



Hosanna School Support Group Annual Report 2014

Charity Number: 1120997

Financial Year: Jan 2014 – Dec 2014

Charity Address: Sarum, Chapel Lane, Old Sodbury, Bristol BS37 6NG

Charity Aims: To advance the education and protect and preserve the health of pupils attending Hosanna Primary School, Kisenyi, Kampala, Uganda: in particular, but not exclusively by provision of financial support.

Trustees: R Casken, R Collin (Treasurer), M Maclean (Chair), R Maclean, S Pearce

2014 has been a challenging year for both Anne Nsubuga, head teacher, her staff, and the Trustees of the Hosanna School Support Group.

In January, the Pastor of Hosanna Church, who was also one of the original founder members of the Hosanna Mission, made vague and unsubstantiated claims about Anne with a view to weakening her position in the church, the school and the community.

The Charity Trustees felt it proper to establish whether he could clarify or provide evidence for his allegations. They wrote to him several times via email and letter giving him time to respond. No response was received.

The Pastor and his family also claimed that the land the school and church are built on belongs to them. This in spite of the fact that there is evidence that members of Hosanna Mission at the time donated funds to purchase the land. Attempts at mediation between the Pastor and Anne during the year have failed, and she has had to seek legal advice. In November the Pastor re registered the Hosanna Mission illegally with family members as signatories. After this it became apparent that the matter would only be resolved through the Court.

Of the funds raised this year - approx £29,000, £15,000 was transferred from the UK Charity account to Hosanna School. In the face of the uncertainty over land ownership, the Trustees and Anne agreed that it would not be responsible to send funding to enable the next level of the new classroom block to be completed.

Funding set aside for this project remains in the UK Charity account until such time as the ownership issue is resolved satisfactorily. Monies donated for porridge, rent, school fees, secondary school fees and teachers' salaries have been transferred and have thus ensured that the school has been able to function normally, albeit on a very tight budget.

Due to its proximity to the city centre the value of land in Kisenyi has increased dramatically. Plots are being bought up for development by investors. Rents are continually rising. Many of the families living in Kisenyi have had to relocate a bit further away from the school. Life in the area is changing for many but Hosanna School continues to provide a stable and secure environment for over 850 children –who are happy to walk a bit further to school! They continue to receive their daily porridge and a good level of education provided by dedicated and caring teachers.

The school fees initiative continues to pay fees for 210 pupils from the poorest families. Funding continues for the ex Hosanna pupils at Secondary School, who value the opportunity to continue with their studies. Salaries for 2 members of staff are also being funded by UK supporters

The Teachers are also affected by the continuing rise in rents. As the cost of land now makes buying land for teacher accommodation unrealistic, the Trustees agreed that the £4,000 put aside for this project should be used to give the teachers extra help with rent and travel costs.

Links with supporters in the UK continue to flourish. 10 sixth form pupils and 2 members of staff from Brimsham Green School visited the school in July. As well as working with all the classes, the Brimsham students had raised enough money to take all the pupils in P7 to Queen Elisabeth National Park for 4 days. For the Hosanna pupils it was an inspirational experience and for the Brimsham students real satisfaction in being able to fund the trip. It is something the BGS staff would like to repeat when the next group from Brimsham goes out in 2016.

Blackhorse Primary School continues to develop strong links with pupils and staff at Hosanna School. As part of the Connecting Classrooms initiative 2 teachers from Hosanna School were able to visit the UK. They spent time at Blackhorse School observing teaching methods and taking part in activities. 2 members of staff from Blackhorse Primary were able to visit Hosanna School in October.

Pupils at St John's Mead School continue to fundraise to pay fees for 10 pupils at Hosanna. It is also exciting to report that 3 schools in the Midlands and some of their staff are also supporting pupils at Hosanna after folk from the UK, who visited last July gave enthusiastic reports of the work of the school on their return.

Although fundraising activities were put on hold this year due to the query over ownership of the land, we were very grateful to receive generous donations from Mrs Pat Richardson and Mr Simon Botten.

The Hosanna School Support Group was also chosen by Howard Gawler as one of his chosen charities when he became Chair of South Glos Council in May. Hosanna School was featured in the South Glos School Christmas Carol Service in Clifton Cathedral and children from Blackhorse Primary sang a Ugandan Carol. It was a very uplifting occasion for those attending. The school will also benefit from any funds raised during Howard's year in office which ends in May 2015

The Trustees have had frequent meetings throughout the year, and have received regular updates from Anne, to enable us to monitor the situation at Hosanna, and to agree on our response as representatives of the charity.

At the Trustees meeting in December it was agreed that all supporters should receive a written notification of what has been happening at Hosanna, assuring them that their financial contributions to the school are being used responsibly.

Thank you to all our supporters for your confidence in Anne and the staff of Hosanna School. Thank you also for your continuing support for the work they do for the children of Kisenyi and their families. As we look forward to 2015 we trust there will be a satisfactory resolution to the ownership dispute and that the charity will have the freedom to support not only the day to day running of the school, but also future development.

Maggie Maclean

(on behalf of the Trustees)