



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	April	2021		31 <sup>st</sup>	March	2022

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Asian Students Christian Trust

**Other names charity is known by** Children of the Dump

**Registered charity number (if any)** 272328

**Charity's principal address** High Cross Church

Knoll Road

Camberley

**Postcode**

GU15 3SY

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Kay Mackay	Chair		
2	Alison Jean Morey	Vice Chair		
3	John Wenger	Treasurer		
4	June Cobbett			
5	Lydia Janet Osmond-Davis			
6	Fred Little			
7	David Regan			
8	Michael James Kelly			
9	Mark Fryer			
10	Benet Fryer			
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### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

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### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

John Busby - Manager

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by the Board

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

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.

Children of the Dump (registered as Asian Students Christian Trust) provides education, family support and loving care to deprived children

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

<p>living in extreme poverty around the Payatas and San Isidro rubbish dump communities in Manila. During 2021 - 2022 we had over 200 children in our care; supported in different ways; some of whom have been neglected, abused or even abandoned. 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.</p>
<p>During 2021-2022, we operated a residential children's home (Mango Tree House) a scholarship programme (Grapevine) and delivered early years education through the Cashew Tree School.</p> <p>The COVID 19 pandemic continued to impact operations as all face to face teaching remained prohibited. Innovative methods of teaching, designed in initial lock-down periods were refined this year to maintain children in education where community access to internet or data is a major limiting factor. Residential children in Mango Tree House were supported in their virtual learning by the residential teacher and house parents.</p> <p>We pay tribute to the team in Manila who have been able to keep services operating safely and children receiving educational input across all projects.</p>

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

During this year, the area of Rizal, a suburb of Manila has made substantial progress with vaccinations against COVID-19, but restrictions remain, most notably no face to face teaching in schools. Services in Manila have continued to operate under the authority 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 there are no potable water, electricity or sewage systems. 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. Greater emphasis has been focused on the San Isidro community during this year. Teachers from Cashew Tree School reached out to the population there to create partnerships with parents and offer early years education.

Mango Tree House has provided a loving residential home for 25 children from four years of age. The Mango children who re-integrated into families last year have been monitored and supported throughout the year to ensure they remain safe and well. Their education has similarly been supported where necessary through the Grapevine scheme.

Grapevine has increased the number of children supported and now has 85 in the programme to be educated while living with their family. This support allows students to focus on their schooling and avoids the need for the children to work scavenging to assist the family income. Children who succeed in education, will utilise their new earning power to support their siblings and family to also step-out from poverty. One child's life transformed thus impacts on many others.

The new building for Cashew Tree School, which achieved its full registration last year, has still not been able to be used as anticipated due to the continued ban on face to face teaching. Numbers remained at 100 as virtual teaching methods have been refined and extended during the year. The community development and partnership work in the San Isidro area is an important extension of responsibilities. The population here is illiterate, their living conditions are the most basic imaginable. Many children are unregistered and therefore not eligible to attend state school. Teachers and social workers have become trusted partners with parents, providing support and transport to enable late birth registration and build a temporary shelter to hold socially distanced tutorials for both children and parents. Networking with other organisations and local supporters, has enabled a pump to be refurbished providing non potable water to the community. Some families have been set up with the tools and equipment to establish a soap making business with the aim of making them more self-reliant on a sustainable basis, less dependent on scavenging to live.

We want to pay tribute to the team in Manila for their dedication to the children, their persistence in the face of all the challenges they faced. The children have worked really hard at their studies and despite having no face to face teaching have all fared well and we are proud of their achievements.

In the UK, the drive to improve value from every penny continues alongside the expansion of our communications with donors and supporters. This year, we have continued to test innovative ideas to

increase our fundraising power. The positive financial out-turn for the year is testament to everyone's efforts and of course to our wonderful loyal supporters. The pandemic restrictions meant that our strategic developments were delayed in their implementation, so we have set aside the money we planned to use on those into special dedicated reserves to spend when it is possible to do so. Specifically, increasing the number of pupils in Cashew Early Years School and the number of students supported in the Grapevine programme.

Hard copy communications between children and their sponsor were suspended during the pandemic. This was such an important part of sponsor engagement that the UK office developed more digital communication. The biggest change during the year has been the implementation of video communications from students to their sponsors. Children loved making these short 'thank-you' messages and sponsors found being able to see and hear their supported student really engaging, many making their own video in return.

Social media coverage on Facebook and Instagram has increased thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers which has generated more followers and proved effective for birthday fundraisers.

Fundraising has had to adapt to changing trends in giving. Child sponsorship remains a key tenant for our charity, and we recognised the challenges in continuing with traditional methods of finding sponsors. In response, we have adapted the charity website to include information about children seeking sponsors. This is all conducted under safeguarding processes and has proved successful in attracting new lower value sponsorship. We have also continued our emphasis on the use of social media to raise awareness and funds, applying for grants and participating in national campaigns. Our biggest effort focused on the Big Give Christmas Campaign where donations are match funded. 2021 was another success thanks to the response by supporters, meaning it constituted nearly 30% of our budget for Manila.

The culmination of all these efforts over this and previous years means that the charity is well-placed to implement some of the strategic priorities in our plan. Dedicated reserves have been established to provide initial funding to double the number of students at Cashew Tree School which we anticipate happening in 2024 and also to employ an additional social worker to support another 25 students in the Grapevine scheme next year.

We feel blessed that all our families and children in our care have been safe and well. Education continued in its new form and children have adapted and succeeded. Donors and supporters gave willingly and generously to ensure that the charity could continue to do its utmost to deliver its beneficiaries the best possible help and support.

## Section E Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Trustees believe it is essential to hold reserves to allow service changes in Manila to be made in a managed process should income levels fall substantially.

Trustees calculate the target level of free reserves each financial year based on the approved budget for the next year, the general economic climate, exchange rate and trends in charity giving. The target free reserves for the year were £75,000

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Kay Mackay

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

11.07.22