

# Friends of Namuwongo Community Foundation

Reg. Charity No.1149786

## Trustees' 2020 Annual Report

### Objectives and activities

#### *Public benefit*

The charity objective is to advance the education of the pupils at Namuwongo Community Foundation School, Uganda by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the school and to assist in such ways as the charity trustees think fit for the public benefit.

The unincorporated charity was registered at the Charity Commission on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Sec 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

### **Namuwongo Community Foundation (NCF)**

NCF is a small Ugandan charity that operates in the slums of Kampala. It works with vulnerable children from the Namuwongo slum community to give them an education, which otherwise they would not receive.

NCF runs a Primary School, plus a Sponsorship Programme for secondary, vocational and higher education. It operates a Feeding Programme and seeks to empower widows and other underprivileged women by teaching them craft, micro-business skills and life skills.

It is directed by Christine Kasapuli – an inspirational young woman who grew up in the local slum community and was a beneficiary of this project when it was first established in 2000. She was sponsored through her education and now has graduated into the leadership role of this organisation. Christine is a great example of one of our NCF principles - “change a life, change lives.”

This last year of 2020 was the second complete year of operation for NCF. Unfortunately, this year coincided with the worldwide pandemic of Covid 19. This greatly restricted the education system in Uganda, with the government closing the nation's schools for much of the year after April. The work amongst the mothers of the school's children, and in the community, continued, and indeed, intensified in respect of providing some help in the form of emergency food relief. Christine Kasapuli, Director of NCF, has proven to be an effective and efficient administrator, and has been well supported and advised by the experienced Board of Directors, mostly comprised of Ugandans, but which also includes three of our own Trustees. Communication between NCF and 'Friends...' trustees via internet calls/video has continued to be the means by which any problems or issues can be discussed and swiftly resolved.

By the end of 2020 approximately 280 children were enrolled in the school in seven classes, in addition to a reception class. Having employed the extra teaching staff, NCF can now offer the children the first seven years of their education, what is termed 'Primary' in Uganda. Finding funding for the children into the State Secondary system is still a challenge, and although '*Friends..*' finances as much as we can, we are unable to shoulder the whole cost.

Fortunately, the pandemic lockdowns, both here and in Uganda, did not impact on our trustees' yearly visit, which took place in February. We are confident though, that our relationship and contact with Christine and her staff, and also with the members of the NCF Board of Directors, is such that we can be sure to have an accurate picture of the circumstances at the school throughout the year.

In January *Friends...* funded the extension of the school building to accommodate the new 'Top Class', which became operational in February. Also, a new Computer Room was established in the Autumn, together with the provision of five desktop computers which were generously funded by Mike and Cynthia from 'Pebble Beach' at Barton on Sea.

Although the Ugandan Government did ban gatherings of people during their lockdown period which impacted on, and prevented, the Feeding Programme operating normally. The NCF staff did its best to meet the needs of its school families within the law. In particular, *Friends...* provided extra funds to allow substantial emergency food packages to be given to the families on two separate occasions.

The clinic, operated and run by Nurse Agnes on the school site, has been kept stocked and in operation throughout the year. Although this work was originally privately funded, *Friends...* took over responsibility Nurse Agnes and this service when the private funding ended.

Lastly, on a Sunday, a Church meets on the school premises under the name of 'New Glorious Creation Ministries' (Very Ugandan)

### **Friends of NCF**

*Friends...* is a small UK registered charity that provides the funding and support for the work of NCF in Uganda.

Although we mention it in every report, it needs to be repeated, that *Friends...*' role in the provision of all that NCF does is one of funding and support. We *Friends...* do not provide the services to the community in Namuwongo, the scope of that and how it is done, is for Christine as Director in consultation with NCF Board of Directors. It is a service by Ugandans to their community. However, our funding is vital to the continuance of the project. Although NCF do receive a small amount of support intermittently from other sources, funding from *Friends* is by far its major secure source, accounting for 93% of their income.

It will be understood that that the pandemic, lockdowns and restrictions that were imposed throughout 2020, made it impossible for us to raise funds as we would normally do, but we did adapt to the new fundraising environment. Following the visit of the Trustees to the project in February, we were able to have our AGM in March before the lockdown, and that took the form of an 'African Tea'. Our annual 'Open Gardens' event had to be a 'virtual' one

in June, but was well supported online. The big event for the year was a 'National Park 1,000-mile Cycling Challenge'. We ended the year with a very successful sale of Derek Lee's Poetry Book in December. On the negative side, we did lose a number of our long-term supporters during the year. Whilst we are sad to see them go, and will certainly miss their financial support, we are very grateful to each of them for their generosity of past years. The £56,000 that it cost to run the project in 2020 was therefore quite challenging, but all three term payments were made. We are so grateful to those long-standing supporters who have been with us, month in and month out, for so many years now. We are very grateful to you. Thank you. Our committed giving accounts for roughly half of what we need each year. We are particularly grateful to our corporate sponsor (LFS - Lottery Funding Services Ltd) for another year's support. LFS' support has been crucial in allowing us to meet the needs of the project. Individuals and organisations have also made significant one-off donations which has boosted funding. The cost of financing such a work as NCF is only ever going to grow and so we *Friends...* will have to continue to find new ways of raising the funds to make it happen.

**Gift Aid** – No Gift Aid was claimed in 2020. As we were able to manage without claiming it, it will now be there for us in 2021 when our needs might be more pressing in the post-pandemic world.

**Accounts** – The detail of the accounts are available separately, but just to give an overall view in round figures, we began the year with £17,900 and finished the year with a balance of £31,000. Our income was £71,700 for the year and our outgoings were £58,500. As mentioned last year, the cost of keeping children in the State system after they have graduated from NCF has continued to rise as these children continue into higher education. We have committed ourselves to doing all we can to honour our commitment to them and see them through. However, the shortfall in funding between what the sponsors pay and the actual cost, currently stands at £18,000. This responsibility will diminish each year as children graduate and the cost therefore will also reduce. We do not now offer individual sponsorship of children. Significantly, we began the year with a liability of a £70,000 interest free loan that had been extended to us to enable the purchase of the school. That loan has now been converted to a gift and so NCF now own the school premises outright. We are most grateful to the donors for their generosity.

**Plans for 2021** Next year we hope to recover lost ground. We look forward to seeing NCF in full operation again educating the children and bringing social care to their community. Christine (Director at NCF) had plans for 2020 to extend the work of NCF in the community which couldn't be realised due to the pandemic. Hopefully, in a post Covid world of 2021, NCF will be able to extend its work in the community and achieve its ambitious plans to work with the mothers in training and micro finance. For this to happen NCF will have to find alternative funding.

For *Friends ...* the primary challenge of 2021 is, as it is every year, to increase our funding base. We are committed to fundraising where we can, and to increase our 'committed giving', but we recognise that if we are to meet the funding challenges that NCF will present us with we will have to look more to corporate support and to seeking funding from charitable Foundations and benevolent funds.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to once again acknowledge the commitment of all of our '*Friends*' that makes the wonderful work done by the team in Kampala possible. Thank you for being with us through another year.

**Steve Jennings**

**Treasurer & Trustee**