

The Uphill Trust

Supporting Uphill Junior School in western Uganda

Scottish Charity No - SC045385

Annual Report and Financial Statement for the first eleven months of operation

29 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

Trustees' Annual Report

29 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the first eleven months of operation of The Uphill Trust. The report also includes a statement of activities in the 12 months prior to being awarded charity status.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name	The Uphill Trust
Charity Number	SC045385
Charity Status Awarded	29 January 2015
Charitable Purpose	The advancement of education
Registered Address	21 Strachan Crescent, Dollar, FK14 7HL
Trustees	N R L Macdonald (Chairman) B L Macdonald H E S Laird S A Macdonald C J Macdonald
Committee Member	A I Smith (elected 6 March 2015)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Uphill Trust is a Scottish Charitable Trust and all current Trustees were named in the Trust Deed at the outset. Committee members can be elected to serve alongside the Trustees, subject to a vote at any formal trust meeting. Currently there is only one formal management role, that of Chairman, but the other trustees/committee member are taking responsibility for administrative/management tasks dependant upon their expertise: website, newsletters & social media; minute taking & record keeping; accounting & financial records; legal advice; health & hygiene advice. Fundraising activities are shared.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

To advance education by securing the establishment and development of Uphill Junior School in rural Uganda. By providing financial support we are helping the School Management Committee to develop a permanent primary school and kindergarten for children aged 3-13 years in the village of Iruhuura, western Uganda.

School Background

Uphill Junior School (UJS) is located in an impoverished rural area and the fee income for the school is very low. Currently about a quarter of the pupils are unable to pay any fees due to orphan status/family ill-health/hardship. Prior to The Uphill Trust's involvement staff were working on a largely unpaid basis and school facilities were very poor. There are currently 3 kindergarten year groups plus 5 primary year groups and 11 members of staff. A new primary class is added each year to accommodate children moving up the school. Primary 6 will be added in 2016 and the final class, Primary 7, in 2017.

Pupils numbers have varied during the year, with over 200 children in attendance at the start of the academic year in January and 173 sitting the National Examinations at the end of Term 3 in November. Analysis of the results for the top primary class, Primary 5, showed that 10 children passed the final examination (1 with distinction, 4 with credit) and 3 children failed. Coaching will be offered to all children in the higher primary classes to ensure that all children achieve their best potential in the Primary Leaving Examinations at the end of Primary 7.

Activities

We work closely alongside the Director of Uphill Junior School to support the objectives in the school's Project Development Plan that is set out in the Annual Report prepared for the Trustees in December. In 2015, one or more trustees visited the school on multiple occasions to monitor progress and discuss funding projects. In between trips the UJS Director is in regular contact with trustees via the internet.

The main focus of the charity is to raise money through a range of fundraising activities (presentations to community groups, engaging with individuals and organisations to fundraise on our behalf; sale of hand-made crafts at presentations and other irregular events ; promotion of our activities via our website and social media).

The trust provides funds to Uphill Junior School to support the day-to-day running of the school (payment of teachers' salaries, purchasing classroom resources and essential equipment, provision of soap and disinfectant for hand-washing/toilet hygiene) along with funding capital projects (phased school building project) and one-off activities such as school trips for pupils. In addition, trustees encourage the donation of good quality second-hand resources such as laptop computers and sports clothing and take these items out to the school when they visit. From time to time trustees also assist the school in gaining access to items that will enhance the quality of life for pupils, staff and/or the wider community.

Achievements and Performance

2013/4 - summary of activity prior to being awarded charity status

- Roofing materials for two classrooms
- Provision of desks and blackboards for classrooms
- Paint for exterior of wooden school building
- Payment of annual land rent for current school site
- Provision of rain water tank and guttering to provide clean water for school
- Pupil support (specific pupil sponsorship by individual donors)
- Contribution towards teacher salaries
- Provision of educational resources and stationary
- School choir trip to Fort Portal to perform at a Christmas Fair, plus educational visits
- Informal visits to school x 3

2015 - activity during the 11 months since charity status gained

- Setting up financial and administration systems for the Trust, plus creation of website with online giving vehicle and social media/other marketing outlets
- Creation of linked brand logos for both the Trust and UJS
- Regular payment of staff salaries (11 full time teachers/teaching assistants)
- Transfer to school of donated educational resources/craft materials to UJS
- Regular exchange of letters between Ugandan and Scottish children
- Provision of more desks and furniture for classrooms
- Transfer to school of donated second-hand laptops to UJS (currently 9 in use in school)
- Provision of electricity to one classroom (laptop charging/teacher lesson-planning)
- Provision of 3 x hand-washing/drinking water tanks for pupils and staff
- Provision of curriculum text books for teachers
- Transfer to school of donated sports clothing for pupils
- Pupil support x 3 (specific pupil sponsorship by individual donors)
- Transfer to community of donated reading glasses (provided by Scottish charity Vision Action)
- School trip for P4/5 to Queen Elizabeth National Park
- Purchase of a plot of land in the village as a permanent site for the school
- Grant award from Meetings Industry Meeting Needs (MIMN) to provide solar lamps (to be purchased in 2016)
- School choir trip to Fort Portal, including performance at Christmas Fair and on local radio station
- First phase of construction on the new school site (pit for new latrine block)
- Range of fund-raising activities, including presentations, sponsored events, online appeals, craft sales, networking in social and workplace environments
- Trustee visits to school x 3 (plus additional brief visits by the Chairman whilst working in Uganda)

Uphill Junior School receives inspection visits from the Ugandan School's Inspectorate each year. The report for March 2015 noted that the school had taken huge steps forward since the visit in 2014, notably in the provision of desks and blackboards for the classrooms, a stable teaching staff, improved sanitation/hygiene, access to clean water and provision of a secure school office (currently rented, along with additional classroom space). The list of improvements still needed included: sanitation facilities for teachers, more National Curriculum text books for teachers, playground equipment for the kindergarten children, classrooms with concrete floors and window shutters and a system of formal school administration.

Since this inspection visit some of these requirements have been put in place and, following the successful purchase of a permanent school site, Phase 1 Development of brick-built classrooms with concrete floors and proper windows/door plus the much needed improved sanitation facilities are being planned for 2016. Playground equipment will also be provided on the new school site when funding allows.

Financial Review

Since achieving charity status 65% of our funds were received as donations from individuals and community groups, including a substantial donation from a local private school. A grant award for the provision of solar lamps accounted for 12% of our income. The remaining 23% came from a range of fund raising events (presentations, sponsored events, online appeals, work-place promotions, craft sales). The Trust ran a successful online appeal early in the year through the Total Giving website to raise the remainder of the funds needed to secure the purchase of a plot of land and, due to the favourable exchange rate at the time of money transfer, excess funds remained (£814) which have now been allocated to the School Building Project. An online fundraising appeal has been set up to support the development of this project. We currently receive 100% of the funds needed each month to cover the agreed running costs for Uphill Junior School (teacher salaries, soap and disinfectant, pupil support) via regular donations and we are

seeking additional regular donors to consolidate this stable income flow. The Trust will be applying to HMRC for Gift Aid status in January 2016, once the first set of annual accounts has been examined.

Reserves Policy

It is the Trustee's policy to retain a capital sum of £500 to cover any unexpected expenditure. This is in addition to £400 currently received each month via regular giving arrangements, which is used to cover agreed running costs.

Plans for future period

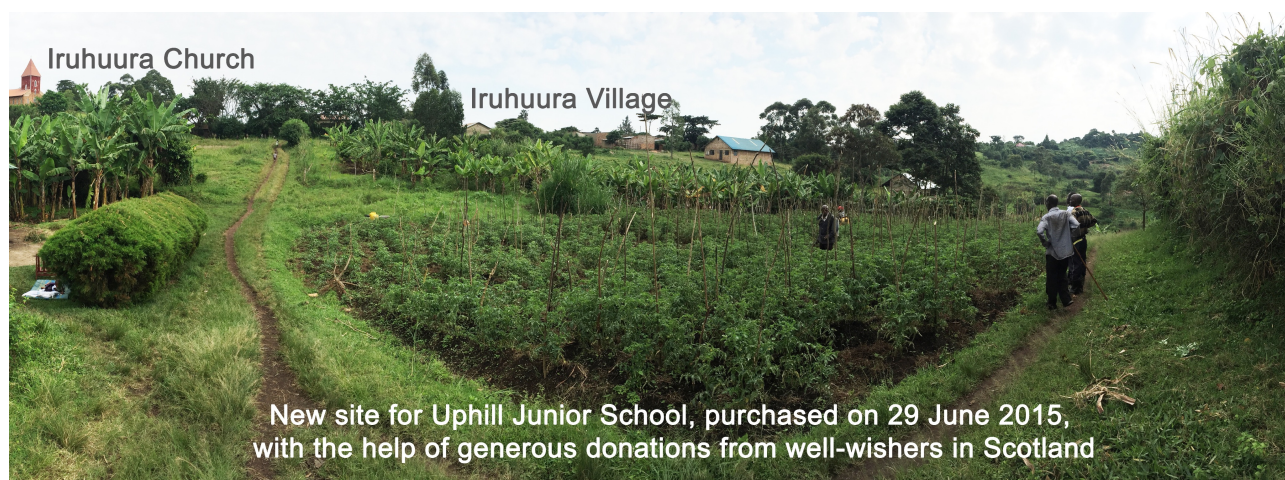
The Trustees intend to continue paying the teacher's salaries and other running costs not met by the school fees collected by Uphill Junior School (as agreed on a needs-basis with the Director). The school still has to add two more years groups (Primary 6 and Primary7) therefore both pupil numbers and staffing will increase in 2016 and 2017. The next major project will be the progressive construction of permanent school facilities on the new school site, with the first priority being the building of a 5-stance ventilated latrine block, with hand-washing facilities, for staff and pupils. This project is underway and should be completed by the end of January 2016. The first classroom block, containing 2-3 teaching rooms, is also planned for 2016. Two Trustee visits are planned for 2016, in March and October, to monitor the school development project.



Uphill Junior School, as it was first seen, in October 2012



Uphill Junior School, during the Trustee visit in February 2015



New site for Uphill Junior School, purchased on 29 June 2015, with the help of generous donations from well-wishers in Scotland



Starting to dig the latrine pit in December 2015: 12 ft long x 43 ft deep

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 December 2015

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds current period
Receipts			
Donations	4960	13,003	17963
Receipts from fundraising activities	4406	0	4406
Grants	0	3000	3000
Bank interest	4	0	4
Other income (Trustee's expenses donated back into Trust funds)	4148	0	4148
Income carried forward from pre-charity status	1819	0	1819
Total receipts	13518	16003	31340
Payments			
Money sent to Uphill Junior School	4305	2348	6653
Trustee expenses	4148	0	4148
Total payments	8453	2348	10801
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	5065	13655	20539

Statement of Balances - as at 31 December 2015

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds current period
Surplus/(Deficit) shown on Receipts & Payments account	5065	13655	18720
Closing Balance	5065	13655	18720

Notes to the accounts - for the 11 months ended 31 December 2015

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) 2006 (as amended).

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The Trustees maintain an unrestricted General Fund for agreed day-to-day support for the running of Uphill Junior School.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for a specific purpose. During the accounting period 29 January to 31 December 2015 the Trust maintained four separate restricted funds within the accounts, the **Land Purchase Fund**, the **Classroom Fund (school building project)**, the **Pupil Support Fund** and the **Solar Lamp (MIMN) Fund**.

Restricted and unrestricted fund monies are held within the common bank accounts.

3. Expenses

In line with the *Trustees Expenses Policy: The Uphill Trust (2015)*, Trustees do not claim expenses for day to day administrative activities or for attending Trust meetings. The Trustees may claim expenses for return air fares to Uganda and for Ugandan entry visa fees. In 2015 expenses were claimed by 3 Trustees for air travel/entry into Uganda and these expenses were donated back to the Trust **in full as donations eligible for gift aid**. In 2015, therefore, **100%** of money received as income by The Uphill Trust will be used to benefit the development of Uphill Junior School.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Niall Ranald Louis Macdonald

Chairman

Belinda Louise Macdonald

Trustee

Date Signed: 15 January 2016