

# **The Nick Webber Memorial Trust for Malawi**

## **Trustees Report 2013**

### **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](http://www.nickwebbertrust.org.uk)

This document contains the Trustees' financial report for the financial year 2012-2013

### **Structure, Governance, and Management**

There are currently six Trustees: Pauline Webber (chair), Jane Abood, Chris Holmes, Mary Marvel, Jonathan 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, a policy on the selection of partner organisations, and a policy governing the adoption of education projects. 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 2012-2013**

During this year we spent money on four ongoing projects, and completed three new projects.

### **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 three events that raised funds for the Trust, the expenses of which were met by a Trustee. These were a Family Funday, a Golf 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 clinic. In this financial year, “Nick’s

Place” continued to be used extensively to house volunteers and trainees at the clinic. We paid town rates on the building up to date, and carried out minor maintenance work on the equipment in the house.

We continued our school support allowance for homeless children who could not be re-integrated into their families, through the Tikondane centre in Lilongwe. We supported thirty three children who were placed in state boarding schools, 11 in primary and 22 in secondary schools, and are delighted that 90% of these children successfully completed their school years. We also supported four, who we had previously supported through school, in further education training in Accountancy, as it 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 four-year undergraduate course. Our third student graduated during this year, and is now a Senior Legal Aid Advocate in the Lilongwe office of the Legal Aid Dept. We continued to support our third and fourth year students, but did not select any further students due to a planned change in the scheme.

We maintained our scholarship scheme in Usisya district, which is managed for us by the UK-based charity, Temwa, by paying secondary school fees for twenty students.

### **New Projects**

We renewed our support of Kochilira Community Day Secondary School, in Mchinji District, where in 2010 we had financed the construction of a science and a computer laboratory, and in 2011 the construction of two more classrooms, for which the building work was funded during the last financial year and the classrooms were completed and opened in the current one, with a Trustee in attendance. This year we financed the construction of a teacher's house, to aid staff recruitment and retention at this rapidly improving school.

We renewed our support of Tidzuke Orphan Care, also in Kochilira village, where in 2011 we had funded the building of a children's centre incorporating a feeding programme for orphans and vulnerable children, and a library and other facilities for use by the wider community. This year we funded the construction of indoor and outdoor toilets, and furniture for the library.

We also agreed to finance urgently needed repairs on an ambulance used by Mua Hospital, a previous recipient of our support in 2006 and 2007, and the place where Nick died in 2004.

Our membership of the national association of non-governmental organisations, Congoma, had inadvertently lapsed, so we renewed that. The payment of two annual subscriptions fell within this financial year.

### **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 Funday 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, the subscription for which 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 means that we are able to absorb cost increases resulting from currency fluctuation. 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, taking account of our basic income from standing orders on the assumption that this will not decrease by more than 10% per year, and that our other income will not decrease by more than 25% per 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 Kochilira Community Day Secondary School and to Tidzuke Orphan Care, and monitored all payments and receipts.

### Financial Review

The Trust started the year with £23,653 in hand.

<b>Total income for the year was:</b>	<b>£ 32,022</b>
Of which:	
Raised by supporters and regular donations:	£ 23,518
Garden Party	£ 630
Family Funday	£ 530
Golf Tournament	£ 300
Sale of Christmas Cards	£ 530
Bank Interest	£ 22
The Gift Aid claim for two years yielded	£ 6492

<b>Total expenditure for the year was:</b>	<b>£ 30,459</b>
Of which:	
Usisya School Scholarships	£ 2,783
Law Bursaries	£ 2,439
Kochilira CDSS teacher's house	£ 8696
Tidzuke Orphan Care toilets and library	£ 5652
Tikondane Care of Street Children	£ 9731
Mua Hospital ambulance	£ 548
Nick's Place: Town Rates	£ 93
Nick's Place: equipment	£ 34
Congoma Subscription (2 years)	£ 483

We ended the year with £ 25,216 in hand.

The currency fluctuations of the Malawi Kwacha and very high inflation in Malawi make it difficult to know for sure the future cost of our commitments for the next three years, but we currently estimate them to be in the region of £60,000. Assuming a decline year on year of 10% on our regular Standing Order donations and a decline year on year of 25% on our other income, we expect to receive a further £65,000 in the next three years. This is a conservative assessment, as our annual income has actually never experienced such a decline.

### **Declaration**

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

Signed on their behalf