



Charity no: 1153532

**Annual Report and Accounts
for the year ended 6th February 2018**



Young Writer Competition – our second.

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The Saturday Club packing for Malalani library 2018

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JBAC's activities for the year ended 6th February 2018

Name of the Charity: Just be a Child

Registration number: 1153532

Date of registration: 7th February 2013

Bank: Barclays Bank Plc
A/c number: 30472328
Sort code: 20-41-15

Principal address: 5 The Lindens
Stevenage
Herts
SG1 1ST

Governing instrument: Just be a Child was formed as a Private Company Limited by Guarantee, on 7th February 2013 and is governed by Articles of Association

Trustees: Lenka McAlinden (Chair)
Alex Lang (Treasurer)
Diane Bugeja (Deputy Chair)
Yusuf Waikwa
Aisha Mohamed Mwachibibo

All held the position of a Trustee for the duration of the entire year.

Aim and Objectives

To continue our work with community groups and children of all ages in order to:

“inspire Kenyan children to read ”

by

“using donated books we create and support libraries in poor but aspirational Kenyan communities, because we believe that with inspiration, knowledge and hope, every community can lead themselves out of poverty.”

The main objectives, as registered with the Charities Commission, are:

- (a) Advancing in life and helping children and young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities;
- (b) Advancing education; and
- (c) Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social and general welfare for children and young people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

This year we did.... (in chronological order)

Launched our very first Young Writer Competition in February 2017. Diane Bugeja our Trustee made her first trip to Kenya to be a part of the presentation ceremony. We have only received 4 stories from 2 authors, but we saw that as a positive start. The winning story was written by Omari, age 15 who, at the time, was also an impressive lead librarian in the Dzunga library.

Our February sports day was a great hit and was attended by 114 children.



Even through the heat they tried their best.

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In May, we spoke at the BBC Three Counties Radio, Bob FM and had numerous articles in the local press (Comet), which led to the formation of our UK Saturday (Volunteer) Club. The Club has 15 members and meets once per month every first Saturday. Together we packed, catalogued and sorted 30,397 items to be shipped in June 2018 and formed our third library. From those, 24,963 are books.

Also in May we entered in the official agreement with Malalani, Ukunda, Kenya community following a chain of meetings and observations.

In June we changed our website and refocused our communication with donors. From "Just be a Child, if only for a while" we became "Just be a Child, inspiring Kenyan children to read", because we believe that that is much more reflective of what we do.

In August we built Chidzangoni's playground at the cost of £422.00. As it is the only source of entertainment for the children living in this area you can just imagine how busy it gets.

In September we built Malalani's playground at the cost of £434.00. The community reacted amazingly to the challenge and came out in force to help build it. Due to various delays caused by the weather and elections it did not get painted till a lot later on (December). But it looks wonderfully bright.



Having fun and learning new skills

In October the Saturday Club started working on Arts packs, which will ensure librarians can continue with the activities Ann, our long-term volunteer who spends

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the majority of her time in Kenya, started in 2016. She has grown the arts and crafts sessions from five children to 60. The art packs contain a step-by-step guide to each activity and all the material needed to complete it. It also has a finished article, in case a child needs a greater example. Each library will receive 20 packs, thus giving 20 different activities.

In December we had our second Young Writer Competition and this time received 10 stories. Although many more children started to write they lacked the 'staying power' to finish. We will continue to work with them all.



Fatima, age 14, wrote the winning story

Throughout the year we fundraised by trying out a few things. Some worked, others not so much. But we have been granted an amazing £5,000 from Sevenhills Farmfoods and £1,000 from Elizabeth Rathbone Charitable Trust. This money is earmarked for our Malalani library construction in July 2018.

We successfully enrolled onto Google Adwords and managed to expand our network of supporters to as far afield as Japan and the United States. We were also accepted onto Paypal Charitable Giving Fund, which was a rather complicated process, but we intend to make the most of it.

We, rather, unsuccessfully, took part in the Global Giving Accelerator Campaign and will have to rethink our approach to crowd funding.

We created our Book Dedication Labels, which seem to be a popular way of encouraging people to donate £2 and so send one book to Kenya.

This year we learnt....

That the generosity of UK schools, companies and individuals know no bounds as we are continuously flooded by book donations. But that in itself poses a logistical complication – where will we store them all? And so we are looking for solutions.

That having a more targeted communication and fundraising strategy is much more effective and efficient as many of our funding bids ended up being successful (Sevenhills Farmfoods and Elizabeth Rathbone Charitable Trust). That said, a more strategic approach to long-term fundraising is necessary and we are working on it.

That with so many children using our playgrounds in Kenya we do need to find a bit more robust playground construction. And with that we, of course, need to account for the greater expenditure.

That the Saturday Club is the force we so desperately needed as with their help we packed everything in three months.

That crowd funding might sound simple and effective, but without a very wide network it just does not yield any results. And that we need to learn to priorities our efforts a bit better.



St Frances school donated 1,000s of books

Treasurer's Report

1) Achievements and Performance:

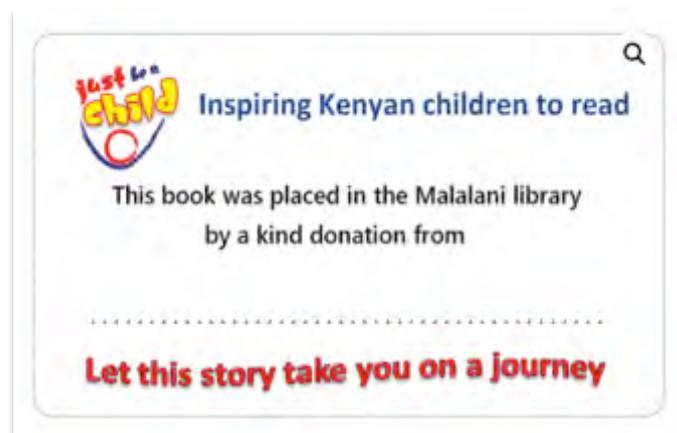
Our presence grows in the UK. We have received in excess of 47,000 books (in 2016 we had 13,000) and are struggling with storage facilities. Our newly formed Saturday Club of volunteers ensures books are boxed up and ready to be shipped in compliance with the ever-changing shipping instructions.

We have built two playgrounds this year. One at Chidzangoni Library where we reversed the process and first built the library followed by the playground. We have identified our new community partner, Malalani, and in line with our plan, built their new playground too.

Our craft sessions are gaining popularity too and each session now sees 60 to 80 children participating. A strategy of craft boxes should ensure that even when Ann leaves for the UK the librarians would be able to proceed.

We are particularly impressed by Chidzangoni's performance and are pleased that while there are frequent changes in Dzunga's leadership that library too manages to perform well.

Our fundraising efforts never stop to look for innovative and interesting solutions and our Book Dedication Labels are proving to be a great success.



Individuals and organisations can buy a label for £2 and thus send a personalised book to Kenya.

2) Financial Review:

The finances needed to continue our work in Kenya were secured through a small number of small individual donations followed by some bigger sums received from Trustees, Rotary Clubs and local interest groups. The Follett Trust's donations were used to build both of our playgrounds this year.

Crowd funding as a whole proved to be unsuccessful and better, more targeted opportunities will need to be identified.

Five larger bids were written. Coca Cola and Chrysalis Trust were not successful. Sevenhills Wholefoods donated a fantastic £5,000 and Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust donated £1,000 towards our library in 2018. A £10,000 grant application to the British and Foreign School Society is yet to receive feedback.

In order to bridge the shortfall in the finances we sold shipping space to another charity.

3) Collaborations and Partnerships:

JBAC continues to collaborate with schools in the UK. Dollimore and Christie remains an invaluable partner and supporter.

In Kenya, our reputation ensures that we are now being sought out as a potential partner. The Start a Library project, who we are now in discussions with, aims to expand their school run libraries to Ukunda because of our presence. A Nairobi based voluntary organisation sent their volunteers to paint our Dzunga playground and to engage with our children there.

We continue to develop our collaborations and partnership with equally minded and supporting charities, organisations and clubs from both countries.



Young artist April creates illustrations for our Young Writer competitions.

4) Reserves Policy:

The Trustees have agreed on sustained growth in terms of projects' impact and scale for the Charity. They further agreed that majority of the money is raised in order to be spent on projects as soon as possible. There is a minimal amount of money in the reserve.

However, due to JBAC having its one full time employee, the reserves are set to cover three months of wages.

5) Volunteers:

As ever, JBAC can only continue to operate mainly due to the support of volunteers. We would like to thank our volunteers in the UK and in Kenya for their hard work.

6) Structure, Governance and Management:

JBAC continues to be governed by five Trustees with a transparent management structure. Our website contains information on how communities get selected and what they need to do in order to be considered for library installation.

Social media continues to be utilised to raise awareness. Local, UK press and radio is also used to publicise JBAC's projects.

7) Conclusion:

I am satisfied that the Charity has operated within its remit and the guidelines of the Charity Commission.



Diane Bugeja
Deputy Chair of Trustees

This report on the accounts of Just be a Child for the period ended 6th February 2018, which are set out on page 12, is in respect of an examination carried out under Section 114 of the Charities Act 2011.



Creativity needs work. Just like everything else.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. In consideration of the Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 a full audit of JBAC's accounts and an independent examination is not needed at this time. Nevertheless, for clarity, transparency and the need to be accurate I have carried out an independent examination of the accounts.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charities Act 2011 - section 145 (5) (b); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention,

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(i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with the Section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- To prepare accounts, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have been met; or

(ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mal Gorzata Zubrzycka

3 Oakwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK2 2JG

28th June 2018

Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 6 February 2018

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Individual donations	5,242	0	5,242	14,844
Gift aid	714	0	714	426
Grants for 2018 library	0	6,000	6,000	0
Playground construction	0	1,000	1,000	0
Total incoming resources	3,761	7,000	12,956	15,270
Resources expended				
Administrative costs	243	0	243	396
Travel costs	145	0	145	487
UK project costs	227	0	227	4,924
Kenya project costs	6,142	0	6,142	13,177
Playground construction	0	1,000	1,000	0
Total expended resources	6,757	1,000	7,757	18,984
Net incoming / (outgoing)	(800)	6,000	5,200	(3,714)
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds	(800)	6,000	5,200	(3,714)
Fund balances brought forward	1,174	0	1,174	4,888
Fund balances carried forward	373	6,000	6,373	1,174