



One Step at a Time

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127562

Annual Report April 2015 - March 2016

The trustees met 11 times in this period with an attendance record of 85%.

One trustee lives in Devon but joins the meeting each time via skype which is successful.

Sandra Murphy, founder and chairperson, was absent for 1 meetings during her 2 months reviewing and monitoring of OSAAT projects in Uganda. She developed a terminal cancer and has requested for more help from trustees and volunteers

As well as the annual visit from a trustee, regular weekly contact is made with the Ugandan project manager and staff via skype, facetime and phone. Often our beneficiaries are part of the skype conversation to maintain contact and give them confidence in the future of the charity. Regular contact is made between the 2 countries by email, text and letters between sponsors and children.

Monthly reports are sent from Uganda to the trustees and 2 meetings are held annually between the Ugandan Management Board, UK chair and Ugandan project manager, 1 being during the monitoring visit and another via a skype contact.

Sadly Uganda board member Betty Olal died from cancer during this period and the search for a suitably qualified person was instigated to find a replacement for our Ugandan board.

Administrative Information

One Step at a Time UK is registered at 80, High Street, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, NN10 8BJ.

The Ugandan registered office is Sam Eyul Road, Kichope Village, Ojwina Division, Lira District, Uganda PO Box 493.

Trustees who have served during this period are

- Sandra Murphy
- Trevor Jones
- Keighly Murphy
- Terri Lee Christoforou
- Richard Morgan
- Karen Holton
- Lynne Gray

Sadly, one trustee, Kate Simpson had a serious illness and resigned but we were delighted to welcome Terri-Lee Christoforou to join us in UK team. Vivian Allum left and Karen Holton was welcomed as a trustee. She is happy to work on publications. Lynne Gray also joined the team and will be busy working on social media and publicity

Finance

Incoming

In total of £41,320.50 was received in this reporting period:

- £12,741.21 came for direct sponsorship and support for individual children/families
- All direct sponsorship is held as restricted funding for individual beneficiaries;
- £28,579.27 came from fundraising and donations.

Outgoing

In total payments this year were £30,266.63

- £84.20 was spent directly in UK postage to deliver children's letters to sponsors. Sadly all letter postage from Uganda to UK was suspended for almost half of this period.
- Uganda salaries were £5,932.34 for this period
- UK salary for new administrator were £1025.10
- £242.00 was the cost of bank charges jointly UK and Uganda.
- Our largest expenditures were £1218.30 for 2 flights for Osaat project manager and one Osaat child to visit UK for 3 weeks and 6 months respectively. However, £1,140.00 of that was covered by fundraising and sales.
- Donations to Osaat football teams £599.48 for registration, equipment and tournament fees.
- £317.17 was spent on meat and rice for every family for Christmas to enable them to taste meat at Christmas.

No costs were incurred in this period for trustee visit to Uganda.

We are delighted to say that £19,953.30 was spent directly on our children and families of OSAAT.

OSAAT is pleased to report such a high proportion of our funds are spent on practical work in Uganda.

Trustees voted to increase our contingency fund to £10,000 in order to cover 4-6 months running costs.

2 major publicity achievements were the development of a new general information leaflet and the same for sponsorship

Volunteers

Trustees would like to thank so many people who gave their time so willingly and unconditionally during this period.

- To all of those who directly fund and support so many of our children through sponsorship. Many have taken children into their own heart and given the gift of survival and hope supported by direct contact of gifts and letters.
- To all who tirelessly give monthly to support our work.
- To those who hold their own fundraising events and donate funds.
- To Gareth Williams for maintaining our web site so efficiently
- To David Forman for auditing our accounts
- To Debbie Paterson for managing our finances

- To Catherine Fisher for maintaining the secretary role
- To Debbie Paterson for continuing to manage and develop managing a knitting and stitching group, which has continued to grow. Blankets, teddies and clothing are knitted and funded to be posted to our families in Uganda. For the first time children are covered at night with a warm and comforting blanket. In fact every one of our children and their siblings are now sleeping under a hand knitted blanket.
- To Sue Trudgian who manages a project sponsoring teddies to raise funds and provide children with their very first toy in all parts of Lira District. For holding tombolas and helping every month to send our cargo to Uganda by courier.
- To Self Store in Wellingborough for providing, free of charge, a sizeable storage unit within their establishment.
- To Helen Carey for her poster designs.
- To all who help in our dreaded store, fetching and carrying
- To Adrienne Larkin for her support with raffles
- I apologise if we have missed anyone but every kindness and deed is appreciated.

I cannot neglect a big thank you to the OSAAT staff in Uganda who face daily challenges and overcome them all to successful conclusions and to Carolyn for her work in UK.

Thanks to trustees who support and guide the work of Osaat and ensure it is run to the direction of constitution and policies.

Work in Uganda

The OSAAT project is managed by 4 Ugandan staff. 3 social workers and a house keeper, administrator.

An armed guard is employed for night time duties.

Sadly 1 member of staff was involved in a serious road accident and was hospitalised. He has now fully recovered.

- Guttering was fixed around 4 sides of the office building to harvest water and a water tank installed to store rainwater. This has proved very useful for watering plants, washing clothes and cleaning. Children also use it for bathing water.
- Dining room, lounge and main metal security gates were repainted
- Wifi was installed due to continued problems with modem and interruptions to communication.
- Solar panels purchased to cover times when there is no power in Lira town. The capacity is to run up to 6 computers and charging electrical equipment. We are still awaiting delivery of battery.
- Perimeter walls were raised by 5 brick layers to improve security.

All of our staff are Ugandan to reflect the cultural requirements of our families and children. They deliver the services with love, respect and acceptance of any person regardless of any religion, sexuality, health issues, state of mind or body.

OSAAT office receives many people asking for help and staff will offer free counselling, love and advice to all within our financial and human resources limitations.

To comply with Ugandan requirements, OSAAT is going through the registration with the National NGO board. The process has been found very slow, which can be typical of this country and is still not completed due to additional layers of Ugandan bureaucracy and cost.

Our application to Register of Companies continues, again a very slow administrative process but necessary to meet Ugandan NGO requirements.

A football team is now registered and we are awaiting the certificate from Uganda FUFA

One board meeting was held with Ugandan Board members

The transfer of the land from Sandra Murphy to OSAAT is almost complete. The land survey has been done and the land title now being processed. It just takes so long.

A decision was made to select our children for sponsorship from a 10 mile radius of our office. This is to reduce the risk of motor cycle riding for staff over long distances, to reduce the cost of fuel and to make all children more accessible to staff.

A partnership was developed between Lira Uganda Rotary Club and a club in Devon chaired by one of our trustees. They will be looking to work together on an internationally funded project in Uganda.

Sponsorships

During this period 52 children received full sponsorship.

- 3 in nursery school
- 26 in primary
- 10 in senior school
- 8 in vocational courses
- 6 families are being supported in getting themselves out of poverty with support in housing, bedding, food planting, income generation, health and self-belief and hope for becoming independent in the future
- 8 families have been set up in small businesses and business plans are now developed between staff and borrower.

6 new sponsorships were registered

- 1 nursery
- 3 primary
- 2 vocational

4 additional families were taken for emergency support

2 cases of child abandonment were lodged with the police with 2 of our young mothers against the fathers.

Osaat dealt with and solved 4 cases of domestic violence

Corporal punishment was witnessed in several schools and Osaat made official complaints to the education authorities. This was taken seriously and changes were made in all schools.

Work is ongoing to trace the fathers of children who have abandoned their wives once the babies were born. This is in conjunction with police and child protection.

Osaat worked with the local hospital and police with regard to 3 new babies, one mother refused to take her baby home because she lived on the street. Another wanted to murder the child and the third was a 6 month baby who was abandoned at the hospital by his mother. Sadly despite a lot of work, radio appeals and work with the police and care for the baby he sadly died RIP Stephen Murphy. His burial was funded by Osaat and he remains as one of our children.

One other is now at home with her mum who is running a business and the child is thriving.

The 3rd was classed as mentally ill by the community but it was established it was severe trauma. A lot of work was done with her and she is now off the street living at home with her parents who support her in raising the child.

100 pairs of spectacles were distributed to local people after eye tests at the local clinic

55 teddies distributed to disadvantaged children through a local church.

1 boy was given a camera to earn money while on holiday from school to support his fees.

One of our boys was seriously attacked with an iron bar late at night was hospitalised but recovered well.

4 young people qualified in their vocational skills.

- 1 hairdressing
- 2 tailors
- 1 motor cycle mechanic

All are equipped with the tools and equipment they need and are succeeding.

Training session held for those working their small businesses

1 member of Uganda staff started a training course on store management.

A new member of staff was recruited in UK for 16 hours per week to support the administration of Osaat in UK.

Salim Abud left the employment of Osaat in Uganda and Dennis Oporoson a qualified social work joined the team.

3 mothers and 2 of our children were diagnosed with HIV/Aids and supported in stabilising medication and counselling.

1 child was diagnosed with epilepsy following 3 severe episodes of typhoid. He is on medication but still displaying unusual behaviour.

2 grandparents and 2 siblings sadly died during this period.

In addition to all fees and equipment for education/training/tools, health care, our families were supported with

- 10 goats
- 15 chickens
- 2 bicycles
- 3 homes built
- 10 hoes
- 300kgs of seeds for planting
- 600kgs beans and maize for school feeding to support boarding school
- 95 blankets
- 2 sewing machines
- 12 mango trees
- 200kgs clothing
- 20 boxes of soap
- Water purification tablets for all
- Mosquito nets for all

A family day was held in the OSAAT Office with every family from local areas and those deep in the bush being facilitated to travel to Lira town.

For many of our vulnerable children and families this was their first ever time out of their villages and certainly to set foot in an Urban environment.

The impressions and lessons they gained will be invaluable to them.

They attended workshops on nutrition, health status, women's and children's rights and all went home well fed loved and happy with school uniforms and requirements

Public benefit

In consideration to the public benefit requirement of the Charity Commission One Step at a Time pay consideration to this in every activity we undertake.

In the local area we are seen as an organisation that works with street children and so reduce the number sleeping on the street or roaming late at night raising the fear of crime.

OSAAT works closely with local authorities and fully participates in activities to develop communities.

Local children are welcomed to join formal and informal workshops and fun within the OSAAT compound and are given counselling and guidance on life skills and health and hygiene.

OSAAT is known as a local sanctuary for those in need who often come for some love and care. We have provided health, feeding, clothing, counselling, love and company to many in trouble and supported them to solve their own issues or signposted them to relevant help and support.

Consideration is given to purchasing locally made products and locally grown produce.

OSAAT directs all business to those educated and trained by OSAAT.

Guidance and education takes place as part of the day to day working of OSAAT on health, human rights and environmental issue as an example.

This is from the office and also with individuals and groups deep in the villages where we visit our children.

Trustees and staff are committed to the delivery of loving, targeted, dedicated and relevant teaching in a holistic way to achieve self-belief, self-confidence and academic, vocational, emotional, social development all in a sustainable and lasting way.

Sandra Murphy on behalf of all trustees

26th January 2017