

The Conroy - Rendon Charitable Trust

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st December 2019

1. Introduction

Full Name of Charity: The Conroy-Rendon Charitable Trust

Registered Address: 6 Walnut Way, Brightlingsea
Essex, CO7 0LJ

Website www.conroyrendoncharity.co.uk

Registered with the U.K. Charity Commission under charity No: 1114903

Governing Document: The Charity was established by a Trust Deed dated 30th March 2006

Trustees: Joanna Conroy (Chair of Trustees)
Andrew Conroy (Secretary)
Christine Debenham

The trustees are responsible for the day-to-day running of the charity and implementing activities in pursuit of its aims and objectives.

Staff The Charity has no paid employees but has one member of staff engaged as a local representative in the Philippines on a voluntary basis.

2. Aims

The aims of the charity are set out in the trust deed and are summarised as follows:

To relieve poverty among the young, the aged, the homeless and the needy in the Philippines and elsewhere in the world.

To promote and provide for the education of children in the Philippines and elsewhere in the world.

To advance the Christian Faith.

3 Benefit Assessment

In planning activities the trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidelines on public benefit and in particular with reference to advancing education, relieving poverty and promoting religion for the public benefit. The trustees ensure that all activities are undertaken in line with our charitable objectives and aims.

By enabling people to access education and training we help them to increase their capacity to find better paid employment and break the cycle of poverty. Our philosophy is to empower people to take control of their own future rather than being dependent on ongoing aid. Our child sponsorship scheme makes it possible for children from very poor families to attend school when they would not otherwise be able to do so because of their financial situation. Education improves their prospects of finding suitable employment when they leave school so that they can be self-reliant citizens who are able to make a positive contribution to society.

Providing a home for orphaned, neglected, abused and abandoned children gives them a place of safety and security, away from the abject poverty, and gang culture that prevails

amongst street children and gives them the opportunity to obtain a proper education either in the state school system or via a government backed "Alternative Learning Scheme" for those who do not have the correct paperwork or previous grades to enrol in regular school.

However, the Trustees firmly believe that there is a lot more to life than just financial security. A society based solely on material values will be morally and spiritually bankrupt. We are all both physical and spiritual beings and need to understand our purpose in creation. We believe that the teachings of the Christian Faith have much to offer in helping men, women, and children to understand who they are and how they are called to relate to God, the universe and their fellow human beings. The benefit of this is very difficult to demonstrate in purely objective, quantifiable, terms but it is widely acknowledged that the moral foundations of Christian teaching frequently result in a higher level of acts of generosity and service to mankind as an expression and out-working of faith, which benefits public life. This is particularly relevant for the House of Joshua children, many of whom have either experienced life in dysfunctional families or have grown up with little rule or regulation, living rough on city streets where crime, violence, and substance abuse are commonplace, and who are now beginning to learn how to function effectively as members of society and to provide good role models for their younger housemates.

4 Area of Operation and Partnership Arrangements

At the present time the Charity's main sphere of operation is in Cagayan De Oro City and the surrounding area of Misamis Oriental in Northern Mindanao, Philippines.

Under the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement signed in September 2009 we are committed to supporting the work of Lifenet Children's Foundation with orphaned and abandoned children and impoverished communities, and in particular to help fund the operational costs of the House of Joshua Children's Home..

From time to time we also partner with other local community groups, welfare organisations, and faith groups to support initiatives in poorer communities, providing tools, training, equipment, teaching and resources according to their needs.

5 Principle Activities and Achievements

The activities carried out by the charity for the public benefit broadly fall into three categories as detailed below:

a) Relieving Poverty

The House of Joshua home for orphaned, neglected, and abandoned children opened in January 2013, operated by our mission partner, Lifenet Children's Foundation, a Philippines registered not-for-profit Non-Governmental Organisation. At the present time a total of 23 children are being accommodated. We contribute towards the costs of running the home by facilitating a child sponsorship scheme in conjunction with Lifenet, by running occasional fundraising events and funding from general donations. This is our primary mission project. Without the House of Joshua many of these children would be living rough on the city streets, begging for a living.

Following receipt of specific donations in 2018, both to us and direct to Lifenet Children's Foundation building work commenced on a new, separate, girls house in the grounds of House of Joshua to increase residential capacity. Shallam Girls House opened at the beginning of September with all the currently housed girls moving in. This has freed up space in the main building so that additional boys can also now be accommodated. New children will be admitted as funding permits and needs arise.

b) Advancing Education

All the children who live at the House of Joshua Children's home are either enrolled in the state school system or an "Alternative Learning Scheme" (ALS) for those who cannot attend regular school for various reasons, including not having the correct paperwork, lack of prior attendance or not having completed the appropriate grades from previous years schooling.

This past year has seen one of the older House of Joshua children graduating from High School and obtaining a scholarship to study Environmental Engineering at University Degree level. Another has switched schools to take a course that will facilitate him subsequently studying to be an architect. Several of the younger children have also done well at school and received achievement awards this year.

A further 49 children from the local village community are sponsored on the "Growing Hope" sponsorship program. This is a holistic outreach program that enables them to attend school (which would otherwise be beyond the financial means of their families) and provides additional practical, pastoral and spiritual support to the whole family. An extra-curricular program of English language tutoring, music, art, basketball coaching, drama and dance is provided for all the children by House of Joshua staff on Saturdays during term time, and special events during the school holidays; catering for both children and their parents according to their needs. This program continues to grow year on year and we are delighted to be able to facilitate this with sponsorship funding. During this year the Saturday activities have moved from the House of Joshua to two separate venues in the village to allow greater space and improve security for residents at the House of Joshua.

Promoting the Christian Faith

Regular devotional times are held at the House of Joshua with some of the older children helping to take the lead in organising and running these activities. On Sundays House of Joshua hosts a church service as an outreach planting from RFC Church Cagayan De Oro, to minister to the local village community as well as house residents and staff. The House of Joshua RFC church is pastored by Ramil Rendon who, along with the senior pastor of RFC Church, is a member of the board of Trustees of Lifenet Children's Foundation.

Periodic social and outreach activities are held for the benefit of the wider local community.

We endeavour to support these activities through the provision of books, study guides, and other resources.

6 Risk Assessment

1) Financial

With Britain due to leave the E.U. at the end of January 2020 we have yet to see what the long term impact will be on the U.K. economy. However we have an ongoing commitment to fund the operating costs of the House of Joshua, which will no doubt increase as additional children are taken in to the enlarged home. All the children must continue to be fed and cared for; and staff wages must be paid. This will continue to be an ongoing challenge for us. However, we do have about 11 months running costs in the bank at the present time and we have a very committed, and growing, network of regular supporters.

Funds for child sponsorship and the operating costs of the House of Joshua are held in separate bank accounts for clarity and because they will need to be paid over to our partner organisation in due course. The charity has no significant operational costs or other obligations and, with the exception of the child sponsorship schemes, grants made and other payments are entirely at the discretion of the trustees. Other small projects are undertaken only as funds and opportunities allow so these do not present any additional financial risk. It is therefore considered unnecessary to maintain a general financial reserve.

2) Reputational

We continue to provide advice and support to the House of Joshua on Child Protection arrangements, Health and Safety, and procedural policies as needed. We are satisfied that

their policies are robust and go well beyond the requirements of Philippine law. The home is subject to regulation by the Philippines Department for Welfare and Social Development.

As a charity we depend heavily on maintaining the confidence of our partners, donors and supporters. We therefore focus on always giving good quality and timely feedback to maintain a high level of transparency in all our operations. Our success in this area is demonstrated by the number of people who continue to support us on a regular basis year after year. However we cannot take this for granted and we must, therefore, continue to work hard at maintaining good donor relations, especially as we endeavour to recruit new donors and sponsors.

3) Operational

We are quite a small charity and rely heavily on a small number of key people. At the present time we only have three trustees and need to recruit at least one more, preferably two, to provide a greater spread of experience and succession planning.

We also rely on maintaining good communications with our partner organisations in the Philippines to ensure the effectiveness of our support. We are grateful to our local agent, Mary Rendon, for facilitating this.

We are also very grateful to our small network of “ambassadors” who continue to represent us in a number of churches across the U.K. and keep their local congregations informed about our work and plans.

Our accounting records and important documents are fully backed up using secure ‘cloud’ storage.

7 Finances

Examined copies of the financial accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 are attached. In view of the small size of the charity these are prepared as a simple income and expenditure statement under the historic cost convention, having due regard to the recommendations of Charities SORP 2005 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

Overall income is slightly down on 2018, when we received donations, totalling £5000 specifically for the Shallam Girl’s House construction project. A further £540 was received this year for fitting out and furnishing Shallam House. Setting that item aside income is very slightly up year on year, largely due to higher Gift Aid tax rebates, up from £2890 to £3266. A similar figure is due to be claimed again for the 2019-20 tax year.

Regular monthly sponsorship income for the House of Joshua and the Growing Hope program has grown well, up by £4295 (25%) on 2018 as additional sponsors have joined the program. However other donations for the House of Joshua are down by £3318 (16%) after allowing for exceptional items.

Expenditure for the year is up from £34170 in 2018 to £44820 in 2019 (31% change). This is in part due to the release of £5450? Donated in 2018 for the girl’s house, but also additional expenditure for refurbishments in the main building and increased operating costs as additional staff have been recruited to meet the growing need and comply with statutory obligations.

The net result for the year is a shortfall of income against expenditure of £2599 but, after allowing for exceptional items related to the building project, this would equate to a surplus of £2851 for the year. With funds currently in hand approximating to 11 months regular expenditure we feel that the financial position of the charity is generally satisfactory but we do not yet know what impact Brexit may have in the longer term, both in terms of currency exchange rates and the ability of our donors and sponsors to continue their support.

The Charity continues to benefit from the free use of office and Internet facilities courtesy of its supporters.

8 Future Plans:

At the present time our income is broadly adequate to meet our needs but, if we are to enable the House of Joshua to accommodate additional children then we need to recruit more sponsors this year. We also need to consider organizing one or two fund raising events in the coming year.

Regular video updates of the building project for Shallam Girl's House proved very popular but have, to some extent, rendered our periodic newsletters redundant. In an increasingly digital world we need to identify and implement newer and more effective ways of keeping all our supporters well informed about our activities. We also continue to work with our network of local ambassadors to spread the word in churches and community groups.

We want to resume our work of setting up community workshops and micro-enterprise businesses to improve the livelihoods of people living in poverty and have started to do some research to try and identify one or two suitable projects to support in the future, ideally with the additional benefit of leveraging environmental improvements such as recycling, reducing or repurposing waste, adding value to the local economy with integrity.

During the past year the trustees have been discussing rebranding the charity with a change of name to more accurately reflect the way we are developing and changing to meet new needs and challenges. This is an ongoing situation which we will continue to work on in the coming year.

Plans are in hand for us to provide a keynote speaker for a training and encouragement conference for pastors and church leaders in Cagayan De Oro City in April 2020.

Income & Expenditure Account

<u>Period ending 31st December</u>		2019	2018
		£	£
Income			
	note		
House of Joshua receipts		17367.20	25685.06
Friends of Lifenet	4	21346.30	17050.79
Other Donations		205.00	180.00
Gift Aid Rebates	1	3266.27	2890.12
Fund Raising Schemes		16.52	653.49
Bank Interest received		70.83	28.68
Other Income		0.00	0.00
Total Income		£42,272.12	£46,488.14
Expenditure - Grants Made			
House of Joshua	3	44800.00	34170.00
Training		0.00	0.00
Other Grants	5	20.00	0.00
sub total		£44,820.00	£34,170.00
Other Expenditure			
Bank transaction charges		0.00	0.00
Postages & Stationery		0.00	0.00
Fund raising costs	2	50.78	74.91
Other expenditure		0.00	0.00
sub total		£50.78	£74.91
Total Expenditure		£44,870.78	£34,244.91
Surplus of income over expenditure		-£2,598.66	£12,243.23

Balance Sheet
as at 31 December

	2019	2018
Assets		
Bank General account	3011.80	4137.28
Bank Sponsorship account	0.00	272.75
Bank House of Joshua Fund	6 26981.83	31682.95
Bank Friends of HOJ/ Lifenet	4 5369.98	3501.44
Paypal Account	3451.73	1849.58
Debtors, cash & cheques in hand	30.00	0.00
total assets	£38,845.34	£41,444.00
Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Total liabilities	£0.00	£0.00
Net Assets	£38,845.34	£41,444.00
Balance brought forward	41444.00	29200.77
Current year surplus / (deficit)	-2598.66	12243.23
Balance Carried Forward	£38,845.34	£41,444.00

The Conroy - Rendon Charitable Trust

Note These accounts are prepared under the historic cost convention. As the gross income of the charity is below £100,000 the trustees are of the opinion that the charity meets the Charity Commission requirements for exemption from audit.

- 1 Gift Aid tax rebates received during the year relate to donations received in the previous accounting year. A further £3260 is due on donations received in the period covered by these account, which will be claimed after the end of the next tax year.
- 2 Fundraising costs include account charges deducted from donations received via Paypal and other donation handling agencies
- 3 The House of Joshua is a joint project with the Lifenet Children's Foundation Inc, a Philippines registered charity. Mary Conroy-Rendon (daughter of TCRCT Trustees Andrew & Joanna Conroy) and her husband Ramil are full time, unpaid, missionary workers. Mary Rendon is a trustee of Lifenet Foundation and a voluntary member of staff of TCRCT. Ramil Rendon is also a trustee of Lifenet Foundation. The Rendons receive no remuneration from either charity but rely on gifts from personal supporters for their living costs in order to remain in the mission field.
- 4 Friends of The House of Joshua is a separate fund established to receive regular donations and subscriptions to help with the running costs of the House of Joshua Children's home and sponsorship of children living in the house and "Growing Hope", a community outreach and child education initiative operated by the House of Joshua. These funds are held on behalf of Lifenet Children's Foundation and are paid over to them periodically as part of our ongoing support of that project.
- 5 Christmas gift for House of Joshua children received from a child sponsor.
- 6 As at 31 December 2018 the House of Joshua Bank account included £5000 specifically designated for the construction of an extension to the children's home. These funds have now been disbursed in the construction and equipping of the Shallam Girl's House.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

J.L. Conroy chair 11 July 2020

A.P. Conroy secretary 11 July 2020



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

The Conroy Rendon Charitable Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2019

Charity no

1114903

Set out on pages

6 and 7

**Respective responsibilities
of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.
The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's
statement

The Conroy - Rendon Charitable Trust

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: Date:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

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Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.(E.g. accounting records have not been kept in accordance with s132 of the Charities' Act 2011 and those accounts do not comply with the requirements of the 2008 Regulations setting out the form and content of charity accounts; any material expenditure or action which appears not to be in accordance with the trusts of the charity; any failure to be provided with information and explanations by any past or present trustee, officer or employee; and any material consistency between the accounts and the trustees' annual report.)

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.