



DUCHESNE TRUST

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 288467

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

We want to make a genuine effort to bring about a more just distribution of the world's resources, in solidarity with all who suffer. We build communion with them by setting aside our own interests, by giving, without seeking reward or gain, by sharing at every level in the Society and by depriving ourselves for the benefit of those who are in need of everything.

Const. 171

CONTENTS

Reference and administrative details of the Group.....	3
Trustees' report including strategic report.....	4
Statement of trustees' responsibilities.....	44
Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Duchesne Trust.....	45
Financial statements.....	50
Notes to the financial statements.....	56

CONTACT & REGISTERED OFFICE

REGISTERED OFFICE

9 Bute Gardens
London
W6 7DR
Tel: 0208 741 4688

CONTACT

María Georgina Zubiría Maqueo
Email: econgen@rscjroma.org
Website: www.rscjinternational.org

TRUSTEES

Sister Barbara Dawson - Chair
Sister Marie-Jeanne Elonga
Sister Monica Esquivel
Sister Maria Georgina Zubiría Maqueo
Sister Catherine Lloyd
Sister Anne Marie Loyola Corry

AUDITORS

Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants
Old Station House
Station Approach
Newport Street
Swindon SN1 3DU

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Mark Freeman & Associates
71-75 Sheldon Street
Covent Garden
London WC2H 9JQ

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

BNY Mellon Wealth Management
200 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10166
United States of America

Credit Suisse (UK) Limited
One Cabot Square
London E14 4QJ

Goldman Sachs International
River Court
120 Fleet Street
London EC4A 2BE

Investec Wealth & Investment Limited
30 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7QN

Schroders & Co Limited (Cazenove)
12 Moorgate
London EC2R6DA

Charities Property Fund
Savills Investment Management
33 Margaret Street, London
W1G 0JD

CUSTODIAN

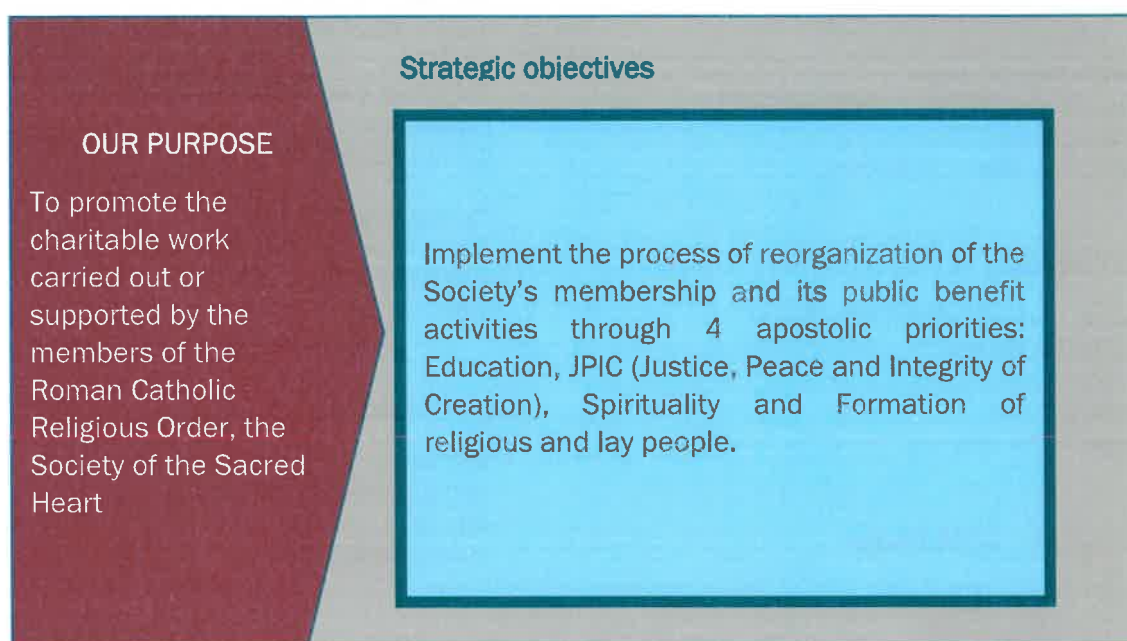
BNY Mellon Wealth Management
160 Queen Victoria Street
6th Floor
London EC4V 4LA

TRUSTEES' REPORT

INCLUDING STRATEGIC REPORT

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the group for the period ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the group.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.



AIM (OBJECTS) AND PURPOSE

GOVERNANCE

The Duchesne Trust (the Trust) is regulated by a Trust Deed dated 14 December 1983. The Trust is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales - Charity Registration No: 288467.

PRINCIPAL AIMS

The trustees of the Duchesne Trust aim to promote the charitable work carried out or supported by the members of the Roman Catholic Religious Order, the Society of the Sacred Heart. When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary guidance on the advancement of religion.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVE

The Trust exists to promote any of the charitable works carried out, or supported by, the Roman Catholic Religious Congregation known as the Society of the Sacred Heart (the Society). Specifically, it funds activities associated with:

- ▶ The worldwide administration of the Society, through members of the Generalate supporting provinces and communities of the Congregation, in order to provide leadership and to strengthen the charism and ethos of the group;
- ▶ The administration of a fund for solidarity, where projects involving members of the Congregation support and educate vulnerable groups who live in poverty; This is often directed towards health (special needs and HIV/AIDS), youth and education, people on the move, and children and women in vulnerable situations;
- ▶ The administration of a fund, approved by the trustees, set up to facilitate the maintenance of heritage assets within the Society of the Sacred Heart. Specifically, the heritage properties are located in Joigny, France, Grand Coteau in the United States of America, and in Rome, Italy.
- ▶ The administration of a fund which will ensure the sustainability of the life and mission of the Society into the future and which, for some provinces, is already a necessity to support their own costs for formation, international activities, eldercare or capital projects.

SHORT TERM STRATEGIES

During 2023 the Duchesne Trust, while continuing to support the charitable activities of the members in a worldwide context, began a complex process of internal reorganisation that will involve the creation of eight territorial entities grouping the current Provinces. The governance of the new entities will be defined as soon as the functions assigned to each one are established, both as individual entities and for their cooperation.

The trustees, with the collaboration of the International Planning Commission of the Society, have established that the Trust's activities must be oriented towards strengthening four Apostolic Priorities:

- ▶ Education
- ▶ JPIC (Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation)
- ▶ Spirituality
- ▶ Formation of religious and lay people

LONG TERM STRATEGIES

In the long term, the Duchesne Trust will continue to support the charitable activities of the members of the Society. Until the end of their mandate in 2024, the current leadership team will continue to work on implementing the decisions of the General Chapter 2016, and those of the Special General Chapter in 2021, as developed by the International Planning Commission of the Society and the Assembly of Provincials. In detail:

- ▶ Revitalize our sense of mission in the world today
- ▶ Generate a process of reflection and systematization of each of the apostolic priorities
- ▶ Work on the definition of each apostolic priority
- ▶ Explore how to implement these apostolic priorities and their functioning with the new organisation
- ▶ See how to coordinate these apostolic priorities at an international level
- ▶ in the context of potential entities and/or with other entities, plan meetings, work-team meetings, and meetings regarding the articulation of apostolic priorities
- ▶ Implementing training in leadership, change management, financial, and intercultural competency
- ▶ Look into the financial and legal management and implications

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

ORGANISATION

The trustees have the final responsibility for the policies, activities and assets of the Trust. They meet at least annually to review developments with regard to the Trust and to make significant decisions. The day-to-day management of the Trust's activities and the implementation of policies are delegated to:

- ▶ the trustees who are nominated by the Superior General,
- ▶ the appropriate senior staff of the Society.

TRUSTEES

The trustees who served during the year are shown on page 3. New trustees are appointed by the Superior General under Clause 14 of the Trust Deed. There shall at no time be fewer than four trustees who shall be members of the International Congregation. All new trustees are taken through a process of making them aware of their responsibilities as trustees of a UK Charity as well as what it means to be a trustee by fellow trustees that are on the Board of Trustees.

VOLUNTEERS

The administration of the Trust is done on a voluntary basis by members of the Society of the Sacred Heart. The trustees wish to record their appreciation of this work.

RELEVANT POLICIES

DONATIONS AND GRANT MAKING POLICY

During the 12 months to 31 December 2023 funds have been used to further support the charitable works that are particularly relevant to the work of education and social justice. The criteria for the use of these funds are that the work undertaken or supported must demonstrate a commitment to:

- ▶ promote justice in faith and the welfare of the deprived and marginalised;
- ▶ promote the welfare of young people;
- ▶ enable the disadvantaged to become self-reliant;
- ▶ education in both formal and informal contexts.
- ▶ support vulnerable people in emergency context (wars, pandemics, natural disasters)

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees are assessing the major risks to which the group is exposed during 2023, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the group, its investments and its finances. The trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the group, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves, i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets. The trustees consider that given the nature of the group's work and its ability to satisfy future liabilities as they fall due that there is no need for additional free reserves. At the year-end about €70 million are held in designated funds. Further details of these are set out in note 12.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The group has total fixed asset investments of €178 million as at 31 December 2023 (2022: €164 millions). During 2023 the investment policy and investment managers were reviewed and the Trust maintained the strategy in line with its current and future requirements and adopted the investment objectives as stated:

- ▶ The primary focus will be to preserve the real capital value of the funds received over 10 years. The basis of inflation is set out later.
- ▶ To generate cash of \$4 million per annum.
- ▶ Achieve a long term return, 10 year, net of all charges, of 0.5% to 1% per annum, above inflation.

Due to the nature of where the Society operates and undertakes its work, the definition of inflation is defined as the average rate of inflation in the United States of America as defined by the "Consumer Price Index" over the past 2 years.

All expenditure of the Generalate and those provinces that will require assistance in the next five years will be translated to USD at the time of the request for funding so that the exchange rates will normalise the level of inflation in those countries.

The above investment policy came into place on the 1 July 2011 and revised in 2016, 2020 and 2023. The results for the past 12 months to 31 December 2023, indicate that the objectives have been met and since inception all objectives have been achieved.

In 2021, the Trust reviewed the investment strategy to ensure that it remained appropriate after Covid. In November 2022, in a context of economic and political uncertainties arising from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, together with a spike in inflation, the Trust again reviewed the investment strategy and confirmed that it would need a

real return more than 6.5% per annum to meet cash flow requirements and preserve capital. The Trust also reviewed the asset allocation and made no changes.

A designated representative of the trustees meets formally with the investment advisor and the fund managers twice a year. This designated representative and the investment advisor meets regularly and communicates as and when required throughout the year. In keeping with charity law, the investment strategy is to maximise total returns, income and capital, within acceptable levels of risk.

The investments have restrictions placed upon them as to the type of investments that the Trust would or would not want to invest in. The ethical investment policy was reviewed during the year and appropriate changes were made also considering the changing investment environment.

Specifically the Trust seeks to invest in companies which:

- ▶ Make a positive contribution to society
- ▶ Conserve energy and natural resources
- ▶ Have high employee welfare and equal opportunities records
- ▶ Provide high quality products and services of long term benefit to the community

The Trust would not wish to invest in companies which:

- ▶ Produce and distribute arms, landmines and other products which destroy life
- ▶ Produce and distribute pornographic material
- ▶ Engage in irresponsible environmental practices
- ▶ Actively support governmental regimes with oppressive human rights policies

The Trust has also developed additional ethical policies where it felt further guidance and understanding is required due to the complex nature of the type of companies or global investments it invests in. No ethical restrictions apply other than those set out above, although the Trustees reserves the right to exclude any investments in companies whose representation might prove damaging, directly or indirectly, to the purposes or reputation of the group.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

A summary of the year's results for the group can be found on page 50 of the attached accounts. For the period of 12 months ending 31 December 2023:

- ▶ the economic result was € 10 million (2022 - €-14 million) comprising mainly donations and investment income;
- ▶ total expenditure amounted to € 7 million (2022 - €6 million) of which €6 million (2022 - €5 million) comprised donations to the Society of the Sacred Heart internationally.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The balance sheet shows total reserves as at 31 December 2023 of € 143 million (2022 - €133 million).

THE GROUP'S ASSETS

Acquisitions and disposals of fixed assets during the year are recorded in the note to the accounts.

DUCHESNE TRUST

CHARITABLE PROJECTS INVOLVING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Mother House Solidarity Fund

One of the key instruments by which the Society of the Sacred Heart carries out its charitable work in favor of the most vulnerable communities and peoples is the “Mother House Solidarity Fund”.

Through this fund, the Society provides funding to projects around the world, following the calls of both Chapter 2008 and Chapter 2016 to live justice, peace, and the integrity of creation in our world today.

The fund is stewarded from the Generalate, through the Solidarity Fund Commission, according to published criteria. We are grateful that five experienced RSCJ have agreed to share their time and expertise to serve on this commission for an initial three-year term: Yuka Arita (Philippines District), Pratibha Pinto (India), Sofia Baranda (Chile), Resty Nalubega (Uganda-Kenya) and Fatima Santaló-Ossorio (Spain). The commission is assisted in the evaluation of the projects by Yolanda Jimenez Delgado, from the Finance Office of the Society.

In 2023, the Mother House Solidarity Fund (MHSF) allocated 28 grants. The Region of Africa received 11 grants, the Region of Asia-Australia-New Zealand (from now on “ASIANZ”) 5, Europe 4 and the Region of the American continent (from now on “Philippine Duchesne”) 8 grants. The projects, which are currently ongoing, focus on the spheres of health, youth and education, people on the move and, children and women in vulnerable situations.

In September 2023, projects submitted and financed in 2022 were evaluated. The Mother House Solidarity Fund (MHSF) supported 19 projects in the regions of Africa (7), Asia-Australia-New Zealand - ASIANZ (2), American continent - Philippine Duchesne (6) and Europe (4). Here are the results of these projects.

Africa | 7 projects | 3 provinces

Africa | EGYPT, Samalout

Development of classes for handicapped adults | Nagwa Farhan rscj

Development of classes for handicapped adults addressed a group of 16 aged 10-25 years old with disabilities. The Samalout centre originally set for small children needed to reorganise/extend its premises and reconsider its curriculum to respond to the needs of its grown hosts. The project engaged in works of construction and renovation that offered new spaces for educational activities for its target group. The new kitchen has been central in the teaching the target group daily chores that they now also reproduce autonomously in their homes. Thanks to the neat garden and the new outdoor playground, the project participants enjoy more freedom in their movement and present a better capacity in their physical actions. And, the Montessori toys have stimulated their academic skills. The participants feel they are important for it is their responsibility to attend their classes, and people show care for them. Their teachers have grown their interest in the special need person development and attended training to better respond to their needs. With the renewed dynamism of the Samalout centre the image of its host has shifted from people with disabilities to persons with engagement, creativity and interactive.



Wine making



Family's engagement



Mathematics



Kitchen skills

Africa | DEM. REP. CONGO, Kipako
Support to the formation of 50 students of the Lycée Kipako
Wivine Nkusa Mbumba rscj

With limited economic resources, parents are unable to pay for their children's school fees, if so, boys usually get the upper hand. Out-of-school girls become a target for early marriages and pregnancies. The project ensured that 50 non-boarding girls completed their academic year. The girls maintained a full engagement in their studies with peace in mind. New and functioning pedagogical and IT equipment was available for their education; they learnt basic IT skills (Word and Excel office, internet browsers). The school environment also provided extra curricula activities to boost a modern and cultural environment that enhanced the students learnings and nurtured their curiosity. Students took their final exams and achieved national qualification. The girls showed responsibility in their studies and an increase in independence. Early pregnancies and dropout diminished.



Classroom



Final exam day

Africa | TCHAD, N'Djamena
Marginalised women, children and abandoned youth victims of poverty and violence
Juliette N'guémata Nakoye rscj

In the prison of Klessoum (Chad) conditions are poor, convicts, in particular women with their children, are often marginalised and their families tend to disregard them. Health and hygiene are not guaranteed. By responding to the health needs of 100 convict women and their children (supply of medicine and medical attention), the project managed to limit spread of disease. It also supplied food that strengthen their immune system. Following massive riots in the country (20/10/2022), access to the jail premises became stricter and some of the planned activities were limited (hygiene awareness raising and literacy activities). The budget item destination were reallocated, the one of awareness raising activities decreased while the item of legal fees increased.

No picture allowed in prison

Africa | UGANDA, Kalungu
Improvement of life skill. At Kalungu Training Centre (KGTC)
 Secondina Baitwababo rscj

The Uganda school curricula focused mainly on academic teaching, leaving aside hands-on skills. Graduated students' job hunting was much limited to white collar jobs. At the Kalungu Girl Training Centre (KGTC), students mainly come from rural areas, whose parents could not afford higher education fees, and where office work is little. The project offered the KGTC curriculum a versatile aspect in strengthening/including units of hands-on skills (agriculture, sewing, bakery, home economics) and financial literacy. They bought 20 sewing machines, sewing material, and seeds. Indirectly, the project also approached the issues of care of the environment fostering the use of briquettes and the students' nutritional intake with the harvest of the agricultural practical unit. Students are not anymore limited to white collar jobs but equipped with skills with whom they can earn their living through self-employment. The skills students learnt fit in their rural realities and they are having multiplier effects as they teach/offer their relatives their new skills. Students' interest in learning raised making them responsible and self-motivated in learning new skills.



Briquette making



Sewing lessons



Displaying handmade items



Beans harvesting

Africa | KENYA, Chekalini
Food Support at St. Madeleine Sophie home | Ribinbella Musina rscj

Despite growing a vegetable garden, harvests does not completely supply to the necessities of the special needs children of Saint Madeleine Sophie Home. The irregular availability of food limits SMSH endeavour on its children development. The project provision of food, both at SMSH and in their families, has ensured good health among the children, and assured their full development. With a child-centred method, children actively and deeply engaged in daily chores (food preparation, cleaning). Children acquired skills they displayed both at SMSH and their families home. They grew to be a contribution rather than a concern. Children proved more independent and showed an increase in their self-esteem and confidence. In addition, the project generated a sense of belonging and caring for each other and the common good.



Lunch time



Welcoming food



Food distribution



Food arrival

Africa | UGANDA, Karamoja, Naoi |
School of Life project | Susan Gertrude Anyango rscj

Following the Covid pandemic, the HIV/AIDS affected/infected children of School of Life appeared less motivated towards their future. A higher number of school dropouts was registered and its consequences (early pregnancies, forced marriages, steetism, family violence). The project ensured a genuine setting of the children in the school environment providing educational material, individual follow up home and school visits and extra tutoring during holiday terms (career guidance). It also guaranteed a regular diet to them. Besides, it fostered a stronger engagement of parents in their children's education (parents and teacher meetings). Children felt loved and cared by both by the school and their families. Motivation prevailed and eagerness of learning for the future thrived; school dropouts were limited and academic performance maintained an average level. In addition, their health appeared to keep stable. The well-being of the HIV/AIDS affected/infected children of School of Life was also indirectly tackled with awareness raising in eight nearby schools against their stigmatisation.



Holiday coaching



Career guidance



Supply school materials



Parents meeting

A s i a n z | 2 p r o j e c t s | 2 p r o v i n c e s

Asianz | INDIA, Mumbai, Sophia Polytechnic and SPJ Sadhana School |
Counselling for students affected by Covid 19 | Pratibha Pinto rscj

Counselling for Students affected by Covid 19 addressed 200 pupils and students with special educational needs (cerebral palsy, epilepsy, speech, hearing and/or impairment, post-Covid challenged) that were to resume a face-to-face schooling after the pandemic. The target group and their families felt overwhelmed with the new routine. The project run weekly and occasional individual and group session of art-based therapy (music, dance, playing), talk therapy, storytelling, and mindfulness (practice to bring attention to the present moment). Parents attended conferences on cyber safety and cyber bullying, and on the physical development and sexuality of their children. The young participants now show social abilities to regulate their anger and anxiety, display flexibility in their attitudes and enthusiasm in their doings, and can follow routines without individual instructions. In addition, parents express trust and cooperation with the school staff; they show interest in their children development and have now the skills to engage in creative activities with them. And teachers run now common strategies to deal with target behavior in a consistent manner across the school. Fun prevails in the school, fun in learning and fun in teaching.



Game of blocks for attention keeping



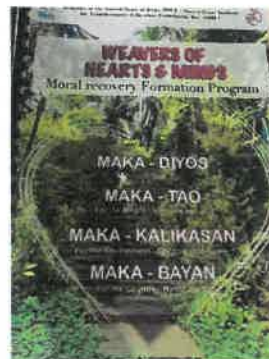
Enjoying music

Asianz | PHILIPPINES, Samar, Sophie's Farm
Post-Pandemic Psychological First Aid and Post-Elections Moral Recovery Programs
 Lydia Collado rscj

Following the covid pandemic and the post-election landslide win of the son of the ousted dictator of the Philippines, population felt desperation and fear. The *Moral Recovery Program* organised live-in seminars for a variety of public (local population, university students, religious, former fighters, government clerks) where past experiences and realities were reviewed and discerned over in different modules. Participants achieved greater awareness of what they went through, drew strength from within, and learnt to accept their limitations. As groups, the power of community emerged and trust and openness prevailed for the future. Participants experiences circular relationships on equal sharing of power and responsibilities, towards each other and towards the care of the environment. The transformation led to the autonomous replication of the seminars in small groups in the participants' local realities.



Relation with nature



Handout cover page



Group picture



Session by the sea

Europe | 4 projects | 2 provinces

Europe | SPAIN, Barcelona, Raval

Economato solidario e integraci3n laboral de personas migrantes | Luz Delàs Ugarte rscj

The Raval (Barcelona) neighbourhood has a high percentage of undocumented migrants, homeless people and high unemployment numbers. Marginalisation has increased following the pandemic and the current inflation; their needs have amplified, in particular basic food. The project responded the food needs in an holistic way, including elements of immigration formalities, employment, accommodation, and social ties. In the social grocery (with a token system), on a weekly base, users were free to *buy* the food they best liked (including toiletries and cleaning products). Their *food shopping* was also a time where they could share with the *shop assistant* (read it social worker) any other needs than food. About 1.400 people called upon for their food needs, 10 undocumented migrants were assisted in the application and issuing of their resident permit, and signature of a one-year work contract. Emphasis was also put on the healthy use of the food available at the grocery (expiring date, different ways of cooking) when users were invited to cooking workshops. In their stopover to the social grocery and their participation at the workshops, the beneficiaries had a chance to improve their Spanish skills, maintain an healthy diet and made friends to help them overcome loneliness and isolation.



Cooking workshop



Social grocery



Food shopping at the social grocery

Europe | SPAIN, Madrid, Tetuan

Formación técnica para la inserción y el autoempleo | Dolores Aleixandre rscj

Tetuán (Madrid) is a neighbourhood with 31% of migrant population, with poor education, little professional training and no steady job. Its population shows unfamiliarity with the understanding of the local labour and how to access it. Job hunting is often limited to their network of contacts generating dynamics of interdependence. The project organised 5 training courses (electricity/plumbing, and tailoring), including skills for job hunting (preparation of CV and interview mock up), to which a total of 55 persons attended. Participants increased their professional skills and their professional horizons (5 of the participants signed a work contract and/or set self-employment). They increased their confidence and relied less on their contacts.



Tailoring course poster



Electricity/Plumbing course poster



Tailoring course



Electricity/plumbing course

Europe | POLAND, Tarnow
Back to school and life | Bogusława Ochał rscj

Computers have become indispensable in schools, and even more following pandemic when online teaching took over. During the lockdown, the school lent its computers to students to have them attend online teaching. Computers have been overused showed technical issues that limited students to complete their tasks bringing discouragement. The project bought new laptops and a digital whiteboard. Teachers run awareness courses on internet challenges. The new IT equipment brought noticeable changes in pupils' attitudes and skills. They become familiar with software for presentations and video making, showed ability to search selective online data. And, they presented stronger self-confidence and open mind to new encounters. They participated in the online JPIC design contest and two pupils reached the 1st and 2nd position.



IT whiteboard



English lesson with new laptops



Session on emotions

Europe | POLAND, Marki
Go on, butterfly | Urszula Glowacka rscj

Go on, butterfly addressed a group of youth and adults attending the Open Heart Foundation that manifested social concerns (dysfunctional families, alcoholism, depression, social anxiety, suicide attempts). From August to the end of November 2022, it run therapeutic and skill-building workshops (art-therapy, self-development, make-up, tailoring), organised volunteering activities and concluded with a fashion catwalk public event to display the fashion garments that the target group designed and customised (80 guests). The 12 adults and 43 youth involved in the project feel now a positive image of themselves, and seize the importance to presence a cared and well-groomed appearance to introduce themselves in society/employment. They have built interpersonal relationships among the participants and outside. Capacity-wise, these youth and adults have acquired new professional and organisational skills. Professionally they have acquired tailoring skills (understand it also as creativity) and have notions on how the fashion industry develops. They have shown to perceive the value of work and commitment and are able to sort out their responsibilities. The public hand clapping at the final event was the cherry on the top for the target group.



Fashion event poster



Participants exhibiting their fashion design

Philippine Duchesne | 6 projects | 4 provinces

Philippine Duchesne | ANT, Haiti, Balan
Book and stationery shop | Marta Nuñez Ruíz rscj

Violence is high in Haiti and prevents free movement; it is a danger for parents to travel to the nearby town to purchase stationery and text book for their children's schooling. The project drove to the Dominican Republic to purchase stationery and managed to travel to Port-au-Prince to buy a part of the text books. The project opened a book and stationery shop within the school. Without incurring in risky trips, and at a cheaper price, parents could buy the needed materials for their children to attend school and enjoy a straightforward learning. The photocopier has been a success for all the local population and its income has helped paying the teachers' salary.



School books



Stationery

Philippine Duchesne | ARU, Argentina, Villa Jardín

Aprendizajes en la post pandemia de una escuela en movimiento | Silvia González rscj

Following the Covid pandemic, teaching methods have had to reorganise (online, social distancing and outdoors). This project, set in a deprived neighbourhood in the suburb of the capital, strengthened the school on-site teaching with new IT devices, a technology room and adjustments in their multi-purposes room (better acclimatisation and lightening). Outdoor activities were reinforced with new green spaces and the embellishment and adaptation of the school sport ground. The school community enjoys now outdoor spaces where they feel secure (wire mesh) and where the PE unit can be taught adequately. Embellishing together the common spaces has increased the sense of community among the students across levels. The new outdoor spaces have in addition led to a better caring of our common home and an ethic of caring. The new IT equipment provided the school with a nowadays indispensable tool for a quality education of its students and a door to their future. It promoted knowledge and generated social equity.



Collective murals



Technology room for a quality education



Wire mesh for outdoor activities

Philippine Duchesne | ARU, Uruguay, Paso Carrasco
Mejora y actualización de la propuesta educativa para todos los niños, niñas y adolescentes del Colegio del Sagrado Corazón | Silvia González rscj

As a result of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, the vulnerable financial situation of the school's family has been further affected. Many have considered withdrawing their children from the school because they could not afford the fees or have asked for further discounts. The school budget was shrinking and affecting the quality education the school is appreciated for. The project covered enrolment fees that could not be paid by families that suffered the economic effects of pandemic. Families that applied for this support went through interviews and home visits and a follow up throughout the year. The project supported the school in purchase of IT equipment (laptop, digital whiteboard) and software (microbits). The school did not suffer any enrolment decrease. With the distribution of technology, the school kept up with the national Ceibal program (one laptop per child), and hence promoted knowledge and new IT skills (micobits) and eventually generated social equity.



Digital whiteboard and laptops



Cross-level activity in microbits coding



Beginning year prayer

Philippine Duchesne | BRASIL, Rio de Janeiro

De camino a la pantalla: justicia social, paz e integridad de los derechos de los adolescentes vulnerables | Cléa de Castro Neves rscj

Safe shelters for teenagers often lack resources to respond to the needs of the boys and girls they host. The hosts live in a safe environment but the safe shelters often lack resources to offer them programmes that tackle their past stories of violence, abandon, drug, alcoholism. *De camino a la pantalla* identified five safe shelters in the area of Rio where it introduced multimedia and cultural activities to its hosts. Activities included workshops on photography and video-making, theatre, talks on human rights, and violence and its different aspects. And outings to cultural spaces (museums and parks). In each safe shelter welcomed the project mentors twice a week per two hours. A final event gather the work of the five shelter where an audience of over 250 persons watched the final works of the teenagers. Teenagers discovered a creative universe and acquired creative multimedia skills (use of camera and video camera). They showed they could engaged in new forms of sociality and gained self-esteem. They openly talked about their past and now look with hope to their future. They learnt to listen and show love; the road to overcome violence and isolation was opened.



Photography workshop



Video-making workshop



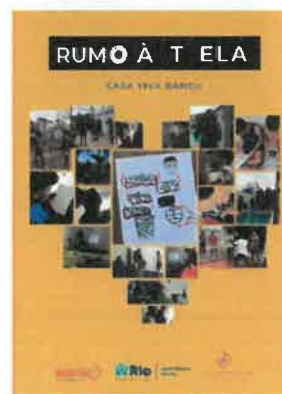
Theatre workshop



Cultural outing



Final event



Poster final event

Philippine Duchesne | MEXICO, Puebla
Mujeres con sueños de colores | Maria del Socorro Martinez Maqueo rscj

Puebla registers among the highest rates of women violence. Women live in a situation of vulnerability as for the macho culture (infidelity, husband dependence, domestic violence) and the high percentage of girl dropout (illiteracy; early pregnancy). *Mujeres con colores* enhanced the participation of women in society as leaders. It carried out workshops, the women circles of knowledge, on self-esteem and inner learning (i.e. reading of a tale and sharing of personal experiences, art-therapy; gender equality experts), celebrated international days of women and girl with side events activities (choir, theatre), and the painting of collective murals. Women showed a change in their attitudes as they recognised and valued their strengths. They switched their self-perception and valued their leadership abilities. Fear of their husband lessened, women sensed freedom.



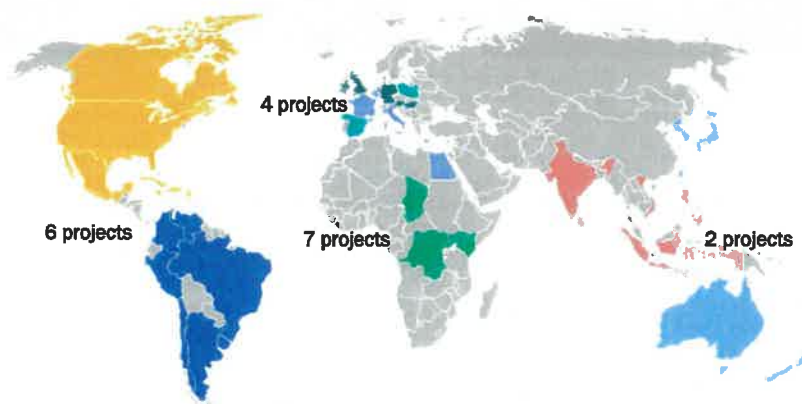
Art therapy



Collective murals



Women's circle



Funds for victims of the Ukrainian-Russian conflict

In March 2022, the General Council launched a new international fund to support the victims of the Ukrainian-Russian conflict. This fund was managed by the Generalate Finance Office and donations could be made from provinces or others connected to the Society. The creation of the fund was in response to the many requests from within the international Society to offer financial support and to coordinate funding.

In 2023 the fund disbursed the last sums allocated for 11 projects approved in the previous year. Specifically, the projects concerned:

- ▶ humanitarian aid to women and children at the front line
- ▶ creation of social and household conditions for the refugees
- ▶ hospitality and psychological support for refugees from Ukraine
- ▶ hosting people, women and children, war refugees, victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence
- ▶ provide basic means of livelihood such as hygiene products, food, medicine, clothing, trying to improve refugees current quality of life
- ▶ support in the process of self-empowering
- ▶ create a care centre for orphans and to organise bedrooms, play areas, kitchen, dining room and laundry





Social integration and new
language learning



Social and psychological support



At the end of the year, the fund ran out of disbursements and was closed.

Sustainability Fund

Eldercare and Capital Aid

Capital Aid was provided to the Province Congo-Chad, to conclude the works of the care home for elderly and sick women in Kinshasa, specifically in Kimwenza. The purpose of this house is to offer our elderly sisters a space that is suitable, given their age and increasingly vulnerable health conditions. This is a space where they will feel comfortable, fulfilled and safe, in order to respond to their mission of praying and supporting the mission of those who are still active in the whole Society.



Ordinary Life of Communities

During the year to 31 December 2023, the Society provided aid to some Provinces who cannot afford their own costs for formation, international service and to foster the project of creation of new provinces.

Ordinary aid for the administration and living expenses of communities was provided to Philippines, Chad, Congo, Uganda, Indonesia, Vietnam and Venezuela to support their public benefit ministry through their service in education. These funds are used by Provinces to support the daily lives of sisters, their provision of healthcare, support for regional or international meetings and development of a mission area.

Administration of the Society of the Sacred Heart Life and Mission

During the 12 months of 2023, the Duchesne Trust continued its charitable work with the commitment and support of members of the Society of the Sacred Heart in 40 countries around the world.

We will introduce some specific areas within the Society that include the activities of colleagues and friends who are part of our extended group. We will do this through some of the visits made by the General Council throughout the year.

Visits to Provinces

Visit to England-Wales *Barbara Dawson | Anne Corry*

Barbara Dawson and Anne Corry visited the province from February 20-26, 2023. The visit was based in London where many of the ENW RSCJs are living. Those from places further afield generously gathered in London in order to make the most of the time we had. There were very lively meetings at every occasion, with the members of the province who gathered with the sisters from Duchesne

House and with the lay staff who support the administration and care of the sisters in so many ways. We were very interested in the initiatives that the province is taking to uphold its legacy in England and Wales and we congratulate them as they prepare their celebration of 180 years of the Society's presence in England.



Visit to Peru

Barbara Dawson | Mónica Esquivel | Marie-Jeanne Elonga

Barbara Dawson, Mónica Esquivel, and Marie-Jeanne Elonga traveled to the Province of Peru in May 2023 and observed the strong faith of the Peruvian people, who are inspired to keep moving forward. During their visit, they witnessed the country's reality, including poverty, inequalities, and cultural richness. The sisters, guided by their charism and mission, addressed these challenges by providing education, developing work skills, and implementing entrepreneurship projects. They admired the population's courage and determination in response.

The educational mission in Peru has been particularly impactful, with the sisters proud of their contributions to education in the country. They have been pioneers in adult and professional technical education, focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable. The province is currently undergoing a transition, marked by changes in leadership, increased involvement of the laity, and a redefinition of the sisters' apostolic role. In preparation for the near future, the sisters, along with the entire Society, are engaged in continuous discernment to establish apostolic priorities and address evolving challenges.



Visit to Korea and Taiwan (Korea-China province)

Barbara Dawson | Daphne Sequeira

Barbara and Daphne visited the KOC province from 10th March to 20th March 2023. They were very warmly welcomed at Taipei Airport by Choi and Eun Jeong. The Taipei community and then the Open community in Seoul looked after them with much love throughout their stay.

The provincial council had a full and inclusive plan for their visit. This gave them a chance to interact with many RSCJs individually and visit the ministries and communities to get to know their life and mission as it is lived in Taiwanese and Korean reality. They had interactions and honest conversations in the ministries with the sisters and the collaborators in- Taipei School, schools in Seoul, Barat Café, Mohtungyi Village Café, Saenal community. It was encouraging to see how our mission is lived with passion and zeal. It also helped them understand their challenges and hopes for the future.

Deep and meaningful conversations with the sisters in various age groups, good questions in the province assembly and informal conversations in the communities over the delicious meals gave them a good flavor of the life of the province. They were glad to see several innovative ministries and reorganization of the communities to welcome youth. The province is making a good process to welcome a new life being born in the 'New province'.



Visit to United States *Anne Corry | Daphne Sequeira*

Anne Corry and Daphne Sequeira visited the Province of the United States and Canada from May 15-28, 2023, focusing on future directions for the region. Their schedule was packed with exciting activities, including initiatives with young people, developments in eldercare, a revitalized JPIC Commission, programs at the Stuart Center for Mission in Washington DC, and spirituality outreach. They also had meetings with key figures in Sacred Heart Education and the Network of Sacred Heart Schools. Throughout their journey, they observed strong relationships with dedicated lay individuals involved in various aspects of the Society's mission. The visit included interactions with European novices in Chicago, experiencing the hospitality of Encounter Point — a gathering place for spirituality and pastoral action. They learned about existing and new outreach ministries with migrants and made a special visit to the shrine of Philippine Duchesne in St Charles, Missouri. The trip allowed them to witness the province's anticipation of a new relationship with Mexico and the Antilles, and they were impressed by the energy and commitment to future directions within the province. The visit also provided opportunities to explore the beauty of the countries through road and train travel.



Visit to Haiti (Antilles province)*Barbara Dawson | Mónica Esquivel*

In June 2023, Barbara Dawson and Mónica Esquivel visited Santo Domingo to meet with the sisters of the Haitian community in the Province of the Antilles. Following the meeting, Valle Adame and Rosa Vásquez, accompanied by Soco Rubio, continued their work in Santo Domingo to prepare for the arrival of Sofia Baranda and Maricruz Trigueros in August. The team explored various locations to support the people of Balan while integrating into the local culture and learning Creole. After careful discernment, they decided to go to Anse-à-Pitres, situated on the southern border between Haiti and Santo Domingo. An inter-congregational community welcomed them, providing a house. Their plan is to move to Balan to sustain the Fe y Alegría school and assess possibilities for the currently closed clinic. As of the latest update, the community comprises Valle, Rosa, and Sofia Baranda, who arrived on August 20, with the anticipation of Maricruz joining them in Haiti soon.



Visit to Japan

Anne Corry | Daphne Sequeira

Daphne and Anne had a wonderful visit to Japan province from 14th Feb to 20th Feb 2023. The province welcomed them warmly into their life. The leadership team had prepared for the visit very well. The Daini community looked after them with great care throughout their stay.

Interacting with the communities over meals with informal conversations gave them a good sense of province life. Our sisters in the eldercare community were very interested in inquiring about their co-probanist all over the world and what new is happening in Society. They had meaningful conversations with our mission partners and sisters in their ministries and the age groups. The Zoom gathering of the province gave them a chance to dialogue about Society issues. The honest and deep sharing of each community on the province Zoom meeting was heartening. Besides listening to individuals, visiting Mikokoro center, Global Plaza of the university, Sapporo, Obayashi, Sankocho schools, and the Casa de Amigo organization, they were especially blessed to attend the solemn graduation ceremony at Susono School. This also gave them a chance to interact with the parents. In the midst of the letting go, they could feel a good preparation to welcome a new life being born in the New province.



Historical and cultural heritage of the Society

Villa Lante

The Villa Lante, located in the heart of Trastevere in Rome, is the historical and cultural heritage of the Society of the Sacred Heart and has been remodeled to house a Formation Center for Religious and Laity, a museum and the archives of the congregation.

In the last three years, Villa Lante has undergone a major renovation, which is now complete. The “Villa Lante Conference Center” vision and mission is to provide a hub for the international Sacred Heart family who share our mission. Local and international religious and lay groups, whose missions align with the Society, have been invited to gather to educate, learn, share, collaborate and form each other in shared visions and goals around spiritual renewal and Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) initiatives.

A section of the complex known as Casa Betania opened formally in late October 2022 to welcome the probanists and two probation mistresses. They were the first group to use part of the newly renovated Villa Lante.



General Archives



During 2023, the General Archives continued to respond to requests from historians, researchers and scholars, both inside and outside the Society, and continued to ensure the appropriate storage and recording of important documents for the Society.

The following projects were developed in 2023:

- Setting up of the new museum and display area of Villa Lante
- Restoration of Villa Lante's paintings and artifacts and setting up in the renewed spaces
- Updating of "Guidelines for Provincial Archives" for support and information of Provincial Archives
- Definition of strategies for digitisation projects for preservation of original documents and to implement consultation of documents from remote.
- Planning for collections to be made available on-line via AtoM (archival software) to facilitate and stimulate the use and study of archival material, patrimony of the Society of the Sacred Heart.
- Upgrade of archival spaces including new more efficient and sustainable ventilation system and a new room available for archival material



TRUSTEES' BIOGRAPHIES

Sister Barbara Dawson (Chair)

is a native of San Francisco. Educated at the University of San Francisco and Stanford University, her ministries have included service in education, administration and immigration in both the U.S. and Jakarta, Indonesia. Barbara served as Provincial of the United States-Canada Province from 2012 to 2016 and she also held the position of Provincial for the U.S. Province from 1993-1999. In addition to leadership, Barbara has served as a teacher and administrator for schools including St. Martin de Porres in Oakland, California.; Lone Mountain College in San Francisco; and others throughout the U.S. She was in administration for various Catholic Charities and has addressed public policy and immigration issues in the San Francisco Bay area. She is a member of the bar in both California and Missouri, serves on the board of the Hilton Fund for Sisters and has served on the board of trustees for various academic institutions. Since 2016, Barbara has been the Superior General of the Society of the Sacred Heart and Chair of the Duchesne Trust.



Sister Anne Corry



has a professional background in education and mission promotion. Originally from New Zealand, she has lived in Rome since 2014 first as international coordinator for justice, peace and ecology and currently as a General Councillor for the Congregation. Anne has taught in high schools in Australia and New Zealand and has served on Boards of education and healthcare institutions of religious congregations. Anne has Masters degrees in Education and Theology and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Studies and Ethics. She has travelled widely in countries of Africa, Europe and Asia and lived for a few weeks in Peru. All of this

has contributed to her understanding of the mission-related activities of her congregation around the world. Anne's current role gives her an overview of the widespread mission of her international congregation.

Sister Mónica Esquivel Ballesteros

was born in Mexico in 1966. She joined the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1992 and has worked in formal education as well as alternative (“popular”) education and pastoral ministry. In formal education she worked as a secondary school mathematics teacher and as a school chaplain. In alternative education her work focused on women and young people, in the areas of communication, educational development, as well as the promotion and coordination of educational projects, teacher training and the creation of educational networks at municipal and regional level.



Mónica served for 8 years in the Society's mission in Nicaragua, working for the charity “Roncalli-Juan XXIII Association” in the areas of housing and education. She also worked for the Conference of Religious of Nicaragua as the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) coordinator.

Upon her return to Mexico in 2011, she worked in teacher training program for public schools in the municipality of Ayutla de los Libres, and was a member of the provincial council. In 2013 she was appointed Provincial of Mexico. During this time she was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Religious of Mexico. Since December 2016 she has been a member of the General Council of the Society of the Sacred Heart in Rome.

Sister Marie-Jeanne Elonga Abombpi Mokango



the Society in Rome.

is a theologian by training and a graduate in education. She has experience in formal education, working at different times and in different places as a teacher, principal and head teacher. She spent some years in the formation of young RSCJ's in her province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) before serving as provincial and president of the Conference of Religious in the DRC. This last role helped her to interact with other congregations in the areas of initial and ongoing formation, management and self-financing. Currently, she is in her fifth year of international service with the General Council of

Sister Georgina Zubiria

studied to be a primary school teacher. For 9 years she was director of the Santa Cecilia School and later she was working with low-income women in popular education and gender perspective. Since she was studying to obtain her degree in Theological Sciences, she has worked in different areas of her province such as formation, treasury, and leadership. Georgina has experience working in non-profit organizations and transferring the management of both the School and the Finance Office to lay people. As a theologian, she has taught at the Universidad Iberoamericana, the Hispanic Pastoral Institute of the University of Santa Clara, other higher education institutions and religious congregations. She was Director of the Center for Theological Studies of the Interreligious Conference of Mexico (CIRM) and advisor to the Board of Directors of the Conference of Religious of Latin America and the Caribbean (CLAR). She participated in the creation and consolidation of the CIRM National Education Network. In recent years, she worked as a Canonical Treasurer in Mexico, and is now the Canonical Treasurer General of the Society of the Sacred Heart.



Sister Catherine Lloyd



has a background in formal education and ministry with young people, firstly as a teacher. After further formation in spiritual accompaniment and counselling using the arts, she returned to work as a school chaplain in the Society's high school in London. After final vows, Cath spent some time in the Society's mission in Indonesia where she worked in teacher education, theological formation and in a project with street children. On returning to the UK, Cath served as Novice Mistress in the Society and worked in the Formation department of the Conference of Religious of England and Wales, where with others she developed inter-congregational formation programmes. After further studies in organisational change, Cath worked on a team which facilitated organisations and groups as they developed areas of strategic planning and leadership formation. Between 2008-2016 she served on the General Council of her congregation. Although this ministry was based in Rome, her service took her to many different parts of the world. This experience broadened her mind and opened her heart!! Cath returned to her home province in 2016 and once again took up a ministry of facilitation and spiritual formation in the UK and

abroad. With colleagues she has worked as a co-facilitator on General and Provincial Chapters and a variety of meetings for different religious congregations. In 2019, Cath was asked to serve as Provincial in England -Wales and she remains in that ministry to the present day.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ▶ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ▶ observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- ▶ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ▶ state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- ▶ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- ▶ there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- ▶ they have taken all necessary steps that they ought to have to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the trustees by Sister Barbara Dawson,
Chair of Trustees

Barbara Helen Dawson

Approved by the trustees on 16th July 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DUCHESNE TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Duchesne Trust (the 'parent charity') and its controlling entities (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the group and parent Statement of Financial Activities, group and parent charity Balance Sheet, group and parent charity cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- ▶ give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- ▶ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ▶ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group and parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ▶ the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- ▶ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ▶ the parent charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ▶ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement [set out on page ...], the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to both the Charity itself and the environment in which it operates. We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our sector experience and through discussion with the directors and other management. The most significant were identified as the Charities Act 2013, Charity SORP FRS 102, UK GAAP (FRS102) and relevant tax legislation.

We considered the extent of compliance with those laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statements. Our audit procedures included:

- ▶ making enquires of trustees and management as to where they consider there to be a susceptibility to fraud and whether they have any knowledge or suspicion of fraud;
- ▶ obtaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- ▶ assessing the design effectiveness of the controls in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- ▶ assessing the risk of management override including identifying and testing journal entries;
- ▶ challenging the assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for>.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Haines Watts

July, 16th 2024

Haines Watts

Haines Watts, Statutory Auditor
Old Station House
Station Approach
Newport Street
Swindon
SN1 3DU

Haines Watts is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS)
AS AT 31 DECEMBER (IN €'000s)**

GROUP

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
Income from:					
Donations	2	804	2.679	3.483	5.493
Investment	3	4.084	0	4.084	2.066
Other income		82	0	82	79
Total income		4.970	2.679	7.649	7.638
Expenditure on:					
Investment manager fees		559	590	1.149	1.081
Supporting the charitable work of members of the Society of the Sacred Heart	4	4.276	1.600	5.876	4.977
Other costs	5	248	0	248	412
Total expenditure		5.083	2.190	7.273	6.470
Realised & unrealised investment and foreign currency gains/(losses) on revaluation		4.447	4.701	9.148	-15.003
Transfers		0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		4.334	5.190	9.524	-13.837
Balances brought forward at 01 Jan		65.456	67.591	133.047	146.884
Balance carried forward at 31 Dec		69.791	72.780	142.571	133.047

Income and expenditure derive from ongoing activities. The statement of financial activities includes gains and losses recognised during the period.

**CHARITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS)
AS AT 31 DECEMBER (IN €'000S)**

CHARITY

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
Income from:					
Donations	2	804	2.679	3.483	5.493
Investment	3	4.084	0	4.084	2.065
Other income		62	0	62	79
Total income		4.950	2.679	7.629	7.637
Expenditure on:					
Investment manager fees		559	590	1.149	1.081
Supporting the charitable work of members of the Society of the Sacred Heart	4	4.837	1.600	6.437	4.404
Other costs	5	248	0	248	412
Total expenditure		5.644	2.190	7.834	5.897
Realised & unrealised investment and foreign currency gains/(losses) on revaluation		4.447	4.701	9.148	-15.003
Transfers		0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		3.753	5.190	8.943	-13.264
Balances brought forward at 01 Jan		65.099	67.591	132.690	145.955
Balance carried forward at 31 Dec		68.853	72.780	141.633	132.690

Income and expenditure derive from ongoing activities. The statement of financial activities includes gains and losses recognised during the period.

**GROUP BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER (IN €'000s)**
GROUP

	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS		
Fixed assets	329	483
Social Investments	0	0
Investments	177.634	164.080
Total fixed assets	177.963	164.563
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	158	14
Cash at bank	4.684	7.473
	4.842	7.487
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within a year (non-investments)	6.348	8.601
Amounts due to provinces (non-investment)	455	1.707
Accruals	595	658
Commitments	5.298	6.236
Amounts falling due within a year (investments)	33.886	30.402
	40.234	39.003
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES	-35.392	-31.516
TOTAL NET ASSETS	142.571	133.047
Represented by		
RESTRICTED FUNDS	72.780	67.591
Ukraine	0	0
Solidarity	0	0
Covid Cor Unum	0	135
Heritage	836	789
Future Sustainability	71.944	66.667
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	69.791	65.456
Designated	14.054	14.855
Solidarity	5.903	6.029
Formation	2.126	2.801
Future Sustainability	6.025	6.025
General funds	55.737	50.601
TOTAL FUNDS	142.571	133.047

Barbara Helen Dawson

Approved by the trustees on 16th July 2024 and signed on their behalf by
Sister Barbara Dawson
Chair of Trustees

**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER (IN €'000s)**
CHARITY

	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS		
Fixed assets	0	0
Social Investments	0	0
Investments	177.634	164.080
Total fixed assets	177.634	164.080
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	149	0
Cash at bank	3.785	7.249
	3.934	7.249
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within a year (non-investments)	6.049	8.237
Amounts due to provinces (non-investment)	455	1.707
Accruals	296	294
Commitments	5.298	6.236
Amounts falling due within a year (investments)	33.886	30.402
	39.935	38.639
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES	-36.001	-31.390
TOTAL NET ASSETS	141.633	132.690
Represented by		
RESTRICTED FUNDS	72.780	67.591
Ukraine	0	0
Solidarity	0	0
Covid Cor Unum	0	135
Heritage	836	789
Future Sustainability	71.944	66.667
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	68.853	65.099
Designated		
Solidarity	5.903	6.029
Formation	2.126	2.801
Future Sustainability	6.025	6.025
General funds	54.799	50.244
TOTAL FUNDS	141.633	132.690

Barbara Helen Dawson

Approved by the trustees on 16th July 2024 and signed on their behalf by
Sister Barbara Dawson
Chair of Trustees

**GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER (IN €'000s)**

GROUP

	2023	2022
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	9.524	-13.837
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	-2.253	538
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	2.645	77
Depreciation charges	174	222
Investment income	-4.084	-2.066
Net realised and unrealised investment and foreign currency gains/(losses) on revaluation on investments	-6.422	12.548
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	-416	-2.518
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Investment income	4.084	2.066
Net (additions)/withdrawals to investments	-3.648	-116
Purchase of new fixed assets	-20	-39
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets	0	0
Net cash provided by investing activities	416	1.910
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	-2.790	-607
Balances brought forward at 01 Jan	7.473	8.081
Balance carried forward at 31 Dec	4.684	7.473

**CHARITY CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER (IN €'000s)**

CHARITY

	2023	2022
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	8.942	-13.264
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	-2.187	99
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	-149	218
Depreciation charges	0	0
Investment income	-4.084	-2.065
Net realised and unrealised investment and foreign currency gains/(losses) on revaluation on investments	-6.422	12.548
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	-3.900	-2.464
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Investment income	4.084	2.065
Net (additions)/withdrawals to investments	-3.648	-116
Purchase of new fixed assets	0	0
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets	0	0
Net cash provided by investing activities	436	1.949
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	-3.464	-515
Balances brought forward at 01 Jan	7.249	7.765
Balance carried forward at 31 Dec	3.785	7.249

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The Duchesne Trust is a regulated trust in the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is given in the group information on page 3 of these financial statements. The nature of the group's operations and principal activities are to promote charitable work carried out by the Society of the Sacred Heart.

The group constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

These group financial statements consolidate the results of the Trust and the entity it controls being the Society of the Sacred Heart Generalate, both of which make up their financial statements to 31 December.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in euros which is the functional currency of the group and rounded to the nearest €'000.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

There are no material uncertainties regarding going concern.

Consolidation

Consolidation takes place with third parties when the charity determines that:

- ▶ the third-party entity is financially dependent upon the charity and would not be able to continue without the charity's support, and
- ▶ the charity is able to control the actions of the third party either directly or indirectly due to the authority it has via the trustees of the charity.

Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the group is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Where income is received with specific criteria for its use or future use the income is recorded as restricted.

All income donations received are verified with the recipient at the time of receipt to ensure that the intention of the donations is fully understood and accounted for correctly.

Resources expended and the basis of apportioning costs

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when incurred and includes any attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. Resources expended comprise the following:

- ▶ The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the group's primary charitable purpose as described in the trustees' report. Such costs include:
 - Support of the charitable work of members of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Specific areas of expenditure are detailed out in the trustees' report.
 - Other donations payable are included in the statement of financial activities when approved and when the intended recipient has either received the funds or been informed of the decision to make the donation and has satisfied all related conditions.
- ▶ Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the group including audit costs and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements.
- ▶ All costs are directly attributable to specific activities.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life as follows:

- ▶ Land & Buildings 3%
- ▶ Equipment 15%
- ▶ Vehicles 25%

Debtors & Creditors

- ▶ Debtors - Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.
- ▶ Creditors – Creditors are recognised where the group has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Loans to provinces

All loans at the time they are made to a Province are recorded as a debtor. All loans are reviewed at year end to determine their realisability in the future. In the event that of a loan may be impaired a provision is made in the year.

Commitments

All future commitments that are agreed to prior to the year-end that are material are recorded at the time of the commitment rather than at the time of the payment.

2. DONATIONS (IN €'000S)

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Funds received from the Duchesne Trust:				
- Generalate (donation)	-	-	-	-
- Provinces (donation)	3.483	5.493	3.483	5.493
Total donations	3.483	5.493	3.483	5.493

3. INVESTMENT INCOME (IN €'000S)

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Investment income (dividend & interest)	4.084	2.066	4.084	2.065

4. SUPPORTING THE CHARITABLE WORK OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART (IN €'000S)

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Donations to the Society of the Sacred Heart:				
- Generalate (donation)	3.497	3.230	4.058	2.657
- Provinces (donation)	2.379	1.747	2.379	1.747
Total donations	5.876	4.977	6.437	4.404

5. OTHER COSTS (IN €'000S)

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Auditors remuneration	14	17	14	17
Other professional fees	234	386	234	386
Other costs	-	9	-	9
Total	248	412	248	412

6. STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION (IN €'000S)

The group had salary costs of:

	GROUP	
	2023	2022
Salaries	676	931
Social costs	210	215
TOTAL GROUP COSTS	886	1.146

The charity has no employees (31 December 2022- none) and, therefore, no staff costs were incurred during the year (31 December 2022 - €nil).

During the year the group had an average of 13 employees (31 December 2022: 16).

During the year group employees receiving remuneration in excess of €70,000 were:

Number	
€70,001 - €80,000	1
€80,001 - €90,000	2

None of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their services during the year (31 December 2022 - €nil). Expenses incurred by the trustees in the performance of their duties were not reimbursed during the year (31 December 2022 - €nil).

During the year no ex-gratia payments were made (2022 €121k)

7. TAXATION

The Duchesne Trust is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

8. FIXED ASSETS (GROUP) (IN €'000S)

	Land & Building	Equipment	Vehicles	TOTAL
Opening cost as at 1 January 2023	5,842	495	18	6,355
Additions	-	20	-	20
Closing cost as at 31 december 2023	5,842	515	18	6,375
Brought forward acc. depreciation as at 1 January 2022	5,455	399	18	5,872
Charge for the year	148	26	-	174
Total accumulated depreciation as at 31 december 2023	5,603	425	18	6,046
Total Net Book Value as at 31 December 2023	239	90	-	329
Total Net Book Value as at 31 December 2022	387	96	-	483

The charity has no fixed assets.

9. INVESTMENTS (IN €'000S)

Movements in investments are summarised below:

Movements in investments	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Market value at 1 January	164.080	178.636	164.080	178.636
Net (withdrawals)/additions from sales & purchases	3.648	116	3.648	116
Net investments transferred to the Duchesne Trust from the Society of the Sacred Heart provinces	758	331	758	331
Net unrealised investment & exchange gains/losses – Provincial investments	2.726	(2.456)	2.726	(2.456)
Net unrealised investment & exchange gains/losses – Generalate investments	6.422	(12.547)	6.422	(12.547)
Market value at 31 December	177.634	164.080	177.634	164.080

List investments held at year-ends comprised of the following:

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Equities	85.785	84.658	85.785	84.658
Fixed interest securities	20.152	20.699	20.152	20.699
Alternatives	30.252	26.421	30.252	26.421
Property	14.505	16.363	14.505	16.363
Cash	26.940	15.939	26.940	15.939
Market value at 31 December	177.634	164.080	177.634	164.080

10. DEBTORS (IN €'000S)

The other debtors relate to loans made to the Society's provinces as follows:

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Other debtors	158	14	149	-
Market value at 31 December	158	14	149	-

The item 'other debtors' includes a loan granted to the Province of Indonesia for the construction of a building for educational activities.

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR (IN €'000S)

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Amounts due to provinces – Non Investment	455	1.707	455	1.707
Accruals	594	658	296	294
Commitments	5.298	6.236	5.298	6.236
Sub-total	6.347	8.601	6.049	8.237
Amounts due to provinces – Investment	33.886	30.402	33.886	30.402
Total	40.233	39.003	39.935	38.639

Amounts due to provinces (Non-Investment) are funds awarded to provinces or expenses incurred by the Generalate that have not yet been paid.

Amounts due to provinces (Investment) are those funds invested on behalf of provinces by the Generalate (see Note 9) net of all disbursements and gains or losses on the investment.

12. FUND BALANCES ALLOCATED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES (IN €'000S)

The amount and destination of these funds are determined by the Trustees. Set out below are the balances of the funds as well as its intended use of the funds:

	GROUP				
	1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains	31 December 2023
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Future Sustainability	66.667	2.500	(1.870)	4.647	71.944
Heritage	789	-	(7)	54	836
Ukraine Russia Support	135	-	(135)	-	-
Solidarity	-	179	(179)	-	-
Total restricted funds	67.591	2.679	(2.191)	4.701	72.780
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Designated funds	-	-	-	-	-
Formation	2.801	125	(800)	-	2.126
Solidarity	6.029	-	(126)	-	5.903
Future Sustainability	6.025	-	-	-	6.025
Generalate	50.601	4.845	(4.156)	4.447	55.737
Total unrestricted funds	65.456	4.970	(5.082)	4.447	69.791
TOTAL FUNDS as at 31 December 2023	133.047	7.649	(7.273)	9.148	142.571

CHARITY

	1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains	31 December 2023
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Future Sustainability	66.667	2.500	(1.870)	4.647	71.944
Heritage	789	-	(7)	54	836
Ukraine Russia Support	135	-	(135)	-	-
Solidarity	-	179	(179)	-	-
Total restricted funds	67.591	2.679	(2.191)	4.701	72.780
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Designated funds					
Formation	2.801	125	(800)	-	2.126
Solidarity	6.029	-	(126)	-	5.903
Future Sustainability	6.025	-	-	-	6.025
Generalate	50.244	4.825	(4.717)	4.447	54.799
Total unrestricted funds	65.099	4.950	(5.643)	4.447	68.853
TOTAL FUNDS as at 31 December 2023	132.690	7.629	(7.834)	9.148	141.633

GROUP & CHARITY

Restricted

- Solidarity – Funds that have been donated to fund projects involving members of the Congregation, to support and educate vulnerable groups who live in poverty. This is often directed towards women and children who lack the basic necessities of life.
- Future Sustainability – Funds that have been donated by provinces in response to the call from General Chapter 2016 to "commit ourselves as one body to live our community of goods by sharing our resources throughout the Society, especially our financial resources, in order to sustain our life and mission for the future." The use of the Sustainability Fund was discussed at the Special Chapter 2021 and decisions will be implemented in 2022. Details of the types of funding are set out in a document titled "Priorities for Future Sustainability".
- Heritage – The fund was set up to facilitate the maintenance of heritage assets within the Society of the Sacred Heart. Specifically, the heritage properties located in Joigny, France, Grand Coteau in the United States of America, and in Rome, Italy.

- d) Ukraine-Russia support – The fund was set up to support the victims of the Ukrainian Russian conflict with assistance and psychological counselling of women and children, language teaching, facilitation of social integration, training for employment.

Designated

- a) Generalate – Funds that have been designated to ensure the continuing operation of the General Council in Rome along with the associated costs of operating the Society of the Sacred Heart.
- b) Solidarity – Funds have been designated to fund projects involving members of the Congregation, to support and educate vulnerable groups who live in poverty. This is often directed towards women and children who lack the basic necessities of life.
- c) Formation – Funds that have been designated to cover the costs associated with initial and on-going education for the members of the Society of the Sacred Heart.
- d) Future Sustainability – Funds have been designated in response to the call from General Chapter 2016 to "commit ourselves as one body to live our community of goods by sharing our resources throughout the Society, especially our financial resources, in order to sustain our life and mission for the future."

13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No related party transactions took place during the year.

14. ALLOCATION OF RESERVES (IN €'000s)**GROUP**

	Unrestricted reserves	Designated reserves	Restricted reserves	TOTAL
Fixed assets	35.392	69.791	72.780	177.963
Current assets	4.842	-	-	4.842
Current liabilities - non- investment	(6.348)	-	-	(6.348)
Current liabilities - Province investments	(33.886)	-	-	(33.886)
Total reserves	-	69.791	72.780	142.571

CHARITY

	Unrestricted reserves	Designated reserves	Restricted reserves	TOTAL
Fixed assets	36.001	68.853	72.780	177.634
Current assets	3.934	-	-	3.934
Current liabilities - non- investment	(6.049)	-	-	(6.049)
Current liabilities - Province investments	(33.886)	-	-	(33.886)
Total reserves	-	68.853	72.780	141.633

