



A review of our second year, April 2006 – March 2007

Having laid solid foundations in our first year both for the work we are undertaking and on having an organisation fit for purpose, our second year has been much more focused on setting up projects in South Africa [dependent on our fundraising] and on looking to the future in terms of development and slow sustained growth¹.

Policies and objectives

Our philosophy and way of working is NOT to simply be an aid agency giving grants but to work with partners at a very local level, to source and develop community projects, helping them to heal themselves through identification of the problems, training, seed corn money, helping to gain a belief in themselves and empowerment to action.

Our essential areas of work and strategic plan were completed by April 2007. The projects we will only concentrate on are:

1. Training in all aspects of child abuse: the causes of abuse, how to identify it, how to deal with it, where to go and counselling – this is 50% of our work.
2. Supporting and assisting the development of safe places for small children – crèches, nurseries, early child development centres, crisis centres etc – this is 35% of our work
3. Research and awareness raising – this is 10% of our work
4. Ad hoc grants – this is 5% of our work

All programmes are expected to agree to a contract with regular reports on activity and usage of funds.

Income and expenditure strategy

It remains our intention to fundraise wherever and whenever we can and 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.

¹ For the full details on financial and activity information please go to our annual report

Funding and accounts

We were able to carry forward £2,996 unrestricted funds from last year which gave us a good start; we also raised £42,544 in year, including Gift Aid, giving us £45,496 to spend on projects in South Africa, and any essential administration.

In addition we had carried forward from last year £2,500 restricted for travel, and had a further £7,200 donated in-year specifically for travel - all our travel to South Africa has been funded very specifically by two donors who have ringfenced their gifts for this purpose. That left us with £9,700 in the travel fund – this was spent.

In the event, due to the speed of programmes getting going we were able to spend slightly less on projects than expected, and it takes time for us to work together in partnership. It is my view that it is better to go slowly developing trust in a new way of working than to rush ahead on schemes that are not properly thought through or agreed by both parties. It also takes trust and personal relationships to develop sound programmes in the townships – they are too used to foreign charities swooping in, promising much and then disappearing – this is not our way of working. So, in the event, we spent £15,181 on grants, training, supporting safe havens and raising awareness.

In the light of this, we have been able to carry over £18,899 to be spent in 2007-2008 and therefore step up our developments and project work.

Review of activities

By March 2007 we had completed the following:

Training

- Development and completion of 3 training programmes for 42 people
 - 16 further community and volunteer workers completed Level One training provided by the Child Abuse Treatment and Training Service [CATTTS]
 - 10 community volunteers completed a specific training programme developed by a psychologist to enable them to work with traumatised children in very deprived areas
- Between March 2006 and March 2007 we have trained 68 people

Supporting safe havens

Between March 2006 and March 2007 we have fully or part funded monthly stipends for 34 volunteers working with children and/or traumatised families

We only agree to fund volunteers on a 12 or 18 month basis so this does not come to be seen as paid employment – this means there is a regular turnover of volunteers who come to work, become trained and move on. It is a major part of our philosophy to train as many people as possible in many aspects of child abuse and then expect our partners to help them into other and [hopefully] paid jobs.

In the first year 12 volunteers have been trained by us and subsequently got paid employment.

Provide Ad hoc grants

- Paid for two lots of emergency food for a safe haven for 230 children

- Paid for some movement-activated lights at a safe haven to keep children safe from opportunistic intruders at night
- Awarded a grant to a specialist centre, attached to the hospital in Johannesburg, where small children go for treatment and court preparation. Grant given to assist the travel of children and families to the centre.
- A small grant was given to Ekupholeni Mental Health Centre for **infant trust** T-shirts for the trainees and for books as a resource for the centre

Service Level Agreements

All our projects have jointly agreed service level agreements requiring regular reports. The training programmes have post-training visits and reports built in to establish the long-term impact and how training can be improved. The expected reports have come in, on time giving us activity and accounting for the funds spent. The few delays in service delivery have been due to either political or personal reasons.

Associated projects

Occasionally the opportunity comes our way to do some associated work not in the course of our usual projects. The Ghetto Boys Football team is one such project: this is a group of boys living in a very poor township, they are all on the edges or have been involved in crime, they all head or are in child-headed families, most are HIV+ with no plans for them to access medication, many have been abused or/and are abusers. These are boys with little hope who have lived much of their lives in a semi-feral state; they also act as role models younger boys in the surrounding areas. A project has been started by one of our partners to encourage boys together as a football team. It has been a huge success: the boys are mainly now out of trouble, they have all attended football training every week for nearly two years, they are bringing the younger boys and they are beginning to look to a future. We have supported them by sending kit, paying part of a stipend for the trainer and have sent 3 large boxes of football kit.

Research

the infant trust and the Open University will co-fund a 3 year PhD programme into an aspect of the causes / solutions to infant/small child abuse in South Africa

Feedback

The trustees have met with many **infant trust** sponsored volunteers and trainees on their travels. These are some of their comments:

- *I've just taken on a foster daughter as she was being badly beaten by her carer and she had no-one. Before I did the training I wouldn't have understood what was going on. She will die, but she will be happy until then.*
- *Because of this training I interviewed the teachers in my daughter's nursery school because I know what to ask. Now all the parents in my place do this.*
- *I work in the crèche and noticed a child behaving very strangely. I spoke to the teacher and she spoke to the Mother. The child is now living with her auntie.*
- *Now I have done the Level Two training I work with raped children who are going through the courts, I support and help them and explain what is happening; this didn't happen before.*

These are some comments taken from the reports

- *Now I think before I speak and I listen to my families and the children*

- *I've learned to recognise some of the signs of abuse*
- *Now I ask many more questions and I know what is the best thing to do when someone is raped*
- *All the neighbours now think I have the answers, I know I don't but I know where they can go.*

Organisational Development

Our strategic plan is now approved by the Board and posted on the website.

We have appointed a further trustee: Lindsay Mann and we have two new patrons Dr Chai Patel and The Right Honourable Lord Lee. The operating Board now consists of 3 trustees and Chief Executive.

Lesley Rudd
Chief Executive
the infant trust