**The Mary Wood Trust**

**Annual Report- 2019/2020**

**Charity Name**

The Mary Wood Trust

Registration Number ----- 1144311

Registered address --- 9 Handforth Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 2LX

**Charity Structure, Governance and Management**

*Trustees*

Chairperson --Clare Ramsden

Treasurer — Dr Peter Wood

Trustees — Kath Smith, Ann Gover, Pippa Hutchins

Trustee selection method – By personal invitation and approval by existing trustees.

**Our Aims and Objectives**

1.To provide scholarships for education and training with a view to improving disadvantaged young peoples' life skills and opportunities in Uganda.

2.To advance education and relieve poverty by providing sponsorship, training, funds or items for disadvantaged children, young people and those in need in Uganda.

3.To develop facilities in Kinkiizi, Kanungu district, in particular but not exclusively, at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School and Ruth Memorial Nursery School, in order to achieve the aims outlined in 1 and 2 above.

During this past year, we have held four trustees’ meetings, the last two meetings via Facetime. At these meetings we discuss all our projects in Uganda, plans, past and future fundraising activities, how our money is best spent, how to promote the charity and keep our supporters informed and how to communicate fully with our friends and contacts in Uganda. We try our hardest to make sure that the money we send out to Uganda and spent there is fully accounted for, endeavouring to get receipts where possible. Any money sent for student sponsorship or building projects at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School is channelled via the Diocese of Kinkiizi, where the contacts we have there are trusted and reliable, the relationship having been built up over many years. The fees for university and further education tuition is sent directly to the individual respected institutions.

Trustees have visited S W Uganda twice this year, always at their own expense. In July 2019 Clare and Oliver Ramsden were accompanied by two of their granddaughters, Jess and Emily Leigh, to see and experience the work of the charity. Clare and Oliver Ramsden went again to Uganda in March 2020. Their visit was cut short by the Covid-19 pandemic.

These regular visits are an important part of the charity’s work, not only to support the various ongoing projects but also to show concern and commitment to the people involved, maintaining the personal nature of the charity. They are very much appreciated by the people in Uganda and the feedback to the trustees at home is important in keeping the information up to date and relevant.

**Activities and Objectives**

*Activities over the past year*

***Ruth Memorial Nursery School (RMNS)***in Kihiihi continues to provide a basic primary education for approximately 70 young children, aged 2 to 9 years. The founder Ephraim Tumwesigye is the director of the nursery school and he now has a board of Management to help run the nursery school. The school employs a head teacher (who has some nursery qualification) and 4 other ladies who are not qualified. There is also a cook and night watchman. We continue to finance the provision of daily porridge, pancakes and milk for the young children, many of whom are AIDS orphans being cared for by extended family members. In this very poor area it is reassuring to think that the children who attend RMNS are getting at least one good meal a day. We are very grateful to a private sponsor for this.

We have continued to provide much needed stationery for the school this year, thanks to a generous donation from church support in Chelmsford.

During this year the verandah at the school has been renewed and the classrooms now have proper screed floors. The mattresses stolen last year have all been replaced, there are now new footballs to play with and the playground toys are being well used. We have promised to upgrade those that are now broken. The office now has a table and chairs. All this again was due to a grant from a charitable foundation and some private donations and we are very grateful.

Jess and Emily’s visit in July was much appreciated and the girls shared with both the children and the teachers the joy of hand painting and playing with play dough. They decorated 4 walls and interacted with the children, exchanging songs and craft skills.

It is very heartening to see the children and the staff enjoying these improved facilities, as it is obvious that the school runs on minimal finances and could not afford these from the meagre fees that they charge. Indeed, it was recognised by the director that without the support of the Mary Wood Trust the nursery school would struggle to exist.

***Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School* (NGSS)**

This Church of Uganda school, which was founded in 1987, is the only girls boarding school under the umbrella of the Diocese of Kinkiizi. Its rural situation, on sometimes impassable roads, makes it very difficult to access, particularly in the wet season. This emphasises the importance of its boarding status as many students live some distance away.

The Mary Wood Trust has been involved with the school since 2002 and has continued to grow in its sponsorship of students and also improving the infrastructure of the school. This is seen by the additional buildings and facilities provided by the MWT over the years.

The number of sponsored boarding students that we support has now increased to 32 and we are also sponsoring 10 day girls from the local community. All the girls we support are chosen because of their need and their poor family backgrounds. Some are more academic than others.

The present head teacher, Molly Musingusi, has developed a good relationship with the staff, the students and the local community. This has certainly helped students achieve better grades at both O and A Levels last year, and in turn this helps to attract new pupils into Senior 1. The enrolment for this year, in March, stood at 192 and there is hope that this will increase next year. The staff appear more committed now that they are being included in the decision making for the school.

Malaria continues to be a problem in this rural environment and so we continue to provide mosquito nets to all new entrants to the school. It was gratifying to see that the use of the nets was being monitored well.

The Sick Bay continues to provide a safe and clean environment for girls who are not well. The full-time nurse is able to treat minor ailments. If a condition is beyond her remit, then she will refer a student to a doctor. She is also responsible for women’s health education and guidance. The girls are tested for pregnancy at the start of each term and throughout the year the nurse, along with visiting outside support, discusses the problems associated with early marriage and unsafe practices.

The Female Staff House - Mary Hall- accommodates some of the female teachers. Unfortunately It now requires some maintenance work to make it more attractive but the school struggles to finance this.

The Dining Shelter continues to offer cover from the rain so that students do not take their food back to their dormitories to eat when the weather is bad. It also provides an extra covered space for meetings and gatherings.

The 3 solar light systems which we donated to the school continue to be used to allow students to study in the evening.

The Cliff Smith Sewing Room is proving to be a great success. The I Stand project initiated by Jess Leigh in July had the girls sewing dozens of African Cotton Bags which were then sold in the UK. After a democratic vote among the students, it was decided that the profits made should be used to buy a music system for the school. This was achieved and the music system installed in time to celebrate Mary Wood Day on March 8th. Since then more than 80 bags have been made and the sale of these in the UK will go to finance the purchase of 5 more reconditioned sewing machines. Very necessary now that 13 girls have signed up to study Tailoring and Sewing to O level standard next year. This is not only giving girls a skill but also demonstrating good business sense.

The Samaritan Fund continues to offer support to those girls who cannot afford the basic needs at school, e.g. sanitary towels, toilet paper, soap, items of school uniform, eye check-ups and glasses. The head teacher keeps a record of how the money is spent

Sports at NGSS continues to be popular, especially football, volley ball and netball. However there does appear to be a shortage in a committed and enthusiastic coach at the moment.

The Male Staff Houses are continuing to provide good and individual accommodation for the male teachers, hopefully playing a part in keeping the staff well cared for and focussed on inspiring their students and getting the best from them.

***Nyakatare Health Centre (NHC)***

Situated in Kanungu Town, NHC is a Diocesan Health Centre and provides good quality medical care to the local community.

Unfortunately, towards the end of this year, the Administrator, Ritah Katumbah, left, after 10 years of dedicated service. Her temporary replacement is Nexon Tusiime, a clinical officer, and he is working hard to keep the facility running smoothly. It provides regular immunisation clinics and check ups for mothers and babies as well as inpatient care.

The microscope, flowing water in the laboratory, the generator and the patients washing and latrine facility, all of which we have financed over the years, are in good working order.

The Dental Unit is without a fully qualified dentist after the dentist, Peter Muhende, left unexpectedly in December. Minor dental work and education is now being carried out by a dental nurse, while a new dentist is being sought. Prior to this, regular outreaches were taking place to far flung villages and the MWT were able to help finance some of the costs of these. On one visit the trustees experienced an outreach to Myjere where talks on hygiene and diet were given as well as testing for HIV/AIDS and TB and the weighing and immunisation of babies. Dental health education, teeth inspection and extractions were also carried out. Many baby clothes were distributed to the needy mothers, along with toothbrushes for those seeking dental help.

***Past Students***

Over recent years we have been in a position to support some of the more able MWT girls as they pursue further education. This has been made possible because of very generous giving from our supporters and also continued successful E bay sales.

One girl is in her final year at Kabale University, 2 more at Bishop Barham College (which is part of Uganda Christian University). 4 girls have started their courses at Bishop Barham. One girl is undergoing a course at Great Lakes University, one in her final year at Nyakatare Technical college. Two girls are studying at Bwindi Nursing school - nursing and midwifery, and one girl is registered to pursue a course in Tailoring at the Mothers Union Training Centre.

***Solar Lights***

Not only were we able to provide some solar light systems to NGSS but we also managed to buy individual solar lights to distribute to various teachers and other needy people. Thanks to Sophie Hay (aged 7) for raising the money for this.

***Newsletters and raising awareness***

We have distributed one newsletter this year in September and sent a Christmas greeting in December.

2 articles in St Bartholomew’s Parish Magazine

Our Facebook page is a good way to keep some people informed about the activities of the charity.

***Future Plans***

It was finally agreed that the MWT would fund the building of a new kitchen and store NGSS, to replace the very old one which has a leaking roof and broken ovens. This work is scheduled to be carried out once the Covid lockdown is over.

The work to connect the schools water pipes to the community spring is long overdue and it is hoped that in conjunction with the water charity WATSAN this work will be completed by the time the school resumes after the lockdown.

Maintenance at NGSS has not been a priority over the past few years due to lack of funds. It is now evident that work does need doing to maintain the safe structures of a number of the buildings. The MWT might consider helping with some of this.

Now that the school is offering Tailoring and Sewing O level it will be necessary to provide more reconditioned sewing machines and other equipment. This will be achieved by using the profits made by selling cotton bags which the students have made.

***Covid-19***

The Coronavirus caused a major lockdown of all schools, colleges, churches, institutions, markets and public transport from March 20th. It is unsure when the schools will resume and we are concerned for all our girls and students and those in need in Kanungu District. For both their physical wellbeing and their education.

**Financial Review**

**Overview of the year**

During this financial year we have continued to be blessed by a regular income from many longstanding and some new faithful regular donors. We have also received several larger gifts for specific projects. We are very thankful for all these gifts and work hard ensure that they are used wisely.

**Principal sources of funds**

Our overall income increased by around £8,430 to £45,932.

The vast majority of this has been personal donations either directly through the bank(£26,980) or via PayPal(£1,898) or Stewardship(£3,702).

Church donations fell by £889 to £1,410, charitable trust receipts £4,925 (Linden Trust - £3,000, St. James’s Place £1,925), and eBay Sales have increased slightly from £1,128 , to £1,254, which represents many sales. We have continued to receive Gift Aid from the UK government, for which we are very grateful £4,529 (£2,658 in 2018/2019).

**Expenditure**

This year our non-building project expenditure increased from that in 2018 – 2019, from £22,992 to £32,519, mainly as a result of the Trust sponsoring more students in their Further Education.

We are careful to ensure that monies are accounted for; we are grateful that the Treasurer of Kinkiizi Diocese is able to assist us in this.

We continue to support Students at NGSS (£6,595), Ruth Memorial Nursery School (£4,247)and Further education Students (£11,049) and several other students at schools in the area. We have continued to use Western Union to send money to Uganda.

**Fundraising**

This has included selling on E bay and through local Marketplace - £1,254.

Coffee mornings in Lothersdale (£87) and in Marcham (£418).

Gift from St. Bart’s PCC, Wilmslow £300.

Also buying on the internet via Every Click, Amazon smile, schemes, raises a small amount of money(£69).

**Financial Policy**

We have written a financial policy for the Trust which states how money is handled. This is available on request. It will be reviewed in the next financial year.

**Reserve funds**

We have £20,000 reserved to help provide a regular on-going income to support 10 girls at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School, and a further £5000 reserved to help provide regular on-going support for the students pursuing further education, in the unlikely closure of the charity

We have £5000 reserved in case the funding for food and porridge at RMNS should cease. This would enable to nursery school to run for a year before the money runs out.

**How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity.**

By providing sponsorship for 42 girls at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School, all of whom come from needy backgrounds, we are helping to ensure that they have a good secondary education and therefore a good start in life. This in turn will improve the standard of their own families and hopefully uplift their whole communities.

By providing mosquito nets and the sick bay and nurse, we are ensuring that the girls are being cared for when sick and hopefully learning to keep themselves safe.

The improvements to the fabric of both NGSS and RMNS will give a clean and safe environment for the children and young people to learn in.

By providing play equipment at RMNS we are allowing the young children to learn how to play and have fun. We are also providing buying daily porridge and milk ensuring that the children have daily nourishment.

Our ability to support some girls beyond NGSS is hopefully going to produce useful and educated and informed citizens who will make a difference in their own families and the community beyond.

**General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

In line with the new GDPR regulations that came into force in the EU, we have tried to ensure that we comply to the regulations. We have obtained consent using a customised GDPR Consent Form, from most of our supporters. This has enabled us to ensure that we are only communicating with those who have expressed consent for us to do so. We will endeavour to ensure that this is kept up to date.

The data we hold is kept up to date.

**Privacy Policy**

The Mary Wood Trust has written a privacy policy which is available to view on our website.