

**HOSPICE AFRICA LIMITED**  
**Report of the Directors & Trustees**  
**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**



### **Contents**

Legal & Administrative Information	1
Hospice Africa Origins	2
The world in shutdown & Recent News	3
Charity Shops & Fundraising	4
Finance & Governance Issues	5
Audited Accounts	A1 – A7

### **Legal and administrative information**

**Company number:**

Registered in England No. 02835469

**Registered charity number:**

Charity Commission No. 1024903

**Directors and Trustees:**

Prof. David Phipps (Hon. Chair)

Ms. Pat Linnell (Hon. Treasurer)

Ms. Clare-Marie Ion (Hon. Secretary)

Dr. Mary Bunn

Dr. Ged Faulks

Mr. Doug Haynes

Prof. Ken Holden

Prof. Anne Merriman (Founder) MBE

Mr. Chris Merriman

Mr. Michael Merriman

Mrs. Lesley Phipps MBE

Mrs. Ann Vassie

**Company Secretary:** Ms. Clare-Marie Ion

**Independent Examiner:** Roger Hughes

**Registered Office:**

16 Arden Close  
Southport. PR8 2RR

Lower Farm  
90 Brimstage Road, Heswall,  
Wirral. CH60 1XQ

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES**

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, governed by a *memorandum* and *articles of association*. The charity's object and principal activity continues to be "to provide and support the provision of palliative care to terminally ill cancer and AIDS patients and their families in the African setting".

The Trustees have continued to meet regularly to manage the affairs of the charity in the UK. The Charity's work continues to be carried out entirely on a voluntary basis. The Honorary Treasurer manages the day-to-day finances of the charity. The Hon. Chair, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, with help from other Trustees, have shared the collective duties normally carried out by a Chief Executive. The Board of Trustees has the power to appoint additional Trustees as it sees fit within the remit of the Articles of Association. Bishop Vincent Malone, Canon Dr. Donald Gray and Frank Cottrell-Boyce kindly acted as Patrons.

The work is carried out in close partnership with the Founder, Professor Anne Merriman, and there is regular contact with Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU), which is a *non-governmental organization* and a *limited company* in Uganda. There is an AGM, normally at the end of June when Trustees, donors, supporters and Charity Shop staff meet at the Brain Charity Centre in Liverpool, often with guests attending from African countries.

## **Hospice Africa Origins and Recent Progress**

Hospice Africa (HA) was founded in 1993 to spread the ethos and practice of palliative care in Africa. Our founder, Dr. Anne Merriman, has radically changed the provision of care for people in Africa with life-limiting illnesses. This has transformed the lives of thousands of patients, providing significantly longer life for many and allowing others a pain-free and dignified death.

HA raises and manages funds in the UK to send out to our partners in Africa, particularly in the long-term with Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU). With our partners, we have helped to introduce palliative care directly for the first time to 35 of 54 Africa countries. In 20 of these 35 countries, affordable oral morphine, the backbone of all palliative care, is now available for pain relief.

In the 2019-20 year, the International Programmes arm of HA has involved visits and training in Congo (DRC), Bukina Faso and Senegal. One important aspect of the work is to provide advocacy and awareness of both the need to manage cancer pain as well as knowledge of the palliative care methods that doctors and nurses can provide, in partnership with close relatives, for those suffering cancer pain. Since the morphine used is a class A drug, palliative care can only be provided with the approval and support of each African country and their respective Health Department. Sometimes, the challenge of getting acceptance and approval from the country concerned is huge.

Dr. Anne, Dr. Dorothy Olet, and nurses Sylvia and Dianah have been involved in these visits with much advocacy and training work carried out. Since the onset of COVID-19, any visits have been impossible and therefore curtailed during 2020.

## International Programmes visits to Congo, Bukina Faso, and Senegal:



Sylvia teaching in a nursing school in the DRC.



Initiator Course delegates showing their achievement certificates.



Dr. Anne and Dr. Dorothy were welcomed on arrival at the airport in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Dec 2019



Support supervision for MAADJI staff after a visit at the facility in Senegal



Dianah with the Mercy Ships (Africa Mercy) Team. Certificates were awarded to all participants on the courses including; students, facilitators and translators

## The World in *shut down*

As we write this report at the end of the Financial Year, the world is mainly in shutdown with the corona virus spreading virulently throughout most countries in the world. The shutdown has affected most organisations, public and private, and transport is very limited. Most people feel threatened either by a dose of the virus, with varying health issues, or because the *shut down* has closed off all avenues to income in the immediate future. The Government is trying to mitigate the closing down of peoples' work by promising payments of some 80% normal income by June.

Charities throughout the world are in a precarious position because their normal income is threatened, and reserves are limited. For Hospice Africa, the two charity shops have closed for a period that could be up to 6 months, and income will probably be significantly reduced. Fund-raising events are currently cancelled. This annual report highlights some significant news items and finishes with a statement establishing the need for careful governance during exceptional times.

## Recent News

**Peter Purcell:** We are very sad to record the passing of Peter Purcell, the manager of the Liverpool Old Swan Charity Shop for over 20 years. Peter's dedication and contribution to Hospice Africa has been truly immense. Peter had hung on bravely through various health problems for the last 2 years, aided by his wife Ann, and daughter Liz, and they have continued to ensure that the charity shop continues as normal with its loyal team of volunteers.

A requiem mass was held at St. Oswald's in Old Swan on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, attended by family, friends, shop volunteers and Trustees, followed by a family cremation the following week.



**Dr. Anne with Ann & Peter Purcell**

### **Stoma Care Goods sent to Uganda**



UK Trustees spent an entertaining day packing 60 boxes of stoma care goods and woollies at the end of February. Dr. Ged Faulks stores large quantities of stoma care goods in his garage; they are donated as surplus from local hospitals in Merseyside and Cheshire, and are in very short supply in Uganda. The woollies, blankets, teddies and children's soft toys are lovingly knitted and crafted by a large team of dedicated supporters. The goods are sent as part of a large consignment, kindly supported by Lontex. Ged remarked, "I've just got my garage back!"

**Charity Shops:** Our volunteers in the charity shops have persevered week in, week out, with receiving and selling clothes, household items and books/cds. The shops receive a freshen up and repainting from time to time and small changes to display furniture



**Liverpool (Old Swan)**



**Ainsdale**

**Fundraising:** There were many special Hospice Africa fundraising events kindly organised by our enthusiastic supporters around the UK. The Trustees wish to gratefully acknowledge the support of all the individuals and organizations, nationally and internationally, who have given funds for palliative care in Africa.

One of our regular events, the Hospice Africa Quiz Night, hosted by Quizmaster John Nelson, had to be cancelled at short notice because of the imminent Corona shut-down. The Wirral sponsored Cycle Ride took place in October in 2019.



John Nelson



Wirral Cycle Ride

**BBC North West News:**



Dr. Anne appeared on BBC News North West last summer 2019.

The news item lasted around 7 minutes and gave a very fair account of the Hospice Africa ethos, with video footage and time to appreciate the achievements, as well as the current challenges, for the charity seeking to support those dying from cancer in Africa.

In particular, Dr. Anne was given the opportunity to make an appeal and it was felt that this news opportunity gave us our most effective recent marketing opportunity. The familiar interviewers were clearly amazed and very moved by the dedication of Dr. Anne and the nature of the charity work being carried out in Uganda and Africa.

**Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU)**

We reported last year that HAU, which is a separate charity registered in Uganda, has been facing a major challenge over the last few years following the ending of the USAID grant. Now in 2020, the funding shortfall can no longer be sustained and the Board in Uganda is considering emergency measures. There is ongoing work to restructure the HAU organisation with a view to further cutting of overheads.



**Brief Financial Review**

Income of the charity increased from £201,823 last year to £233,340, with resources expended increasing from £220,309 last year to £344,267. Charitable activities totalled £313,799 supporting work primarily in Uganda and Malawi. The expenditure exceeds income by £100,927 resulting in our reserves reducing from £179,240 last year to £78,313.

The Board of Hospice Africa Uganda has reduced the staff complement significantly over the last few years, but there still remains a serious funding shortfall which, in the UK, Hospice Africa Ltd has been using its income and reserves to ensure HAU remains solvent in the 2019-20 period.

## **Funding Risks**

The UK fundraising is most likely to be considerably reduced in 2020-21 because the charity shops will be closed for part of the year and fundraising events cancelled.

Because the Charity employs no staff, except on a voluntary basis, all of the income raised, apart from a small amount of governance expenditure, is used directly for the work of the Charity on its core objective of palliative care on the African continent. The probity exercised by UK Trustees is that funds already raised in the UK become available to send to Africa. Currently, the major focus has been to send budgeted funding to Uganda, and in a few cases, some emergency funding more widely in Africa.

Trustees are aware that there is a two-fold risk in the year ahead:

- an on-going deficit in Uganda, which the Board of HAU must finally bring out of deficit.
- a likely reduction in funds available in the UK, which will prevent HAU from promising UK support to HAU at previous funding levels.

UK Trustees are working closely with the HAU Board to try and ensure HAU continues to be viable for the patients in Uganda in the years ahead. HA UK will continue, as far as possible, to support this work and pursue the enduring vision of palliative care for all in need in Africa.

## **Auditor and Independent Examiner**

A resolution proposing that 'Roger Hughes, Chartered Accountant, be reappointed as the charity's Independent Examiner' will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors and Trustees on 29th August 2020 and signed by the Hon. Chair:

