



**[www.cwuha.org](http://www.cwuha.org)**

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# 2014

## Trustees Annual Report

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# Chair of Trustees statement



**Carl Webb**

Bulgarian, Lithuanian and Romanian children's homes and hospitals, Syrian refugees and Tanzanian school children are just some of the beneficiaries of a frenetic 2014 for CWUHA.

But, CWUHA is not an organisation to sit on its laurels, we are already planning for an even busier 2015 - aiming to mark our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with not just more of the same, but two ambitious projects in Moldova and a 2nd 'Holiday of a Lifetime' for disadvantaged children from Lithuania.



Back in 1995, when the charity launched in response to the human tragedy in Bosnia, I could never have foreseen how far its wings would spread. In one sense we've come full circle this year; by helping victims of another bloody civil war with two major consignments of aid that have been delivered to Syrian refugees sheltering in camps on the Bulgarian/Turkish border.

CWU's biggest project of 2014, however, was an eight-truck convoy to Romania and Bulgaria in August. Two of the vehicles - loaned by An Post and Eircom and driven by volunteers from CWU Ireland - delivered desperately needed items to a number of children's homes in Romania. Six further trucks from the UK union delivered equally welcome supplies to a variety of children's homes and a hospital in Bulgaria - aided, as ever, by the generous assistance of Royal Mail and BT.

Meanwhile, CWUHA's on-going work with the Kilima Hewa school project in Tanzania has flourished throughout 2014.

All this would not be possible without a dedicated group of volunteers across Ireland and the UK who help collect aid and fundraise, along with the trustees who oversee the running of the charity, assisted by our regional organisers.

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I must thank those trustees that have not sought re-election this year, Chris Bennett and Steve Fishwick have made outstanding contributions to CWUHA in 2014 and will be sadly missed, but I am pleased to say that both Chris and Steve will carry on supporting and promoting the work we do as a charity.

In 2014, Ian Young also decided to stand down as CWUHA's Treasurer handing over to Eric Parker. Ian has held the post since CWUHA gained charitable status in 1998. Ian also travelled on CWUHA's first ever convoy to War Torn Bosnia and will be part of the team travelling to Moldova in May 2015. Ian truly is the embodiment of what CWUHA stands for.... And the good news is that he has decided to stay on as a trustee.



I must also convey our thanks to our unions, the CWU in Ireland and in the UK, as well as acknowledging the continued support that we receive from AnPost, BT, Eircom and Royal Mail, which should not go unrecognised or be taken for granted.



I must also express our gratitude to Pellacraft, UIA and the union's panel of solicitors, especially Simpson Millar and Walkers Union.

Finally, and to repeat what I said last year, this charity was set up by lay members, branches and the regions, so it's important part of the ethos of this charity that the link between the branches and its members remains integral to the running of the CWUHA.

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# Head of Admin Report

Heather Park

"Children are in desperate need and the main stay in maintaining the CWUHA will always be funding. That will never change".



"Another fabulous year for the CWUHA leading onto an exciting 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year"



**1995**----The beginning..... CWUHA's Pathfinders.... Jem Brookes, Ian Young, John Fearnley and Neville Mawby were selected to travel on our first ever trip....delivering aid to Postal & Telecom families in war-torn Bosnia in May 1995.

The Trustees salute all convoy drivers, their families, friends and supporters. Taking part in a convoy isn't about self gratification or salving our collective conscience, it is about making the lives of the children just that little bit more comfortable, maybe, just maybe, encouraging some social cohesion and care in their own communities.

## 2014 Convoys

Syrian refugee camp on the Bulgarian/Turkish border May 2014 - Harmanli Camp on the border of Bulgaria and Turkey in what was a disused Army barracks.

The Barracks closed in 2002 and had been empty until the first of the refugees turned up in early 2013. Delivering clothing, bedding, beds, cots, prams, toys, sanitary towels, cleaning materials and other items.

Once again, Nikki our friend from 'One Life Bulgaria' facilitated the delivery in-country. The need for aid is constant, many charities are in country helping and of course CWUHA will do all we can to alleviate the refugees plight.



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Lithuania the vehicles arrived in Vilnius, everything was once again achieved with quality goods delivered to the point of need.



Ted Stead and Steve Fishwick set off on their trip to Syrian refugees in Dec 2014. A second trip to the Syrian refugees delivering aid to the refugee camps in Bulgaria with urgently needed humanitarian aid before the winter set in.

### **CWUHA - More than just convoys**

During 2014 CWUHA continued to support a school in Moshi Tanzania. The school is run by the Head Master, Mr. Masawee, at his family farm. Our sponsored school continues to flourish, with volunteers visiting the school to help the children with their basic English language skills. We continue to finance the education of children and pay for teachers' salaries. It costs just £40 per year per child and this cost includes 2 uniforms and a hot meal each day.

Monetary donation given to Milo Browne is a very brave little boy who suffers from delayed physical and mental development and has so far baffled medical experts who are unable to give a diagnosis of his condition. He was born and lives with his family in Howdon, Newcastle upon Tyne, and is affectionately known as 'Our Milo' so that he can have the sensory room that he so desires.

Delia Berari received a much needed oxygen cylinder and a special wheelchair which had been provided by CWUHA and MAD-Aid. Delia is a regular patient of Hospice Angelus Moldova. "This donation is a great example of how charities have worked together to help improve the quality of life of a young Moldovan child less fortunate than most."

### **Sponsors**

Our appreciation and thank to all our major sponsors BT Group, Royal Mail Group, Anpost, Eircom, Simpson Millar, UIA and Walkers Union.

There are many other sponsors and supporters behind the scenes that are as important. These are the personal sponsors of convoy drivers, family, friends



and colleagues who raise funds through locally arranged events and donations. A very special thanks to all of these good people is due.

Various ways in which you can help us to top up the central fund:

### **Branch affiliation:**

CWU Branches can affiliate on a yearly basis using the slide scale of charges. Branch affiliation forms available on website [www.cwuha.org](http://www.cwuha.org)

### **Individual affiliation:**

Friends inside and outside of the union are encouraged to affiliate for an annual fee, from as little as £10, affiliation can be made by direct debit at £1 a month (less than the price of a coffee) or by cheque. Affiliation forms can be found at the back of this pack or from the website [www.cwuha.org](http://www.cwuha.org)

If you set up a fundraising event or wish to donate you can use BT My Donate <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/cwuhumanitarianaid>

Help us to continue to take 'a smile to a child'



## **Project Managers Report 2014**

**CWUHA Project Managers**

**Steve Fishwick**

**Trish Vollans**

**Alex Pearson**

### **May Convoy 2014**

Destination: Lithuania & Syrian refugee camps (x 4 vehicles).

**Bulgaria;** at the beginning of 2014, the CWUHA charity received information sourced from the Bulgarian government, that there were around 20,000 Syrian refugees in mainly 5 south of Bulgaria. The vast influx of refugees was not envisaged, hence the conditions were difficult for the refugees, it was reported that in some of the camps the Syrian refugees were living as 8 to 10 people in the same room. It was established that the main needs for these camps are the very basics items; foods, clothes, blankets, sanitary products, medicines, shoes and desperately needed children indoor and outdoor toys. Our Bulgarian

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contact, Niki was willing to help the CWUHA take aid into one or more of the camps.

Due to the extent of problems facing these people, the charity agreed to take 2 vehicles, including a 17.5 tonne vehicle, to be sent to a large camp, with over 1500 occupants (200 children). The Harmanli Village, camp situated in Bulgaria about 18 miles from the Turkish Border, here a unit was rented by the charity at a cost of approximately £100, to enable the sorting and distribution of our aid to as many refugee families as possible, ensuring items went direct to those in need, items were also sorted here for the sharing with other local camps.

The CWUHA delivered tonnes of aid, along with aid left in Bulgaria from a previous convoy, was distributed to the refugees in multiple camps. Rick Wheller, an Openreach worker in Bridgewater, who is involved with a local charity, in the collection and delivering relief aid to central Europe & Romania, donated teddies, toys and clothing for the refugees.

**Lithuania:** an assortment of aid was delivered directly to, the Avaikai Kaunas Children care institution in Vilnius, for children between ages 3 to 18 without parental care; they live in household based units that are as close as possible to a regular family environment. They are provided with a general education, a special needs school and a children's day centre. Providing them with a safe haven both physically & psychologically balanced.

## September Convoy 2014

Destination; Romania, Bulgaria & refugee camps.

The convoy was made up of 7 vehicles, employed from BT, RM, An Post, Eir Com & Simpson Miller.

Aid was distributed to the following;

Down syndrome and Cerebral palsy association, this medical centre was established by the parents of kids with Down syndrome and Cerebral palsy.



Diabetes association for young people, who provide useful information for people who suffer from diabetes, this in includes free lessons on diabetes, and free physiotherapy for children.

Hospital Vidin, Saint Petka, which looks at treatment of acute mental disorders, with a view of increasing life standards. Previously visited 2009.

Hospital for physiotherapy, a hospital in which kids and adults can attend for rehabilitation after accidents.

Poiana Mare Psychiatric hospital is a refurbished military unit; it has the capacity of 500 beds for those with chronic psychiatric needs, serving a population of over 250,000 residents in the county and in neighbouring counties, both rural and urban areas.

All drivers visited and distribute aid at the Syrian refugee camp.

The CWU wish to thank our in country contacts for both convoys; Nikolay Gerev (Niki) from 'One Life' Charity and the chairman of the charity, Slavi Christov, along with Jack and Elsabe.

## **Other projects;**

Project 'One Life Charity' a donation of 6600Eur made by the CWUHA for the purchase of a peoples carrier in Sofia, Bulgaria, to enable the transportation of children with mild and extreme disabilities to access to physiotherapy activates.

## **2014 A Year In the Life Of Kilima Hewa School Moshi Tanzania**



During 2014 CWUHA continued to support the kindergarten school in Moshi Tanzania. In January monies were transferred to the Headmaster Mr. Massawe in order to pay the annual salaries of two teachers at £80 per month and to support the education of 50 children attending





the school, at £40 per year, per pupil. This money was kindly donated by CWU National Executive, CWU branches, and individual sponsors.

The sponsorship money for the children enabled the teaching staff and Susan Massawe to provide not only the years education but: two school uniforms per year, one bowl of maize porridge a day, and one or two fresh eggs per week. This sustenance was quite often the only food the children would have all day.

Part of CWUHA's support of the school is to encourage volunteers, at their own expense, to travel to Moshi in order to act as teaching assistants to the permanent



staff. This “one to one” help not only gives a child personal attention, normally denied to them, but releases the teachers to concentrate on the rest of the children. These visits by the volunteers are a two way street. The children gain by being able to spend quality time with an English speaking person. The volunteer gains immensely by receiving love and gratitude from these beautiful children. As soon as the “**Mzungu** “(foreigner), enters the grounds of the school they are greeted with the cry “ **Teacher, Teacher** “ a sound that will always remain with them, and they are mobbed by dozens of smiling faces and hands, that just want to be held.

In July two volunteers travelled to Kilima Hewa, Brian and Di Selkirk. Although well into their sixties they threw themselves whole heartedly into the daily life of the school even finding time to paint, inside and out the two new classrooms that had been previously built. These two extra classrooms meant



that Mr. Massawe is getting nearer his ambition to open the school as a kindergarten and primary facility.

During August and September Stewart Pickup and Andrew Smith, CWUHA volunteers spent time with the children and managed to build an extra toilet block which will contain sanitary toilet and washing



facilities. A recently refurbished orphanage at the school is now open, housing the first five little ones whose parents died of Aids.

The year ended in November with a fact finding visit by CWUHA Trustee Ray Atkinson, CWU Executive member Julia Upton, Branch official; Josune Aluruz and CWUHA Project Manager Alex Pearson. After this visit, and when all the reports from the volunteers and visitors were published, the unanimous decision was taken by the CWUHA Trustees that this important project should be given ongoing support in order to give these deserving children a chance in life to break away from the poverty that they were born into. If anyone would like to take part in this life changing experience, or would like to sponsor a child at the school please visit: [www.cwuha.org](http://www.cwuha.org) Or contact Alex Pearson on: [alexcwuha@btinternet.com](mailto:alexcwuha@btinternet.com)



## **CWUHA Trustees – 2014**

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