

THE SPIRIT OF PAUL MCGIRR
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE, NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL
TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document.

The objectives of the Company shall be to provide development and support to the communities in Zambia for the furtherance of the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and other charitable purposes by engaging in community development programmes to provide improved educational and other facilities so as to enhance future opportunities and development for people in Zambia

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes in the year

During the year the charity undertook to build a new secondary school for the community in Lusaka. Donations were received. Various building materials were purchased and shipped to the region to enable the work to commence. A team of individuals travelled to Lusaka to oversee the progress.

The following is a summary of the different strands of work we are currently involved in.

- 1 Build a secondary school for 400 children in Chainda.
- 2 Establish a Pre and Post-natal children nutritional clinic for expectant mothers from Chainda compound and local district.
- 3 Link QUB Belfast to UNZA, the Teaching Hospital of Lusaka.
- 4 Expand our Primary school in the parish to accommodate 250 children.
- 5 Install a water pump, stand and tank system for both of our feeder Primary schools and our Secondary school.
- 6 Construct a metalwork, woodwork and construction centre for practical learning and education on our secondary school site.

The charity raises funds in Northern Ireland but the charitable works are carried out in Zambia.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

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The Co-ordinators have secured 7 acres of land from a private family, close to the Community centre and St Teresa's Primary School in Chainda. The land registry deeds for this land are lodged with the SMA Tyrone School.

Our intention is to build a non-denominational, all abilities, secondary school for up to 1,000 children, boys and girls. Currently, in the compound, there are places available for 15% - 20% of the children that are eligible to go to secondary school.

In many cases the families of these children cannot afford to pay fees or travelling costs to the few secondary schools in the city. This situation compounds the already significant problems and lack of options available to these children and young adults in regards to basic post primary education, personal health, life skills, career skills and availability of post 16year education choices.

We have a successful primary school in St Teresa's and there are other primary schools within 1.5km that teach the children from the nearby Compounds.

Per student place, secondary schools are expensive to start up but can make money as a business within 5 years, the profits are then used to improve the school resources and offer bursaries to the kids from less well-off families and the compounds.

Currently Sr Clare are drawing up 3 and 5 year plans for both schools. Queens Uni Belfast, medical school are coming on board with medical support for our Chainda children.

The basic school structure is similar to Jim Brady's school on the T2 at MOOMBA .

A single story building built around a central courtyard with a high wide veranda and strict access in and out past the Principals office. The initial phase will cater for 400 students in 13 classrooms and construction skills rooms. We will teach basic languages, maths, sciences, computers, home economics, personal development and health, sport, music and drama.

The site requires the following construction projects completed, whether we have 100 children or 1,000,

- *400 metres of safety perimeter wall and safety gates.

- *Safe car drop off areas and traffic management,

- *Upgrading of adjacent foot paths,

- *Staff car and bike parking.

- *Teacher accommodation block.

We intend catering for 1st year children this January with numbers growing in every term as facilities grow. We will have a cash shortfall until student numbers are over 150. So the sooner we get facilities in place the sooner the charity will run the way we foresee it, and be able to offer real meaningful bursaries to the poorest children in the compound to set them on a life course that they can only dream off, up to now.

The Spirit of Paul McGirr do not work anywhere else in Africa; we are dedicated to this community, we know the community leaders the rascals and rogues, we have employed most of them, we have a settled team of builders and electricians there for the last 18 months. We are in control of all the finances in the secondary school project and we get constant information and feedback from the Principals and our fulltime Accountant.

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Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

During the year the donations received enabled us to continue to undertake the current secondary school building project, to add to the successful build of the Tyrone school. The services and activities provided in previous years by the new primary school have benefited local children, and their parents. These services have offered educational opportunities for children in the area, and also enable their parents to go out and work. The secondary school will provide much needed additional education support to the older children in the area.

This has a double impact of helping to develop the literacy of the community, and the economic circumstances of families. Both of these are key foundations to raising the standard of living for the community, and the region as a whole. During the year the kevy wing and third side of the rectangle of the school construction was completed. The construction of three classrooms in the school triangle have been started in autumn 2024.

Fundraising practices

The charity relies on the donations from the donors identified as required in the accounts, whose support is valued.

Financial review

The trustees consider the financial performance by the charity during the year to have been satisfactory. Donations and income of £88,081 were received, with expenditure of £84,487 resulting in a surplus of £2,994. The main expenditure was on the new secondary school which continued its construction during the year, as well as travel costs to area.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy outlines the rationale for holding a specific level of reserves, aimed at instilling confidence in stakeholders regarding financial management and indicating future funding needs and resilience.

Plans for future periods

In the next year plans are set to finish the three classrooms and close the courtyard with kerbing and flowerbeds to complete the courtyard and other plans include kerbing the carpark, flowerbeds, entrance gates and get the storage compound roofed. There is plans to secure the entire site with either high walls, fencing and safety gates with security guards. In addition there will be a fenced urban garden with laying hens, plots of vegetables and fruit which will be managed as part of the H.E. teaching module.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr M H McGirr	
Mr F Donnelly	(Appointed 29 September 2023)
Mr B Maguire	(Appointed 29 September 2023)
Mrs G McGirr	(Appointed 29 September 2023)
Miss Sioned McGirr	(Appointed 29 September 2023)
Miss A Conway	(Appointed 14 April 2025)
Ms Katrina McGirr	(Resigned 29 September 2023)
Mr G P O'Donnell	(Resigned 29 September 2023)
Mr M McCann	(Resigned 29 September 2023)

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Recruitment and appointment of trustees

New trustees are identified through word of mouth. They come from the local community so very often are well known to existing members of the trustees of the charity. Potential trustees are screened and appointed by a panel comprising of existing trustees including the Chairperson. An active recruitment process is not undertaken as the charity is completely community-driven with its members and trustees all being from the local area.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Organisational structure

The Spirit of Paul McGirr is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 18th June 2008. It is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 30th July 2015.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Michael McGirr

Mr M H McGirr
Trustee

B. Maguire

Mr B Maguire
Trustee

30 October 2025