

Registered Charity No: 1078312

www.cwuha.org



2021

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

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CWU Humanitarian Aid

TRUSTEES REPORT - 2021

Chair's Report

In 2021 we continued to receive amazing support from CWU members, branches and regions. Without this support we wouldn't be able to deliver smiles in Eastern Europe, Africa and here in the UK.

We also receive fantastic support from companies like Royal Mail, Eir, An-Post, Pellacraft and Unionline

So what happened in 2021? Well thanks to Covid all our convoys were cancelled, so we took the decision to send humanitarian aid to Moldova via a haulage company we had worked with in the past. The 10 tonne plus of aid was then distributed by our partners in Moldova, Mad-Aid.

We continued to support the kindergarten in Moshi, Tanzania and the trustees took the decision in 2021 to fund the build of a new playground on the grounds. This should be completed by May 2022.



We also provided the school with PPE which is very difficult to get hold of in Tanzania.

As in 2020 we funded a Christmas party for all the children and staff. It doesn't cost a lot of money, but it does deliver loads of smiles!



With the support of members and branches we continued to sponsor children's education and a teacher's salary at the kindergarten.

CWUHA also sponsor the education, healthcare, clothing and food for four children in the care of 'The BAHATH and Excel Education Foundation'.

Our work in Tanzania provides free education and meals for nearly a 100 children. Without this many of these children would go hungry.

In 2021 we continued to expand our charity work within the UK which saw the start of a new partnership with Blackpool Coastal Housing (BCH) that supports families fleeing domestic abuse and young people who find themselves homeless.



I have been involved with CWUHA from day one and this is one of the best run and most rewarding projects in our 27 years. My thanks to Paul Newsham who heads up the project for CWUHA and Heather O'Hanlon who leads for BCH.



During the year three trustees and volunteers Ian Young, Linda Young and Steve Rowlands travelled to Moldova at their own expense to visit the CWUHA supported Phoenix Disabled Centre set up and run by our partners Mad-Aid. While they are in-country they helped clean and prepare the new hydro pool that CWUHA helped fund and build by providing building materials.

Once again in 2021 our good friends John and Sue Turnbull from the CWU Mid Wales & Marches Branch organised the CWUHA Annual Longmynd Hike.



This year saw a record turnout and a record amount of money raised. Over £8,000 was donated in sponsorship. Every penny will be spent on our BCH project.



Trustees Lenny Crook, Stephen Albon and myself joined the 40 plus volunteers, including Andy Kerr, CWU DGS to do the 20-mile trek across the Shropshire hills.

For Lenny and me it was our first time and the pleasure of the company far outweighed the pain of the hike – and the amazing amount of money raised was the icing on the cake.

The event is so well organised and yes fun! The amount of effort that Sue and John put in to ensure the day is a great success is massive. I am really looking forward to the next one.

I would like to thank everyone who took part and sponsored us.



At the latter end of 2021 CWU regionally and nationally began to hold face to face events and CWUHA were invited to have a stand at some of these i.e. Midlands Regional Conference, Irish TU Congress, CWU ULR and Young Workers Education events. We also shared a stand at the NW Labour Conference. As always we send out an appeal prior to the events asking delegates to fetch toiletries, toys etc This is a good way of making more people aware of CWUHA and getting them involved directly in what we do.



In 2021 the trustees continued to hold their meetings online. In between meetings policy decisions are also made via email.

Thanks to a lot of hard work by trustees, in 2021 we continue to see the numbers of individuals and branches affiliated to CWUHA increase.

As a charity we work hard to keep our supporters/affiliates as informed as possible via our web site www.cwuha.org set up and hosted by Pellacraft at no cost to the charity.

We are also on Facebook **/CWUHA** twitter **@CWUHA** and Instagram **cwuha95**

The charity continues to operate out of the Greater Manchester branch premises, rent free, for which we are thankful.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the unstinting work carried out by our network of unpaid volunteers and trustees across Ireland and the UK. Massive thanks to all of them.

Carl Webb
CWUHA Chair

CWUHA Project Workers Reports

2021 Report on the Project between the Communication Workers Union Humanitarian Aid (CWUHA) and Blackpool's Children and Families' Emergency Housing Homeless Hostel.

2021 was the inaugural year for the first substantial project undertaken by CWUHA in the UK. The agreement between CWUHA and Blackpool Coastal



**Blackpool Coastal
Housing**

Housing and in particular the Children and Families' Emergency Housing Homeless Hostel to commit to at least £6000 per year for the next three years has been money well and truly spent, the smiles on the staff involved in the project, the families they support and in particular the children they help has been worth every penny.



Families usually arrive at the hostel with only the clothes on their backs. They have left their homes and come to the hostel to find a safe and calm environment, at this point they are in vital need of the bare necessities.

CWUHA will provide an emergency pack for new families that will include all the essential items that they may need to include but not limited to food, clothes, pyjamas, baby products, toiletries and towels. We will also buy items for the children to include school clothes and coats, school shoes, school bags and lunch boxes as well as other school equipment.

The project has grown throughout the year with the inclusion of the young people's hostel in Blackpool and the newly opened hostel in Blackpool which supports young

people moving from foster care. Both these hostels work hard to prepare the young people to transition to independent living when they turn eighteen.

The Emergency Housing Team are beyond grateful for the fantastic support offered by the CWUHA charity. The staff have been brought to tears in the knowledge they will no longer have to witness disadvantaged homeless children without the bare essentials. Often the children arrive with only the clothes they stand in, no pyjamas, underwear, toiletries etc. The parent has often made the most difficult decision to protect the children in the knowledge they do so with nothing. The kindness this support offers ensures these children begin their new life in a decent, respectful and humane way. Every life is a story thank you for making our children's stories one where difficult experiences come with the knowledge this world is a kind place with good kind people.



Additional Events

Back to School Bags

In March the children in the Families Hostel faced a return to school without the necessary school equipment, after an appeal across the North West CWU Branches £1050 was raised to buy 30 fully equipped school bags. Two different sets of bags were supplied as the equipment needs differ slightly between Primary and Secondary school pupils.



It was like a birthday for the children opening the bags they were delighted with all the items in there. One child returning from school said his friends could not believe all the things he had and he felt really happy and proud about that. As staff that support the children this was particularly nice to hear as our children were obviously seen in a really positive light by their friends which in the past has not always been the case.

This was made possible with generous donations from:

North West Central Amal
Warrington Mail Centre
North West No 1
Greater Manchester
North Lancs & Cumbria

Our thanks go to all the branches that contributed.

Wellbeing and Coordination through Arts & Craft

As part of a generous donation of £1000 pound from CWU Preston Brook and Bury £750 was used to fund the purchase of various arts and crafts materials. Thanks to the donation they were able to provide our vulnerable residents and children with Arts and craft items that will increase their general wellbeing and mental health. For a person with a mental health issues, art can help provide a voice to express different scopes of their internal self that are usually left in silence.

The benefits of arts and crafts for kids is well documented as arts and crafts usually require kids to use both hands in a certain manner, which can help them develop fine motor skills and bilateral coordination. For example, drawing dots and lines, cutting with scissors, and even simply tearing a piece of paper are all quite demanding tasks in terms of dexterity – and kids enjoy doing them. This can help them develop faster and become more skilled in other daily activities such as tying their shoes, dressing, using kitchenware, etc.

Easter Eggs Donation

At Easter 30 Easter eggs were bought for the families living in the Blackpool's Children and Families' Emergency Housing Homeless Hostel as well as a little token of appreciation for the dedicated and caring staff that work with and support these families. This ensured that all the children and families in the Hostel didn't go without an Easter egg at Easter.



Donation of Trainers and Football Boots



Spirit of Youth Junior Football Club in Blackpool and in particular Richard Wright the under 15's team manager donated over 30 pairs of football boots/trainers. Richard put out an appeal to the players and parents of his under 15's football team to donate their old and unwanted football boots and/or astro turf trainers that are in a wearable condition to CWUHA who will distribute them via Blackpool's Children and Families' Emergency Housing Homeless Hostel. This impeccably

clean footwear will be given a new lease of life with children who were made homeless with few or no possessions and are living locally in a hostel. This footwear will allow these children to be given the opportunity to play football, get fit and just as importantly bring some fun into their lives.

Days Out

Throughout the year a number of trips out were organised for the residents of the three hostels that we support these were made possible from some generous donations from the following CWU branches Manchester Combined, Lancs and Cumbria and Preston Brook and Bury which helped to pay for coach hire, admission and food on the day for trips to Alton Towers and Gulliver's World.

The Alton Towers trip in August was for the 16 to 18-year-old residents of the homeless hostel in Blackpool. It was an early pick up for the seven residents and a number of staff from the hostel as well as two CWUHA trustees but everyone was in high spirits and looking forward to the day ahead,



after a delay on the motorway we finally arrived at Alton Towers and all of us headed straight for the Nemesis. It was great for two of the CWUHA trustees to chat to the

residents and we got plenty of opportunities throughout the day in the queues to do that. After that we split into smaller groups so that some of the more adventurous could go on the thrill rides and the less adventurous on the more sedate ones. Although one of the favourites on the day was the Duelling Galleons where everyone got totally drenched.

It was so lovely to see the young people smiling, it was obvious that they had all completely let their guards down, forgotten what a rubbish hand in life they've been dealt and were totally immersed in the experience. Everyone was still buzzing when we got back to the hostel (the journey home was a lot quieter with most of the minibus fast asleep) back at the hostel a wonderful day was rounded off with a supper of pizza. The young people were impeccably behaved on the park and were a credit to themselves and the hard work that the hostel staff put in.



The next trip organised was for the domestic abuse refuge centre and it was decided to visit Gulliver's World at Halloween so that the children could get dressed up in spooky costumes to add to the day out. Eight families from the Hostel with the children ranging from babies to teenagers boarded the bus along with some of the staff from the hostel and a CWUHA trustee. We had a wide range of costumes from the children including dragons, scary clowns, witches and movie characters.



It was pretty quiet on the park so it gave the opportunity for all the families to go on all the rides that they wanted to go on. The Dodgems were a particular favourite along with the Antelope Wooden Coaster for the more adventurous but there was still the old favourite of the Carousel and the Log Flume to enjoy as well. Lunch was at Gully's Grill where it was hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken nuggets and fries for everyone all washed down with fizzy pop. The day was rounded off with ice cream and giant drinks as well as a gift from the souvenir shop.

It was an emotional trip for the staff at the hostel as in all the time working at the hostel they have never been in the position to take the families on a day trip out. What made it so special is the knowledge of the struggle these families have on a daily basis and it was a day away from all that worry and hardship. It was also lovely to see the families having the opportunity to spend some quality time with their children.

Christmas Days Out

Christmas is a difficult time for all but in particular the families and children that are housed in the three homeless hostels that this project now supports. The final trips out for the year were a set of Christmas trips for all three of the hostels that the CWUHA support and this was made possible with the help of £8000 pounds raised by trustees and volunteers completing the Longmynd Hike. The Longmynd Hike is a 20 mile circular route across the Shropshire Hills. The event is organised by CWU Official, John Turnbull with over 35 hikers taking part to raise funds



for CWUHA and took place this year on the 4th September. This amazing amount of money will also go on to fund days out over the next couple of years as well.

The Christmas trips out consisted of an amazing trip to Viva Blackpool to see “Santa’s Magical Workshop”. For most of the families, this was the first time they had experienced such a spectacular performance. It gave essential ‘time-out’ for children and parents to immerse themselves in festive fun and laughter for a few hours. I have no doubt their memories of this day will last a life time.

There was also Christmas trips to a local pantomime and dinner for the young homeless people at one of the hostels and bowling and burgers for the young homeless people coming out of foster care at the other hostel.

To see a wonderful video from Blackpool Coastal Housing thanking CWUHA for their support by way of a partnership agreement please scan the QR Code below. The video details some of the amazing work that Blackpool Coastal Housing and their wonderful staff have been able to do in 2021 at three of their homeless hostels with the help of CWUHA. Many more smiles delivered in the UK.



Eastern European Projects

Another frustrating year...

Despite our best hopes 2021 turned out just as frustrating as 2020, with our plans of getting back to running convoys being curtailed once more by the Covid pandemic.

As one of the convoy project workers, I had started the year hoping that the May convoy would go ahead and had started planning accordingly. But my hopes were soon dashed with the realisation that severe travel restrictions would still be in place in the countries we would be due to travel through, exacerbated by new strains of covid which were having a major impact throughout mainland Europe.

So it was time for plan B. We had a couple of storage units full of aid, most of which had been generously donated by the CWU Education department. The aid was desperately needed in Moldova as this would have been the second year without a



single convoy. So after some discussions with the trustees and our in country partner, Victoria Dunford, we decided to use a road haulage company to transport the aid to the Phoenix centre for it to be transferred on to the many other projects from there.

We had also put a call out to CWU Branches for donations to purchase aid, or for the actual items required. As is always the case, they responded quite brilliantly and we were soon inundated with funds and aid to help us fill the 40ft trailer.



While we were disappointed at having to send the aid this way, our mission was to get the aid where it was needed and this was accomplished thanks the decision made by the trustees and with the assistance of Victoria.

We will hopefully be back on the road soon, delivering smiles.

Lenny Crook
CWUHA Project worker

CWUHA Africa Projects Report



Since 2008 CWUHA has supported a school in Moshi, Tanzania. Mr. Masawee, the headmaster of the Kilima Hewa village school, appealed for help from CWUHA via Sarah Grogan a Simpson Millar solicitor who spent time in the school teaching the children.

The original school which Sarah attended comprised of one small room, which was part of the farm that Mr. Masawee and his family worked to support the education of about 30 children, it was far from ideal.

school equipment.

Now CWUHA sponsors the education of 50 + children, supported the building of 5 new classrooms, a library, installed toilets, provided electricity and supplied

The school now teaches 90 children and is now a lifelong learning hub for the community.

In 2020 CWUHA trustees agreed to sponsor the education, healthcare, clothing and food for four children in the care of 'The BAHATH and Excel Education Foundation'.

The Excel Education Foundation is run by two ladies and helps underprivileged children with their education. The foundation has two facilities, one in Moshi and the second in Arusha. They are inspected by government officials at regular intervals.



The BAHATH foundation is an organisation started by two former street kids who now run a successful project offering assistance to other street children. The foundation is run on donations of both cash and food and allows them to ensure the children receive an education along with healthcare, clothing and food.

Due to the Global Pandemic CWUHA volunteers were unable to visit the school for nearly three years. But the support was still needed.



In order that the school children could celebrate Xmas funds were transferred to Mr. Masawee and his staff in 2020 and 2021 so that they could enjoy parties with food, drinks, games and a small present.



When CWUHA became involved with supporting the school by constructing the five school rooms and support buildings, all with electricity. At the same time a small pay area was provided for the recreation periods. The children would

come half an hour before the start of lessons to take advantage of the swings and roundabouts.



Over time, and constant usage, the equipment broke down and was worn out. It was decided by the Trustees in 2021 that we had a Health and Safety responsibility towards the children to make safe the play area.

Funds were allocated, builders commissioned. At the moment a European standard safe play area is under construction and should be finished Mid May 2022.

If you wish to sponsor a child at the school (£40) then please email alexcwuha@btinternet.com

If you are interested in volunteering at the CWUHA supported school we will be happy to organise flights, accommodation, time helping at the school and contacts in-country for safaris and mountain climbs.

At present CWUHA cannot provide any funding. Each volunteer is required to affiliate to CWUHA and will have to undergo a DBS check or produce a current copy of one.

Although this worthwhile project has to be completely funded by the individuals who volunteer. CWUHA can help with fundraising and sponsorship ideas



Anyone who may be interested should contact Alex Pearson on alexcwuha@btinternet.com or 07483 216289

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