



The Nick Webber Memorial Trust for Malawi

Trustees Report 2011

Preamble

The Nick Webber Memorial Trust for Malawi was founded in November 2004 by the family and friends of Nick Webber, who had recently died in a road accident while working in Malawi as a Legal Aid solicitor on a pro bono basis. The Trust became recognised as a charity at law in England and Wales on 30 May 2005, which would have been Nick's 29th birthday. Had Nick lived longer, we know that he would have done much more good in the world. Our aim is to do some of that good in his name.

The registered objectives of the Trust are: The relief of poverty, hardship and distress and the relief of sickness, either generally or individually, among persons living in Malawi by the provision of financial assistance in obtaining goods, services or facilities, or at the discretion of the trustees by the provision of grants of money.

The charity also operates under the registered working name of: The Nick Webber Trust. The address of the charity is: 1 Apple Tree Walk, Climping, West Sussex, BN17 5QN

The website of the charity is at: www.nickwebbertrust.org.uk

This document contains the Trustees' financial report for the financial year 2010/2011.

Structure, Governance, and Management

There are currently six Trustees: Pauline Webber (chair), Jane Abood, Christopher Holmes, Jonathan Webber, Mary Webber, Timothy Webber.

Trustees are appointed by a resolution of existing Trustees, of which there cannot be fewer than three. There is a Board of Advisers, to which appointments are made by the Trustees. There are currently sixteen members of the Board.

The operation of the Trust is governed by the Trust deed, to which one Supplemental has been made, an Ethos document, and a policy on the selection of partner organisations. A policy governing the adoption of education projects was adopted in July 2009. These can be downloaded from the Trust website, along with our annual reports.

Decisions are made by a majority of Trustees, with the Chair of Trustees having the casting vote in the case of an even split. Decisions are usually made at meetings, which are also attended by members of our Board of Advisers. There were two meetings in this financial year. Minutes of all meetings are circulated to all Trustees and Advisers.

No project is adopted without first being thoroughly researched by Trustees and Advisers

Activities in the Financial Year 2010-2011

During this year we spent money on three ongoing projects and completed one new project. We also agreed a second new project, for which expenditure fell in the next financial year. We made “top-up” payments to one project which, because of fluctuations in the exchange rate, had received less than the promised amounts in the preceding year.

Fundraising

Most of the funds were raised through personal donations and proceeds of events organised in support of the Trust but not by the Trust itself. However, the Trust did organise two events that raised funds for the trust, the expenses of which were met by a trustee. These were a Genuinely Fun Five-a-side Football tournament, and a Garden Party in Sussex to thank our supporters, at which we ran a raffle and a bring-and-buy sale. We sold our own Christmas cards again, with the initial outlay covered and recouped from sales by one of the Trustees, and all profits going to the Trust.

Ongoing Projects

We continued our support of the Malawian health care charity Ndi Moyo by continuing to make “Nick’s Place” available rent-free for use by the Ndi Moyo palliative care clinic in Salima. In this financial year, “Nick’s Place” continued to be used extensively to house volunteers and trainees at the clinic, and to provide the administration office for the clinic.

We greatly increased our school support allowance for homeless children who could not be re-integrated into their families, through the Tikondane centre in Lilongwe, an indication of how well this scheme has been working in giving extremely vulnerable children a chance of a fresh start. We supported forty children who were placed in state boarding schools, 25 in primary and 15 in secondary schools. We also supported four, who we had previously supported through school, in further education training in IT, as this will give them a chance to support themselves in the future.

We continued our Bursary scheme for law undergraduates at the University of Malawi. The bursaries pay all tuition and maintenance costs for the undergraduate course. Our second student graduated during this year, and is now employed at the Legal Aid Department in Lilongwe, joining our first student, who is now a Senior Legal Aid Advocate and helps administer the scheme for us. We were also supporting one student in years two, three and four of the undergraduate course. However, we were unable to select a student from the first year as the university was temporarily closed by the government in March 2011 in a dispute over academic freedom.

We continued our scheme to sponsor secondary school students in the Usisya region, in partnership with the charity Temwa. Due to complications arising from the changes to the school year schedule in Malawi, this financial year saw payments under this scheme for both the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Discrete Projects

In July 2010 we completed our project with Kochilira Community Day Secondary School, in Mchinji District. We financed the construction of a science and a computer laboratory in this rural secondary school, thus increasing the number of classrooms for the five hundred students from four to six. The new laboratories were officially opened on July 30th by the then Minister responsible for children, the Hon Teresa Mwale. One of the Trustees attended, and the event featured on Malawi TV.

We also air-freighted several hundred school text books requested by the school, to Kochilira CDSS, which had been donated to the Trust by a local comprehensive school.

We accepted a proposal from Tidzuke Orphan Care, also in Kochilira village, to build a children's centre and nursery school, which will incorporate a feeding programme for orphans and vulnerable children, and a library and other facilities for use by the wider community. Expenditure on this project began early in the following financial year. We were encouraged by plans for the school and Tidzuke Orphan Care to co-operate in the use of this facility.

Overheads

In pursuing its objects, the Trust makes no expenditure for travel, communication, staffing, office overheads, or other running costs. The costs incurred by the Genuinely Fun Five-a-side Football Tournament and public liability insurance were met by Trustees personally, as were the costs of the garden party and the printing of the Christmas cards. We continued to have a page on the Justgiving website to assist donors, and the subscription for this too is met by a Trustee. This enables us to ensure that every penny donated is spent directly on our projects in Malawi.

The Trust would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to all who have supported it by making donations or by using their time and talents to further the objects of the Trust.

Risk Management

The Nick Webber Trust is aware that aid and development projects can have inadvertent negative side effects. To minimise this risk in the area of our education projects, we have adopted a policy on sourcing and assessing such projects, which must now derive from the democratic structure of Malawi or have beneficiaries within the government of Malawi's stated priority groups, and will be assessed along our general project selection guidelines of democratic accountability, community contribution, demonstrable impact, and long-term sustainability. This policy operates alongside our existing policy on the selection of partner organisations.

Our strategy of retaining sufficient reserves to ensure that projects can be completed meant that we are able to absorb cost increases resulting from a fluctuating exchange rate. To protect against any future such alterations in the financial landscape, we cost all of our projects, both new and existing, directly in Malawi Kwacha and make all agreements in that currency. We also ensure that our reserves can cover all of our commitments for three years into the future before making any new commitments. Up until January 2011, we had been projecting our future income from standing orders only, on the assumption that this would not decrease by more than 10% per year. At our January 2011 AGM we decided that our non-standing order income had been sufficiently stable over several years to allow us to factor that into our forecasts, on the assumption that this will not decrease by more than 25% per year. (Both these calculations are a worst-case scenario measure; we in fact expect our income to increase or remain the same year on year.)

Representatives of the Trust regularly visit Ndi Moyo clinic, the Tikondane centre, and the Legal Aid Department (which administers the funds for the Law Bursary scheme). One of the Trustees regularly checks the Legal Aid Department's accounts for the scholarship fund. Similarly, we keep in regular contact with UK officials of Temwa. A representative of the Trust paid several visits before, during, and after construction to our new partner, Kochilira Community Day Secondary School, and monitored all payments and receipts.

Financial Review

The Trust began the financial year with £58,505 in hand.

The total income for the year was £31,640, of which:

Donations received, including the proceeds of events organised by supporters, totalled £21,432

The Genuinely Fun Five-a-Side Football Tournament produced £2,712 in entrance fees and sponsorship.

The Garden Party made a total of £500

Bank interest was £46

Profit from the sale of Christmas cards was £450

Gift Aid claim produced £6,500

Expenditure

The total expenditure for the year was £43,192, of which:

Tikondane Centre school support allowances: £15,932 (including £384 top-up for previous year)

Law Student Bursaries: £5,346

Second (and final) installment to laboratory buildings at Kochilira CDSS : £14,122

Air freight of school text books to Kochilira CDSS: £810

Temwa school scholarships (for 2 years) : £6869

Nick's Place, maintenance and repairs: £113

Reserves at end of financial year: £46, 953

The total amount promised to projects until the end of 2014 is MWK 21,400,250

That is approx £81,000 in today's exchange rate. Following the rule outlined above, a further income of approx £52,000 is expected over this time.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the report set out above.

Signed on their behalf