

OPEN HANDS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019



Caladine
Chartered Certified Accountants

OPEN HANDS

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Charity number	1136482
Trustees	Trevor Meadows Rebekka Maughan (Chairperson) Andrea Van Hoven Ian Taplin
Address	Rosevine Wellgreen Lane Kingston Lewes East Sussex BN7 3NS
Independent Examiner	J R Caladine FCCA Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF
Bankers	Co-operative Bank 78/80 Cornhill London EC3V 3NJ

TRUSTEES REPORT***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019***

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Structure, governance and management

Open Hands is a registered charity governed by its Trust Deed dated 21 May 2010.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Trevor Meadows
Rebekka Maughan
Andrea Van Hoven

Ian Taplin
Cees Van Hoven (resigned 31 March 2019)

Trustees are appointed by the existing trustees. They meet regularly to manage the activities of the charity.

Introduction

Open Hands remains committed to providing valuable and on-going support for vulnerable children and their families living in disadvantaged areas of Romania. The objects of Open Hands, as documented in our declaration of Trust in May 2010 are:

- (a) The prevention or relief of poverty in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing: grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities; or other local organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty for orphan and neglected children, and among the Roma community.
- (b) To relieve poverty (or financial hardship) among the Roma community and their dependents living in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing health/housing/advice and education

This report demonstrates how we have achieved these objects within the financial year 2018-19, and we hope it will be an encouragement to all our Open Hands supporters and friends.

Risk Statement

The trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate our exposure to the risks.

Trustee's Responsibilities

We are required as trustees to prepare financial statements each year which include the payments and receipts of Open Hands charity for the year. The trustees are responsible for keeping accurate accounting records; this ensures that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

TRUSTEES REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

Objectives*Open Hands Mission*

Open Hands was set up, and is run, by Christians who want to express their faith in Christ by showing his love in practical action. We work among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families in Romania and our programs aim to transform their lives.

Open Hands Vision

Our vision is to overcome poverty and its effects, especially in relation to children, and to see those we help reach their full potential.

Our Values

The work of Open Hands is underpinned by the following values:

- We uphold and promote the human worth and dignity of all people, regardless of ethnicity, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, or religious or other beliefs (including lack of religion or beliefs) and we challenge discrimination affecting those we help whether based on these or other characteristics.
- We act with compassion and kindness and strive to bring unconditional love to those we work with
- We promote and support people's right to make their own choices, provided this does not threaten the rights, safety and legitimate interests of others.
- Through the involvement and participation of the families we work with in our activities, we empower them to take decisions and actions affecting their lives.
- We seek to recognise all aspects of a person's life, including their family, community and societal and natural environments.

Open Hands has been working with neglected and vulnerable children and young people in Romania since 2010. Open Hands Chairperson, Rebekka Maughan, first travelled to Romania in 2008 and was moved by the need of children in the country who were still suffering from a lack of love, care, nurture, clothing and shelter. These children were of no importance to their wider communities in which they live and had no one who advocated on their behalf. Rebekka was motivated to become a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

In 2010 a team of Trustees was formed and Open Hands registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales to make a lasting difference to children's lives in Romania. Its aims are to reach out to the poorest and most disadvantaged children in Romania; and to provide for those with no loving family, secure home or education.

Today two bases are maintained in Romania. The main office is in Suceava, a city situated in north-eastern Romania. Work is carried out in Suceava County and in Gheorgheni, Harghita County, the following activities have been developed:

- A day centre in Gheorgheni, called the Rainbow House, that cares for vulnerable and neglected children – providing a loving, secure environment where past traumas can be healed and trust restored.
- Family Outreach in and around Suceava and Gheorgheni that offers community-based support to over 90 impoverished children and their families. Children receive educational support and are visited at school and home. Help is given to families in accessing and receiving appropriate health care. Living conditions are improved and made safer for families.

TRUSTEES REPORT***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019***

Achievements and performance**Rainbow House Project:**

Overview: The Rainbow House (RH), which provides day care for 25 children, has been open for 3 years now. Over this time, we have noticed a profound change taking place in the children's lives. The children are flourishing under the careful and loving guidance of Olga (the RH manager) and Ramona (her support worker).

Around 90% of the children at the Rainbow House are Roma. The Roma are counted among the most discriminated ethnic minority group in Europe. In Romania segregation and racism against Roma are still wide-spread. Many Roma live in extreme poverty because in their day to day lives they are often excluded from education and health care provision. Many Roma also face overt discrimination when it comes to housing provision and employment.

Open Hands decided that it would be most beneficial for the children if Roma staff are employed at the Rainbow House. Both

Olga and Ramona are Roma. Employing both women enables Open Hands to have a better cultural understanding of children and their families and ensures that no child is discriminated against on grounds of their ethnicity.

Despite their disadvantaged backgrounds the children continue to catch up on lost learning. Keen and focused they learn each afternoon and those who go to school do their homework at the RH. We are integrating all the children into the Romanian education system and they either go to kindergarten or school (those with additional needs going to a special school).

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Emotional, Behavioural and Social Development: We continue to see positive changes in the way the children communicate and behave.

Before joining the RH program children had been left mainly to their own devices and had not learned the most basic skills of communication, behaviour and hygiene. The slum in which many of them live



has no paved roads, no running water or sanitary system in the buildings where they live and most parents have no form of education. Children are never washed and families have no sense of hygiene. Food is scarce, children are malnourished and often go hungry.

(Picture left: Maya* at her house in the slum. Above: Maya at Rainbow House)

After time attending the RH the

children have learnt to take care of themselves and others. They learn how to use cutlery and sit at a table. They develop good table manners and pray before each meal. They share their feelings in the safety of the RH without fear and speak kindly with others.

We have noticed that children generally become more independent and confident after time in the RH program. Their personal hygiene improves and they start looking after themselves and others better. This results in the children gaining in confidence at school and in their wider community.

Skills: At the RH program the children have learnt good communication skills, how to play with others non-violently, team work, the importance of routine and time management. They have learnt the importance of being clean and are able to wash themselves and keep their teeth clean.



TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019



A new Rainbow House child: Little Alex* recently started attending the RH. Alex is 2-years-old and lives with his parents and baby brother in a broken, old room with no windows. The family lives and sleeps in this dark, tiny space. The furniture in the room comprises one old single bed, a table, an old stove for heating and cooking and a small cupboard.

There is no access to running water, not even a well outside. This means the family has to walk far to fetch water and carry it back home. The roof of the house is a simple makeshift construction of wood, tin sheets and plastic sheets which could collapse at any time.

Alex's mum, Simona*, is a very kind, young woman who despite experiencing much trauma in her own life does the very best for her children. When we visited Simona asked us if we could please provide a space for Alex at the RH.

(Picture left: Alex with his mum and baby brother)

The Rainbow House will give Alex a vital break from the dire poverty he faces at home. He will receive healthy meals, will be washed and changed into clean clothes and looked after. Alex will very much enjoy playing with the other children and the toys and in the garden play area.

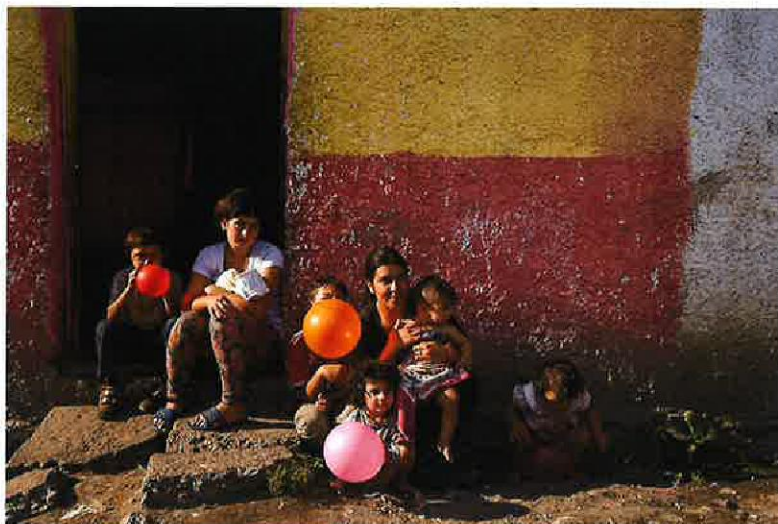
The RH will be the start of his informal education which will be the driving force that will enable Alex to acquire key skills and break free from the poverty circle that his family has been entrenched in for generations. (Pictures below: Alex's room where he lives with his family and the roof above it)



TRUSTEES REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

A new family: Last year we became aware of a family which was desperate for help. A young woman named Antonia* was left to care for 7 children following the death of her mother from TB. Their one-room home was so broken and old that the ceiling was in danger of collapsing on them. We feared that with no income, food or wood the children may not survive the winter.

We decided to support Antonia and the children and teamed up with a local builder, Aurel, who is also a friend of ours. Aurel renovated the room and made it safe for the family to live again. We obtained beds and furniture for them and provided clothing, access to medical care and regular food support.



Antonia is immensely thankful for all that Open Hands has done for her and the children. She is a keen learner who is willing and able to turn her situation around and escape the poverty circle that her family has also been entrenched in for generations. She told us that growing up she would look through the rubbish for food and carry it home to eat and share with her siblings.

We would like to do more for Antonia and are currently looking for sponsors to fund places for 5 of the children at the Rainbow House. (Picture above: Antonia and her family outside their house)

Conclusion: We are on track for achieving our objective that the Rainbow House will enable the children to escape the poverty cycle by offering education, guidance, love and care. Children are beginning to understand that if they learn and apply their skills a different, more promising future will be realised.

Family Outreach

Overview: The Rainbow House project is not an isolated project; it is linked in with our Family Outreach projects in Gheorgheni and around Suceava supporting over 90 children including those who attend the Rainbow House. This means that all our children are also visited regularly at home in the context of their family situation.

Education: Because of our focus on breaking the circle of poverty we have placed a strong emphasis on encouraging education. So, we become actively involved in children's learning journeys. We work to ensure kindergarten and school attendance by liaising with schools and we monitor learning and overall development. We discuss the importance of education and regular attendance at school/kindergarten with parents and seek to remove obstacles through, for example, providing clothing, shoes and school supplies.

By careful liaison with schools, local authorities and parents, we are building bridges between the children and the wider world. As a result, children grow in confidence and their educational attainment continues to improve.

After-school program (ASP): Through our work, we have come to realise that an ASP would enable children to achieve better academic results. After doing homework and other activities with the children

TRUSTEES REPORT***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019***

at home we noticed that they are far more distracted in their homes than in a school environment and therefore made less educational progress.

Kindergarten and school aged children from our Suceava Outreach project now attend the ASP, as well as other vulnerable children who have come to our attention at school. We liaised with a number of teachers who were thrilled to offer their support for this initiative. The ASP currently takes place at school and kindergarten and supports up to 53 children every week.

Other issues: Difficulties our supported families often face include:

- Conflicts between school attendance and casual work opportunities for older children
- Limited or no access to health care
- Limited or no access to social welfare
- Child hunger and neglect
- Very poor and cramped living conditions
- Few long-term employment opportunities
- Lack of hygiene
- Child abandonment
- Isolation and Marginalisation
- Experiencing racial discrimination

Between April 2018 and March 2019 Open Hands continued its work to address some of these issues among vulnerable and neglected children and their families.

Open Hands supported families by:

- Visiting children and their families once to twice a week
- Supporting children's health (e.g. doctor visits, hospital stays, diagnosis, medication)
- Educating families about their rights
- Advocating and applying for social care monies with families
- Supplying children with vital nutrition
- Providing materials to improve inadequate and dangerous homes
- Helping parents with employment
- Visiting those children who were placed in orphanages
- Teaching parents healthy parenting styles
- Offering opportunities and new experiences to children through day trips (zoos, museums, libraries, the mountains, salt mines)

Independence and moving forward: By achieving OH objectives three families are able to move forward and become more independent from the charity. We looked at each family separately to assess the progress they have made and will now determine how best to withdraw some support, while continuing to monitor the children to make sure they continue to thrive.

Conclusion: The support we offer also has a positive impact on the children's home life. Regular home visits and counselling by Open Hands workers allows parents and children to seek advice and help with issues arising in their lives. By building positive, trusting relationships with the Open Hands staff parents feel strengthened and heard. As a result, we have seen a reduction in child neglect and happier children and families. There has been a continued improvement in children's health due to regular provision of food, teaching of parenting skills and health care. A number of living spaces have been expanded and renovated through collaboration with the local authority, Open Hands and the families themselves, allowing families to live in healthier, safer and less crowded homes.

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Christmas 2018

In 2018 we ran another popular Christmas shoe box appeal where supporters filled a box with gifts for a child living in poverty in Romania. Many of the children we deliver these boxes to receive nothing else all year, so they are greatly appreciated. In December 2018 we were able to distribute 381 Christmas Boxes among impoverished children.

Children from our Family Outreach and Rainbow House projects were able to attend the Open Hands Christmas parties and hugely enjoyed experiencing the Christmas celebrations.

Aid Trips

In 2018 two trips to Romania were made from Germany on behalf of Open Hands. In September warm clothing, blankets, new shoes, school materials, furniture and other items were brought from Germany to our office in Suceava and distributed to those in need. And in December 381 Christmas Shoe boxes, warm clothing, shoes, blankets and materials for the Christmas celebrations were delivered from Germany to our office in Romania.

Fundraising Events

Open Hands Gala Night
Book Sales

Conclusion

Open Hands is led by a board of Trustees who bring a range of professionalism, skills and experience to the charity. The Trustees visited Romania regularly during the April 2018- March 2019 period to supervise and develop Open Hands projects, ensuring resources are used most effectively. I would like to give my sincere gratitude to all the Trustees for their reliability, devotion, contribution and hard work to Open Hands.

On behalf of Open Hands, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of Open Hands dedicated staff in Romania and to the volunteers in the UK and Germany for all their hard work and dedication and for sharing the loving spirit of Open Hands by caring for Romania's most vulnerable children.

I would like to thank our wonderful sponsors who enable us to continue this vital work, including TRINITY church in Lewes for their long-term support and enthusiasm, Humanity at Heart Charity shop for their on-going support, Europlacer Company for their long-term support and Just Trust who support our projects and of course to the many kind and generous individuals who enable Open Hands work to thrive.

In Germany we would like to express our gratitude to: pro-PAC Ostendorf Plastic GmbH & Co KG, dm-drogerie markt, EDEKA, Christengemeinde Vechta e.V., der andere laden, Volksbank Vechta eG, Grundschule Hagen, Städtischer Kindergarten Vechta, Kindertagespflege Villa Kunterbunt, Kaffeerausch, Justizvollzugsanstalt und freie evangelische Gemeinde in Vechta. Außerdem bei Steuerbüro Kühling, Hegger & Kollegen in Lohne, Verschenke-Aktion Bremen e.V., Art des Lebens e.V. in Hamburg, Kinderclub Chamäleon in Hamburg and St. Johannes-Schule in Steinfeld.

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

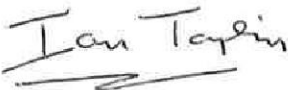
Financial review

There was a deficit on activities at 31 March 2019 of £2,787 leaving cash funds carried forward of £1,558.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be sufficient to meet at least three months expenditure.

Signed of the Board on behalf of the board of Trustees.



Ian Taplin
Trustee
6 August 2019

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OPEN HANDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Open Hands ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2019, which are set out on pages 12 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records;
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J R Caladine FCCA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

6 August 2019

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Receipts				
Donations (From Germany £48,424)	107,240	-	107,240	59,041
Grants	1,200	1,000	2,200	1,200
Gift aid	4,385	-	4,385	-
Total receipts	112,825	1,000	113,825	60,241
Payments				
Projects / aid - Romania NGO	113,378	1,000	114,378	55,512
Aid trips to Romania	994	-	994	988
Petrol and travel expenses	72	-	72	1,332
Accommodation	-	-	-	183
Professional fees	92	-	92	50
Bank charges	-	-	-	41
Office costs	401	-	401	-
Accountancy and Independent Examination	570	-	570	810
Other expenses	105	-	105	-
Total payments	115,612	1,000	116,612	58,916
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(2,787)	-	(2,787)	1,325
Cash funds at 31 March 2018	4,345	-	4,345	3,020
Cash funds at 31 March 2019	1,558	-	1,558	4,345

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
Cash funds		
Co-operative bank account	<u>1,558</u>	<u>4,345</u>
Other debtors		
Gift aid receivable	<u>4,109</u>	<u>4,379</u>
Liabilities		
Accountancy and Independent Examination	<u>600</u>	<u>540</u>

Approved by the trustees on 6 August 2019.



Ian Taplin
Trustee

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

1 Accounting policies**1.1 Basis of accounting**

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as allowed under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 for small charities that are not companies.

1.2 Income and expenditure

All income and expenditure has been included when received and paid.

1.3 Funds**General unrestricted fund**

The Charity operates an unrestricted General Fund that can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

2 Trustees

Trustees received no remuneration nor were reimbursed expenses.

3 Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2018	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 31 March 2019
Rainbow House	-	1,000	(1,000)	-

Rainbow House

This fund represents a grant received to support the delivery of the Rainbow House programme.