

Annual Report 2021-2022

During the 2021-2022 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), our partner organisation. 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 mainly illiterate, their living conditions are the most basic imaginable. Many children are unregistered and therefore not eligible to attend state school. Our teachers and social workers have become trusted partners with

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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 develop services 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 all within safeguarding parameters. 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.

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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.



Kay Mackay
Chair of Trustees.

Treasurers Report 2021-22

The COVID pandemic had a major impact on the charity's work in the Philippines during the year. Face to Face lessons were cancelled and there were problems buying food and supplies due to scarcity and increased price.

The lower-than-normal activity in the Philippines and the requirement to delay implementation of strategic developments meant that there was an increase in the charity's surplus funds in the UK. Plans are in place to use these funds to double the number of children at Cashew and increase the number of Grapevine children.

The charity coped well with the pandemic and both income and expenditure were slightly higher than in the previous year.

Summary Accounts

Movement of Funds during the year						
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure		Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
			Philippines	UK		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Unrestricted Funds	73	234	-171	-28	-36	72
Designated Funds	92				44	136
Restricted Funds	6	7	-8		1	6
Total Funds	171	241	-179	-28	9	214

Total Reserves at 31 March 2022 were £214,000. The Designated Reserve of £136,000 will be used to cover the cost of the increase the number of Cashew pupils to 200 and the number of Grapevine students.

Each year the Charity has to set a "Target" for the General Reserve (Unrestricted Funds). On 1 April 2022 the Target General Reserve was £70,000. The actual reserve is £2,000 higher than the target.

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