

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

The mission of Children of the Dump (registered as Asian Students Christian Trust) is the relief of poverty amongst Asian students and children by providing accommodation in hostels and other places; providing education in schools colleges universities and other places; and providing financial support and making grants towards to provision of accommodation and education and the necessities of life. Since 1975 the supporters of Children of the Dump and our Filipino partner Asian Students Christian Foundation, have been giving young lives the chance to escape the cycle of poverty through education.

To deliver our mission, Children of the Dump provides education, family support and loving care to deprived children living in extreme poverty in the Payatas and San Isidro rubbish dump communities in Manila. During 2019–2020 there were 212 children in our care; supported in different ways; some of whom have been neglected, abused or even abandoned.

Our children were supported through: a residential children's home (Mango Tree House); a scholarship programme (Grapevine) and the early years school (Cashew Tree) which was in temporary accommodation during 2018-2019 has now been rebuilt and is capable of taking 200 students.

The key priority for the charity this year has been delivering the strategy to replace Cashew Tree School and managing the building of the new permanent school on the site of Mango Tree House. Being able to raise the necessary capital was a significant achievement for the charity and seeing the new building operating with 4 bright and colourful classrooms, capable of taking 200 students was hugely satisfying. The benefit to the local community is immeasurable. A child who attends Cashew Tree school is given a stepping stone to success in the crowded public school system, making them pupils in demand and more likely to remain in education as they proceed through their school years.

The building is capable of supporting a second storey for future use when necessary and subject to funds being available. The charity is incredibly grateful to all those that have helped to make this possible.

Although full capacity is 200 students, Trustees were cautious of income levels in the first year of operation and agreed to keep expenditure more manageable at 100 students who moved into their new classrooms in November 2019. This coincided with the UK Trustee visit who were delighted to see the new building in use.

Services in Manila continued to operate under the jurisdiction of local regulatory agencies and the board members of Asian Students Christian Foundation (ASCF). The local environment continues to change as the closure of Payatas dumpsite drives populations to move to San Isidro, the new scavenging site; where living conditions are atrocious. Scavenger communities continue to reside in Payatas as the recycling businesses are well established in the vicinity. Fortunately, our facilities are conveniently situated equi-distant between Payatas and San Isidro and can serve both communities as well as the nearby resettlement town of Kasiglahan which houses people who have been evicted from their squatter shelters.

Mango Tree House has provided a loving residential home for over 40 children from four years of age. The increased national emphasis on re-integration with family has led to a significant policy change in operational practice for ASCF which has been jointly adopted with the UK. In 2019-2020,

Caring and educating vulnerable children in the Philippines.

Registered Charity Number 272328 Tel: 01276-942030

e-mail: office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

www.childrenofthedump.org.uk

children's relatives were systematically reassessed to identify which students could be safely moved to a family environment. The charity will continue to support their education where necessary through the Grapevine scheme. In the year covered by this report, places vacated at Mango have been filled with new children who are in need of a safe and loving environment. In future years, it is envisaged that fewer children will be accommodated in Mango and more supported in the community through Grapevine.

Grapevine has supported 69 children to go to school while living with their family. This avoids the need for the children to work scavenging to assist the family income and provides them with optimal opportunities to complete their education. Children who succeed in education, will utilise their new earning power to support their siblings and family to also step up from poverty. One child's life transformed thus impacts on many others.

In the UK, the drive to improve value from every penny continues alongside the expansion of our communications with donors and supporters. Sponsors of children have regularly received communications from their sponsor child with anniversary cards and video messages. This year it has been extended to incorporate regular donors who do not sponsor a specific child. Social media coverage on Facebook and Instagram has increased thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers which has generated more followers and we hope will turn into supporters.

Fundraising has had to adapt to changing trends in giving. Child sponsorship remains a key tenant for our charity but we have placed much greater emphasis on raising awareness and funds through social media, grants and national campaigns. Our biggest effort was focused on the Big Give Christmas Campaign where donations are doubled. This played a large part in being able to extend the numbers of students at Cashew Tree School.

Through the appointment of two new Trustees, the charity has expanded the skills and knowledge of the Board in the UK. One of the appointees was born and raised in Manila which brings an important dimension to discussions. The strengthening of the UK board is mirrored in ASCF with new active members also being appointed there.

The end of the year was of course blighted by COVID-19. Manila experienced the most draconian lock-down which for our community proved devastating. Emergency processes were implemented to keep families fed and appeals for special funds enabled this to happen. The implications of the pandemic continue to unfold and the charity will do its utmost to deliver its beneficiaries the best possible help and support.

Kay Mackay
Chair of Trustees

Caring and educating vulnerable children in the Philippines.

Registered Charity Number 272328 Tel: 01276-942030

e-mail: office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

www.childrenofthedump.org.uk

TREASURER'S REPORT 2019/20

Total income in the year was £197,000 which was £33,000 lower than 2018/19. Unrestricted income was down £7,000 and restricted income was £26,000 lower at £4,000 as result of fewer successful grant applications.

Unrestricted expenditure grew by £17,000 to £201,000 and Restricted expenditure grew by £18,000 to £40,000 as a result of expenditure on the construction of the new school.

The Unrestricted Deficit for the year was £8,000 and Restricted Funds fell by £32,000 to £28,000.

Summary Accounts

Movement of Funds during the year						
	Balance at 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure		Net Movement	Balance at 31 March 2020
			Charitable Activities	Fundraising		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Unrestricted Funds	115	193	181	20	-8	107
Restricted Funds	60	4	36		-32	28
Total Funds	175	197	217	20	-40	135

Total Reserves at 31 March 2020 were £135,00,000. Restricted Reserves were £28,000, leaving £107,000 in the General Reserve.

Each year the Charity has to set a "Target" for the General Reserve. On 1 April 2020 the Target General Reserve was £70,000. The actual reserve was £37,000 higher than the target but the excess is likely to be used to subsidise the running costs of the new school for the next 2/3 years and compensate for a potential fall in the value of the Pound following Brexit.

Caring and educating vulnerable children in the Philippines.

Registered Charity Number 272328 Tel: 01276-942030

e-mail: office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

www.childrenofthedump.org.uk