

The Conroy - Rendon Charitable Trust

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st December 2018

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

To relieve poverty among the young, the aged, the homeless and the needy 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) Advancing Education

For several years we have worked in partnership with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Cagayan De Oro City to support the education of indigent children from a slum area through a school sponsorship scheme. The number of children in this scheme has steadily declined in recent years as children have got older and completed their education: so the program has now been drawn to a close, although we still maintain some links with this organisation and community.

We have a small, residual balance of monies held in reserve for this scheme and the trustees now need to consider what should be done with this money.

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 several of the House of Joshua children receiving end of year school awards for their academic achievements, both at elementary and higher school levels, and it was wonderful for two of our trustees to be able to be present at their awarding ceremony and celebrate this success with them. Three of the ALS students have also now

obtained the necessary examination passes that will enable them to enrol in full time regular school education for the next academic year. We are very proud of them all.

A further 44 children from the local village community are sponsored on the "Growing Hope" sponsorship program. This is an 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 staff at the House of Joshua on Saturday mornings 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.

b) 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.

Plans were drawn up in 2016 to build a new "girls house" extension at the House of Joshua and we received a specific donation in December 2018 of £5000 towards the building costs. Lifenet Children's Foundation has also, directly, received a substantial donation from a supporter in the U.S.A. to cover the rest of the cost of construction: so building work is due to commence in early 2019. Eventually this will make it possible to accommodate up to 20 more children.

We have continued to provide funds to facilitate the feeding of around 30 "Street Children" living rough on the streets in Cagayan De Oro City. The feeding program is run by Lifenet Children's Foundation and some of the older children from the House of Joshua also assist with this outreach work. In March/ April 2018 we were able to facilitate a small mission team, including two of our trustees, visiting the Philippines to work at the House of Joshua and visit other projects in the area; and we were able to participate in and contribute to this ministry to the street children.

Promoting the Christian Faith

House of Joshua and Growing Hope children all have the opportunity to participate in a weekly program of events at the House of Joshua. As well as games and handicraft activities these events include some basic Christian teaching and "worship time".

Daily 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. One of these older boys has now gone on to undertake a missionary training program with Youth With a Mission. During the past 12 months a small church has been established at the House of Joshua, 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.

Periodically 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. In 2018 two of our trustees led a small mission team to work with the children and staff at the House of Joshua, to provide pastoral support to local ministers and others working in the mission field, and addressing the congregations in two local churches.

6 Risk Assessment

1) Financial

Over the past 12 months the Philippine Peso / Pound exchange rate has been somewhat more stable than in recent years, generally fluctuating between about 66 and 70 pesos to the pound. With all the uncertainty surrounding “Brexit“, which is due to happen in March 2019, it is almost impossible to gauge what the financial impact will be for us. However we have an ongoing commitment to fund the operating costs of the House of Joshua, which will no doubt increase as the new “girls house” comes on stream. All the children must continue to be fed and cared for; and additional paid staff will be required to comply with welfare regulations. No doubt this will be a challenge for us in coming months but, at current levels, we do have about 10 months running costs in the bank at the present time and we have a committed network of faithful 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 and, indeed, they will be carrying out a full routine review and inspection in the next few months as part of the process of renewing their operating licence.

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 who do not know us as well as those who have been with us for several years.

3) Operational

We are 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.

We believe that we have done everything that is required of us following the implementation of the new GDPR regulations in May 2018 and that our policies and security procedures are adequate to protect the personal data that we hold.

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 2018 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.

This has been a much better year financially than 2017 with a significant uplift in our overall income and a resultant end of year surplus of £12243; although some of this was given for, and is already committed to, a specific capital project.

Regular monthly sponsorship income for the House of Joshua and the Growing Hope program has risen by £1941 (up almost 13% on 2017) as new sponsors have come onboard and some existing sponsors have again increased their support.

Other donations for the House of Joshua are up from £14490 in the previous year to £25685, although this does include £5000 specifically given, and set aside for, the new "girls house" building project. Building work is due to commence in late January, or possibly early February 2019 with the bulk of the construction costs coming direct to Lifenet Children's Foundation from donors in the U.S.A. We anticipate paying over this £5000 in May or June as the project nears completion and the building needs to be fitted out.

At £2890 Gift Aid tax rebates received were down by £932 on the previous year but rebates for the 2018 financial year, which will be claimed shortly, are due to be up again by around 11%.

Although the House of Joshua received a direct donation of US\$10000 from donors in the U.S.A. to provide for the care and welfare of the children, and which enabled us to reduce the amount that we were sending for a few months, overall we have paid out £2170 more this year in grants for the home's running costs compared to 2017. However this is principally due to timing of payments made over the two year ends which saw us making 2 extra payments totalling £6000 this year. With the number of children being accommodated due to rise we anticipate this figure to again be higher in 2019.

A fund raising cookery demonstration by one of our trustees brought in an additional £547, with the cost of the venue hire having been sponsored by a local church. The Charity continues to benefit from the free use of office and Internet facilities courtesy of its supporters.

8 Future Plans:

We already have an informal network of "Ambassadors" working in their local church and social communities to improve communications with donors and supporters, both organisations and individuals. We now need to build on this by providing these key people with additional resources to help us build for the future.

Sufficient funds are now available to allow construction of a second building on the House of Joshua site to enable them to accommodate more girls than hitherto. We have been given £5000 specifically for this project, which is expected to cost approximately 3 million Philippine pesos (£43000 at current exchange rates) in all, with the balance of the building costs having recently been received by Lifenet. We will be following the progress off the building work closely, with two of our trustees due to visit the Philippines in March- April and will be formulating plans to grow our supporter network so that we are able to continue to provide adequate funding as the number of children increases, along with the additional staff essential to provide for their care in the longer term.

The Conroy - Rendon Charitable Trust

The Conroy Rendon Charitable Trust originally started out as just a small private family project to benefit a few people in need but, since its subsequent establishment as a registered charity in 2006, it has grown into what it is today, impacting the lives of many hundreds of people every year. Since 2006 we have raised and donated in excess of £335,000 and shipped around 26 tons of equipment, tools, medical supplies, books and computers. We now need to review and update our charity name and branding to reflect our bigger vision for the future whilst still retaining our close personal ties and relationships with both our supporters and our beneficiaries.

We also want to focus more again on helping to set up community workshops and micro-enterprise businesses to improve the livelihoods of people living in poverty. With this in mind we plan, this year, to research and identify one or two suitable projects to support in the future, with a particular aim of environmental improvements, recycling, reducing or repurposing waste, especially plastics, and adding value to the local economy with integrity. However, with a major building project at the House of Joshua and re-licensing with the Department for Social Welfare and Development we do not realistically expect to start implementing any tangible activities until late 2019 or even into 2020.

Income & Expenditure Account

<u>Period ending 31st December</u>		2018	2017
		£	£
Income			
Sponsorship scheme	note 1	0.00	420.00
House of Joshua receipts		25685.06	14489.81
Friends of Lifenet	5	17050.79	15110.40
Other Donations		180.00	430.00
Gift Aid Rebates	2	2890.12	3820.72
Fund Raising Schemes		653.49	98.97
Bank Interest received		28.68	7.05
Other Income		0.00	0.00
Total Income		£46,488.14	£34,376.95
Expenditure - Grants Made			
Child School Sponsorships (YWAM)		0.00	500.00
House of Joshua	4	34170.00	32000.00
Training		0.00	0.00
Other Grants	6	0.00	250.00
sub total		£34,170.00	£32,750.00
Other Expenditure			
Bank transaction charges		0.00	0.00
Postages & Stationery		0.00	0.00
Shipping costs	6	0.00	0.00
Fund raising costs	3	74.91	25.49
Other expenditure		0.00	0.00
sub total		£74.91	£25.49
Total Expenditure		£34,244.91	£32,775.49
Surplus of income over expenditure		£12,243.23	£1,601.46

Balance Sheet
as at 31 December

		2018	2017
Assets			
Bank General account		4137.28	7260.61
Bank Sponsorship account	1	272.75	272.75
Bank House of Joshua Fund	7	31682.95	15541.83
Bank Friends of HOJ/ Lifenet	5	3501.44	5187.09
Paypal Account		1849.58	938.49
Debtors, cash & cheques in hand		0.00	0.00
total assets		£41,444.00	£29,200.77
Liabilities			
		0.00	0.00
Total liabilities		£0.00	£0.00
Net Assets		£41,444.00	£29,200.77
Balance brought forward		29200.77	27599.31
Current year surplus / (deficit)		12243.23	1601.46
Balance Carried Forward		£41,444.00	£29,200.77

Notes to the Accounts

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 Child education sponsorship scheme run in partnership with Youth With A Mission (Cagayan De Oro City) now discontinued. There is a small residual balance of funds about which the trustees must now make a decision regarding disposal.
- 2 Gift Aid tax rebates received during the year relate to donations received in the previous accounting year. A further £3209 is due on donations received in the period covered by these accounts, which will be claimed after the end of the next tax year.
- 3 Fundraising costs include account charges deducted from donations received via Paypal and other donation handling agencies and £50 venue hire for a fundraising event which was subsequently covered by a matching sponsorship donation.
- 4 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 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 and income from their own other, part-time, work for their living costs in order to remain in the mission field.
- 5 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.
- 6 Shipping costs for transportation of donated tools, equipment, books, and educational resources to partner organisations.
- 7 The House of Joshua Bank account includes £5000 specifically designated for the construction of an extension to the children's home. With building work due to start in early 2019 this money is likely to be paid out in the very near future.

Signed

J.L. Conroy Date 30/5/19

A.P. Conroy Date 30/5/19

C Debenham Date 30/5/19

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

8



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

9
10

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
The Conroy Rendon Charitable Trust

On accounts for the year ended

31 st December 2018	Charity no (if any)	1114903
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Set out on pages

7 and 8
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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

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: PN Hockett

Date: 18th March 2019

Name: Philip Neil Hockett

The Conroy - Rendon Charitable Trust

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Chartered Management Accountant
Address:	3 Tumberry Drive, Fornham St Martin
	Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6TP

11

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.