

JINJA DEAF

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees of Jinja DEAF (“JD”) present their report and the accounts in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2016.

Status

JD is an unincorporated association, constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 7 April 2008 and registered as a charity by the Charity Commission for England and Wales with registration number 1124205. It was originally registered with the name “Friends of Jidda Children’s Project” but changed its name to “Jinja D.E.A.F (Jinja Deaf Education Access Fund)” by a trustee resolution passed on 27 July 2008 and further changed its name to “Jinja DEAF” by a trustee resolution passed on 8 January 2017. Its correspondence address is 2 Alwyne Square, London N1 2JX.

Trustees

JD is managed by its trustees, each of whom is appointed for a term of three years by resolution of the trustees. Subject as mentioned below, the following served as trustees throughout 2016:

David Johnstone (Chairman)
Emma Heseltine
Ursula Yates
Mark Austin
Geoff Chapman
Eric Fergusson (until 25 June 2016)
Dominic Turinde
Robert Welsford (from 22 May 2016)

There has been no change in the trustees since 31 December 2016.

Objects

The objects of JD are:

(a) to advance the education of people who have special educational needs and in particular to advance the education of children and young people who have a hearing impairment and live in Jinja District, Uganda, by:

- promoting early years support for hearing impaired children and their families,
- increasing access to quality sign-bilingual education, and
- promoting the role of deaf adults in deaf education and the use of deaf role-models in educational settings; and

(b) to promote equality and diversity for the public benefit, with a focus on equality for adults and children with disabilities and, in particular, to promote equality for people with a hearing impairment in Jinja District, Uganda, by:

- promoting the inclusion of children with hearing impairments within their families and communities,
- promoting equal access to education and employment for people with a hearing impairment, and
- promoting activities which foster understanding between deaf and hearing children, youths and adults.

In giving effect to these objects the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities, objectives and achievements during 2016

Sponsored Teachers

JD has continued to sponsor the salaries of three workers in two primary schools which have special units for deaf children, Walukuba West and Kyomya. Two of the sponsored staff are deaf. Their role is to teach Uganda Sign Language ("USL") to deaf children on starting school. The third sponsored worker is hearing and is skilled in USL. His role is primarily to interpret, through sign language, for deaf children when they are taught in classes alongside hearing children. These sponsored workers play an essential role in helping deaf children to access education.

The trustees have recognised that it would be beneficial to sponsor the cost of employing a hearing interpreter at Kyomya Primary School to complement the work of the deaf USL instructor and have agreed to offer to sponsor such a post.

Sponsored Children

During 2016 JD continued to sponsor the education of a small number of individual children, two at Walukuba West Primary School, two at Wakiso Secondary School for the Deaf and one at Uganda Society for the Deaf Vocational Training Centre (Uganda's only vocational training school for deaf children). The trustees had previously concluded that individual sponsorship was not the best use of our funds, and so these are residual arrangements which will cease when the children graduate. The sponsorship of one child at Walukuba West terminated at the end of 2016 when she graduated from Primary 6 class. The sponsorship of the boy at Uganda Society for the Deaf Vocational Training Centre also terminated at the end of the year when he graduated. He had been learning carpentry and the trustees agreed to fund the purchase of tools and wood so that he could commence working and begin to earn a living.

The trustees understand that employment prospects for deaf children are scarce. This is an area we keep under review in anticipation of identifying opportunities to support initiatives which are within our remit. Our Chairman, on a visit to Jinja in early 2016, followed up two young people who had graduated, one from each of the primary schools supported by JD. Neither had any form of employment and both had returned to communities where no one spoke sign language and the deaf were still considered to be deficient.

Supporting Parents of Deaf Children – Uganda Sign Language Course

JD, supported by a generous donation from TCR International, funded a 5-day residential course in Uganda Sign Language for parents of deaf children. The course was scheduled to take place during school holiday to make it easier for parents to attend, and also so that they could practice their new signing skills with their children at the end of the course.

Thirty parents participated. Feedback on the outcome of the course was very positive. JD is grateful to local partners Soft Power Education and Organisation for Parents of Deaf Children whose energy and organisational drive on the ground made the delivery of this course possible.

JD, with our local partners, worked very hard throughout 2016 to involve Uganda National Association of the Deaf (UNAD) in jointly running the programme of sign language courses for parents of deaf children. It was disappointing when UNAD withdrew but thanks to the resilience of our partners this did not detract from being able to run a successful course for parents.

Supporting Parents of Deaf Children – Organisation for Parents of Deaf Children (OPDC)

OPDC grew out of a previous course in Uganda Sign Language for parents. Since then it has gone from strength to strength. Among a number of their achievements to date has been compiling a register of deaf children in and out of school across the Jinja District and persuading an American based charity to recruit 30 deaf children annually into a new special unit. The children attend on a daily basis with transport provided which is a departure from the conventional in Uganda. OPDC has also been working with groups of parents to develop business start up ideas in which their deaf children can participate. They are lobbying to have parents of deaf children recruited to the Management Boards of the schools with units for deaf children.

During 2016 the trustees made a grant of 2million UGX (the equivalent of some £500) to OPDC to support their programme of work.

Finances

JD is a small volunteer-run charity. It does not have an office and is able to keep expenses to a minimum and so ensure that as much as possible is available for the vital work of providing access to education and support for deaf Ugandan children.

Apart from a small amount of deposit interest, the income of JD derives from donations and related gift aid tax recoveries. The total income for 2016 amounted to £11,741.74 (2015: £11,673.47). Total expenditure for the year amounted to £9,493.29 (2015: £8,528.18), leaving a surplus for the year of £2,248.45 (2015: £3,145.29).

At 31 December 2016 JD's reserves amounted to £14,453.79 (31 December 2015: £12,205.34). In view of the nature of JD's work in Uganda and, in particular, the need to be able to continue from one year to the next the support for children towards the cost of whose education it is paying, the trustees consider that it is prudent to carry reserves sufficient to cover at least one year's operations.

The trustees are immensely grateful to the many supporters of JD and its work, without whose generosity JD would be unable to provide the life-changing assistance it does to hearing-impaired children in Jinja.

This report was approved by the trustees on 8 January 2017.

David Johnstone
Chairman

Robert Welsford
Treasurer