



A review of the first year, April 2005 – March 2006

In our first year we defined who we are, what we will do, how we can work most effectively from a distance and how we can best access local community services.

I know all of this is less exciting than it might be, but it is crucial in running an organisation that is fit and ready to grow effectively. These dull matters of governance are what help donors both large and small, and our work partners, to have the confidence in us so that they know that WE know what we are doing.

During this year we undertook considerable research into infant and child abuse and made several fact-finding missions to South Africa to assure ourselves of the need for the work and the best ways of working at arm's length. In this we have been extremely fortunate to have the generosity of one particular donor who specifically funded the costs of the travel. The value of these site visits during the year in building relationships and defining projects is immense and will have many benefits for years to come.

It is my belief that we are now well established, and beginning to have a real impact on the lives of the infants and children we so much want to help.

Governance

We have now set up and developed

- publicity materials based on research [paid for by Gift Aid ... thank you Gordon Brown];
- the website [mostly done for free thank you Gay and David];
- good governance arrangements;
- criteria for funding;
- policies for the organisation;
- projects for future funding applications;
- relationships with several small, medium and national organisations in South Africa;
- service level agreements with partner organisations for all our projects so that both parties know what to expect, when to expect it and how monitoring will happen.

We really have developed extremely good and thriving partnership relationships with local South African services, and experts in the field, meeting with them and helping to develop projects.

Funding and accounts

We started fund raising immediately, although the charity was initially pump-primed by family. In starting a charity, there are some expenses that can't be avoided – those essentials of legal, accountancy and registration fees.

The incoming donations/resources, combined with interest and tax refunds, totalled £20,059; this included £4,700 of Gift Aid, £263 in bank interest and £3,500 ringfenced for site visits.

Out of the £16,559 unrestricted income in Year One:

- £4,616 was spent on professional, banking, registration and legal fees;
- £1,906 was spent on necessary website development costs, stationery and a few pieces of I.T. equipment;
- £2,777 was spent on start-up publicity and fundraising;
– *all the above were covered by an initial family donation plus the £4,773 Gift Aid.*
- £1,789 was spent on grants to projects in year
- £5,496 is the surplus we had at the end of the year and all allocated to future work

As mentioned above, restricted donations were received and allocated to location visits to South Africa. This was not available for any other use – £3,475 was spent in year.

Our fundraising has so far secured a guaranteed minimum of £105,000 over the next three years; this is earmarked for specific projects. Further fundraising will continue apace.

Income and expenditure strategy

It is our intention to continue to keep administration costs to an absolute minimum; our aim is to continue to use gift aid refund and bank interest to fund most of the foreseeable costs of professional services, fund raising and raising awareness.

Each of our projects for which we specifically raise funds will have contingency costs inbuilt.

In this way we can ensure that individual, personal and private donations given for that purpose are all directed to helping infants and children.

Lesley Rudd
Chief Executive
the infant trust