteers went out on family visits in Uganda. The two volunteers who volunteered in Uganda were required to show proof of DBS / police check, as they were interacting with children and vulnerable adults that we support.

As we begin to grow over the next few years, we hope to increase the number of volunteers both in the UK and in Uganda.

## **Conclusion**

Joy of Learning has had a fruitful year, following on from the opening of our bank account on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. We have been able to launch our Educational Sponsorship programme and finally begin to get children "from Sanyu to School". This was a real milestone as it was what we set the charity up to do, so to finally start to meet our objective is very positive. The number of Educational Sponsors has steadily grown over the past year, and we anticipate that it will continue to do so next year. We are now actively looking for fundraising opportunities and opportunities to widen our network, whereas without the bank account we were limited in what we could do. Now that we are growing as a charity, it has become clear that we also need to grow the Joy of Learning team, which will be one of our focus' for the next year. There are also a number of tasks following the opening of our bank account, that we now need to prioritise like registering with HMRC and putting a reserves policy into place.

During the past year, we have seen a huge difference in the some of the families we support. A number of our families have started to overcome or manage health challenges, and the increase in confidence in some of our sponsored children due to attending school is remarkable. Joy of Learning has grown significantly in the last year, and seeing the joy of the families we work with in Uganda makes all of the hard work worth it. We are really excited for what is to come in the future!

**Administrative Details**

Joy of Learning

Registered Charity Number: 1194700

Registered address: 8 Hampton Road, Cardiff, CF14 4AH

[www.joyoflearningug.com](http://www.joyoflearningug.com)

**Declarations**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature..... Emily Cheer

Name..... EMILY CHEER

Position..... TRUSTEE

Date..... 31/01/2025





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
Joy of Learning

No (if any)  
1194700

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01.04.2023

To

31.03.2024

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Educational Sponsorship	4,274	-	-	4,274	-
Fundraising	6,215	-	-	6,215	-
General Donations	5,533	-	-	5,533	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>16,022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,022</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>16,022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,022</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Charitable activities and expenses	16,783	-	-	16,783	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>16,783</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,783</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>16,783</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,783</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 761</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 761</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>-</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 £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	844	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Emily Cheer	EMILY CHEER	31/01/25	

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