



Raising Hope Foundation

Update to supporters – June 2020



Dear Ambassadors, Donors, Friends,

Enclosed within is an annual update from the Raising Hope Foundation (RHF), with updates on our projects and finances.

RHF is now 10 years old and in that time we have been able to sponsor the education of over 50 young people - many of whom now have successful careers at professional levels that they would never have been able to achieve without the scholarships to attend college and university. We have been able to run several summer schools, supporting local schools by building libraries and giving the children of Santrokofi experiences like visiting Wli and Mount Afadjoto, Ghana's highest waterfall and mountain respectively, alongside educational lessons and games.

Our biggest work has been building the Santrokofi Children's Centre –a building capable of housing up to 36 children and the staff required to care for them. It was a long journey to complete the building, but we are pleased with the standard to which it has been finished. In early 2019 we were making excellent progress with the Director of Social Welfare for the region, processing the various legal and safeguarding requirements, but very sadly he suddenly passed away. Our partner charity, the Living Faith Foundation (LFF) have been working with the new stand in director, but things are moving at quite a Ghanaian (much slower!) pace. The most recent development, shortly before the Covid-19 pandemic, was that the department for social welfare were looking at using the building as a home to rehabilitate trafficked children – both LFF and RHF are very much in support of this and a charity specialising in that area is also in talks with SW. The global pandemic has of course slowed things down but we hope to progress with that option and as ever trust in God's timings.

Thank you to all who have donated, fundraised and supported RHF – without you none of this would be possible.

Kinza Barrett

Chairwoman





Covid-19 Update

The Situation in Ghana:

Ghana has fortunately seen much less of an impact in terms of lives from the covid-19 pandemic. There have been no confirmed cases in the Santrokofi area. Thought there is increasing concern expressed by our partners at LFF that cases are beginning to spread.

The lockdown that has been imposed has had consequences for the children and their families. Many children from poor rural communities board with Agnes during school time so that they can attend school. These children have had to return home and many of their families are struggling to feed them. Students living away in student accommodation have also faced additional bills for accommodation as food as final exams are postponed and many are unable to travel home.

What have RHF done?

At the beginning of June we sent a donation to LFF to use as a fund to support families struggling to feed their children during the lockdown, Agnes will use this for food bank style parcels for families.

We have also sent three specific donations to college and university students who have become stuck due to the lockdown to enable them to buy food.





Update from the Treasurer

I'd like to send our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our regular donors, those who have been with us since the early days, regular donors and those who give annually at certain times – your support has been steadfast and a real blessing.

Our thanks also to other charities and grant making organisations who have helped us, alongside churches and schools and the many many individuals who took on incredible challenges – Arctic to Africa, London to Paris, The Three Peaks to name but a few.

When I look back through the accounts I'm amazed at the sacrificial support that has continued year after year.

Together we have completed the Santrokofi Child Care Centre and furnished a good section of it. We have started work on an outside kitchen, toilets and children's sheltered outdoor area.

Included below are some updates on our finances to date.

We do understand that you may need to review your giving during these difficult and uncertain times.

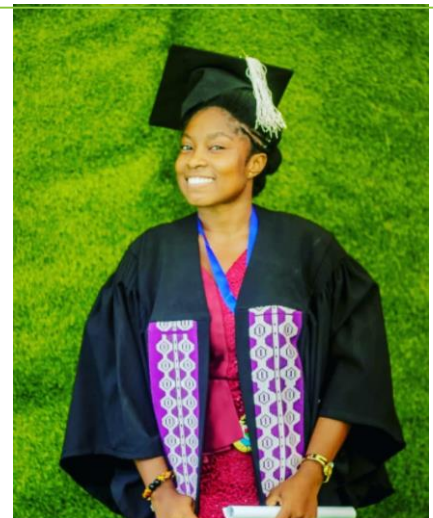
Thank you again for all your support.

Simon Mason

Treasurer



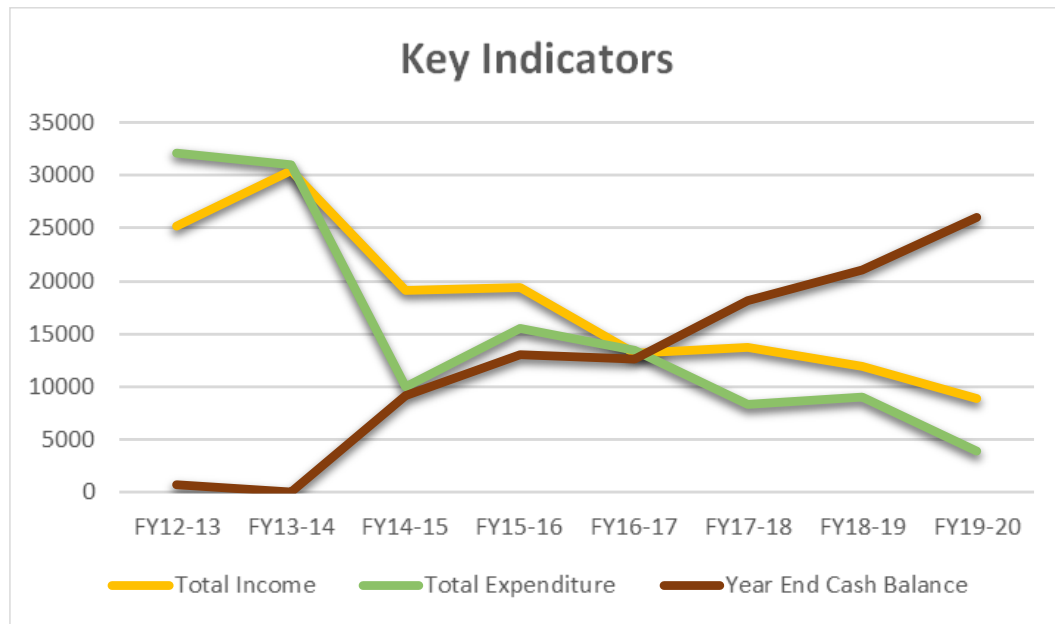
Kwame, one of our scholarship students, is now in his 5th year at the Volta School for the Deaf, pictured here with his supplies for the term



Peace, who attended our very first summer school, graduated last summer with a degree in teaching and has begun a successful career this year.



Finances 2020



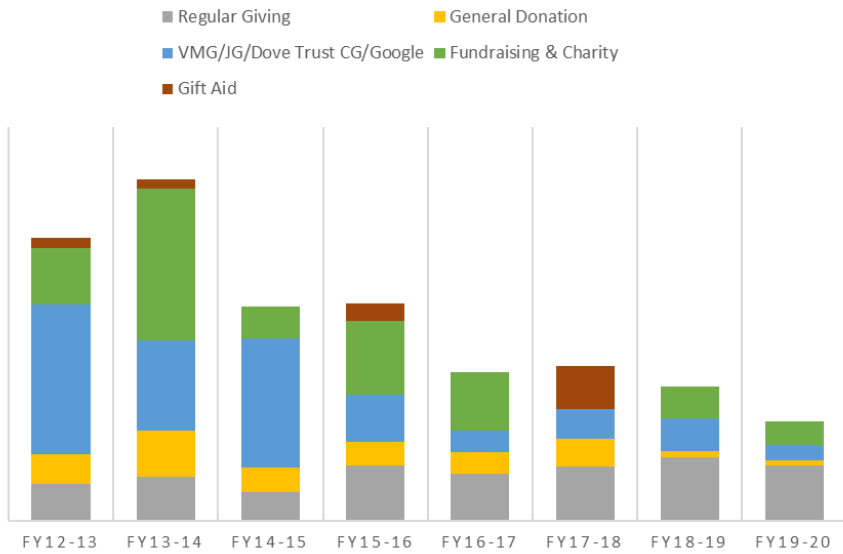
The graph shows our fundraising, and expenditure, peaking in 2014 and then slowly declining, which is inline with when we finished the most costly parts of the building work. Our expenditure has shifted from large scale building projects to much smaller ones to meet requirements of social welfare, alongside our scholarship program. In terms of the building we are in a period of transition, the building work is largely complete and we are now working with the department for social welfare to make sure the home is put to the best use in the most appropriate way. The pace at which things happen in Ghana is different to what we might expect in the UK, the social welfare system is chronically short on funding which causes delays. This is not something we can control, though we are always encouraging and helping where we can.

In the interim we have built up our balance, which will be critical when we do get the green light to open, allowing us to act quickly with any requirements for the building and for furnishing. We always want to have three months worth of running costs in hand so these savings are very valuable.



Income and Expenditure

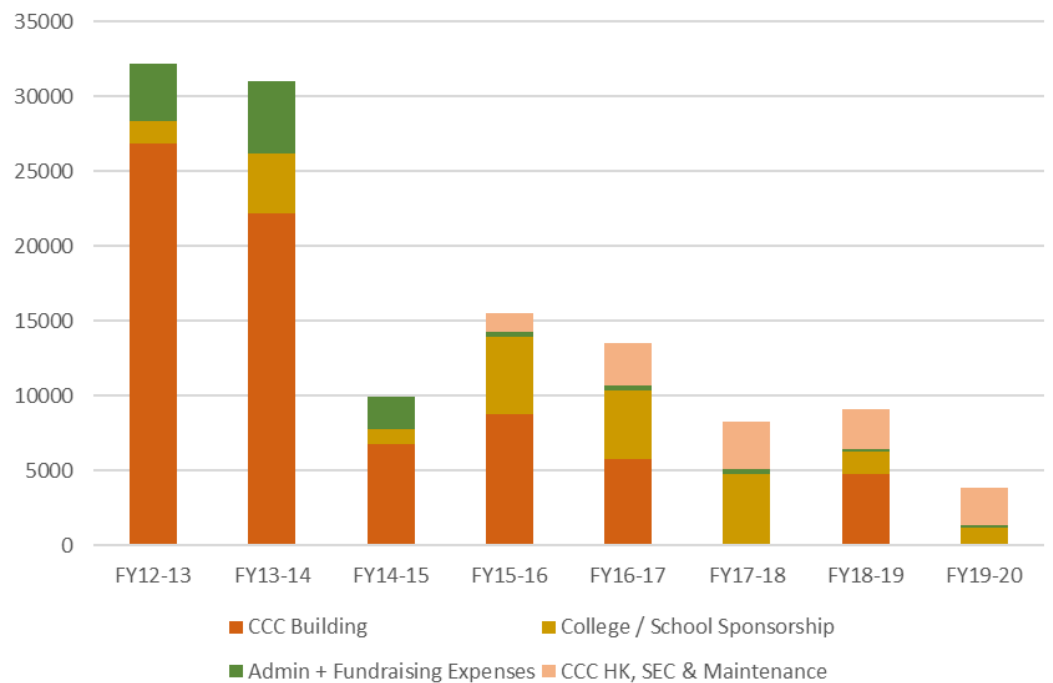
INCOME



Regular giving now makes up the most significant proportion of our income, which is a sustainable model and ideal for when the home opens. When we are able to open the home, and share with our supporters the result of years of hard work we will be in a good position to relaunch fundraising appeals – sponsored challenges etc to increase our income, these have understandably dropped off during this period of transition.

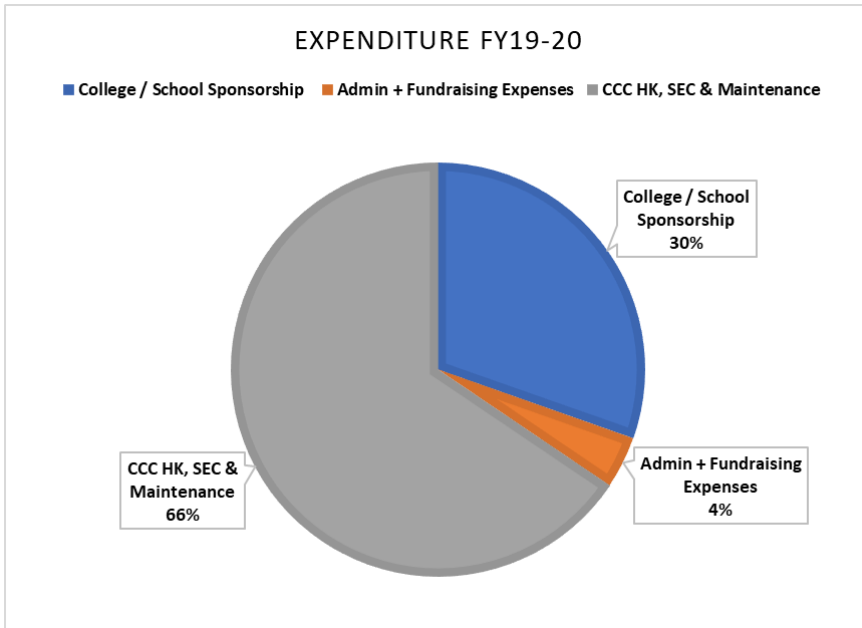
Our expenditure pattern reflects where we currently are with the project. In 2018 we took on fewer scholarship students to allow us to build the reserves needed for the home, but with that now in place we will look to offer more scholarships for the 2020/21 academic year.

EXPENDITURE





Financial Year 2019 - 2020



We are pleased that we continue to be able to have very low administrative expenses, with our only costs being bank transfer fees for our international transfers to Ghana and our website hosting. We employ two staff to provide security, maintain and develop the home and land – including the land for farming.

We received another interim payment from the Dove Trust this year. A particular thank you to the children and staff at St Marks School, Basingstoke, for their fundraising this year, we are always amazed at your generosity, and the congregation at Immanuel Church led by ambassador Kay Mason.

Ambassadors and trustees had hoped to visit Ghana in Autumn 2020 but this may have to be reviewed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

