



## TRUSTEES REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023 - AUGUST 2024

This year the charity raised £155,780, the previous year £194,369 was raised. Therefore there has been a decrease of £38,589 from the previous year.

The charity continues to be extremely grateful for the generosity and kindness of many individual donors, churches, schools and Trusts. The consistent and dedicated giving from our donors is a lifeline of daily provision and hope. On behalf of the children and their families we sincerely thank every person who has given to these children who are in severe need.



The aim of The Lunchbowl Network is always to seek and identify those in severe need, who live within Kibera and Kwarangare, two of the informal settlements of Nairobi. Kibera is the largest of informal settlements in sub Saharan Africa with an estimated population of 1-1.5m people living in a densely populated and harsh environment.



The charity responds to these profound disadvantages by providing a series of actions; daily wholesome nutrition combined with a stimulating education to a high standard in a safe learning environment. Within the schools we aim to meet the children's emotional, social and spiritual needs and for the Kenyan syllabus to be delivered in an interesting and creative manner.

Our aim is to counteract their disadvantaged start in life and give them an opportunity to compete for secondary school places by developing literate and numerate children who will eventually be able to offered secondary school places for possible university places or vocational training. We believe schools to be a foundational platform for providing a pathway out of extreme poverty.

Our children are aged between 2 - 11 years. All have have experienced either the death of one or both parents or serious illness of a parents, or children with Special Educational Needs. Prior to being admitted into one of our schools, most children would be surviving on one small bowl of porridge or less per day.

### **Educational Impact:**



We provide a creative, quality education daily to 488 highly vulnerable children. We aim to meet the children's educational, physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs.

The provision includes two Early Years Kindergartens, one is situated adjacent (100m) to Kibera. The other Kindergarten, Primary school, Special Educational Needs facility ( which includes a unit for the deaf ) is a purpose built school a short bus ride from Kibera. The children are transported daily to Karen from Kibera.



New children are admitted in January at the start of the academic year and are provided with 2 sets of uniform, school shoes and underwear. Children arrive at 7.30 a.m for porridge, at 10.30 a.m they have a fruit snack and at midday they have a hot lunch such as lentils and chapati, beans and rice or spinach and ugali.



A homework hub, run by the teachers and in partnership with The King's Rugby Development Academy operates every evening and every Saturday morning. This provides a safe space conducive to learning. This has helped to improve the grades of children who would otherwise be unable to do homework at home in dark and difficult conditions.

All Primary children have to sit Ministry of Education tests every half term to track their progress. There has been a noticeable improvement in scores across all ages. In addition children are tracked according to their behaviour in order to maintain a high code of conduct in school and any absenteeism is followed up.

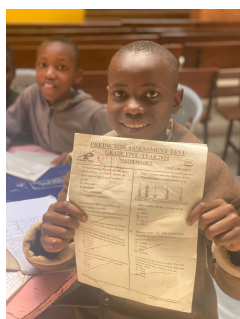


Children who score the highest in Grade 6 National exams are given the opportunity to attend a reputable Junior Secondary School called St Hannah's. The children that joined St Hannah's this year have been exemplary in academic standard and attitude. Some have been chosen for the football team which has given them much pride and one was selected as the captain.



The charity employs 46 Kenyans; a 19 teaching team, 14 Learning Support Assistants and 11 support staff, 1 accountant and 1 physiotherapist. These include specialist teachers for Sports, Art, English, Maths, Science, Kiswahili, Social Studies, Special Educational Needs and Hearing Impairment.

Most of the support staff are mothers selected from the Kibera community and the majority receive a school place for their child. The work gives them dignity, security and greater control of their lives. The work gives these mothers the opportunity to work alongside other mothers facing similar challenges, particularly those who have children with SEN, helping to counteract their social isolation and their children's isolation.

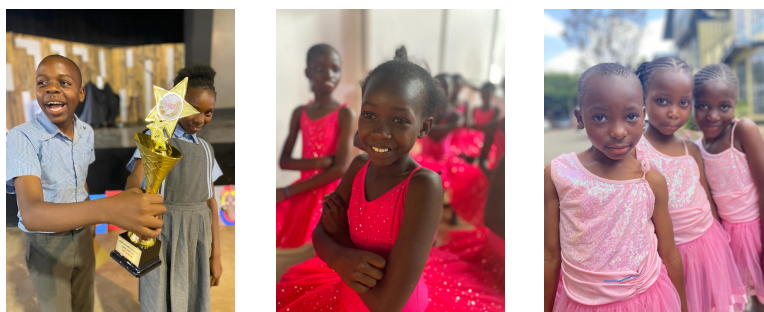




At Christmas the children enjoyed a Christmas party including acrobats and fire flame eaters and every kindergarten child received a soft toy and croc shoes for the youngest children.



Every Thursday Artists for Africa, an American funded charity, spent the afternoon with each class in the Primary school. The children experienced ballet, African contemporary dance, drama and music. They competed against other local schools and won first prize for an African contemporary dance.



### **Integrated provision for children challenged with Special Educational Needs SEN**

The quality of education and integrated learning for the children with hearing impairment and Special Educational Needs is unique within Kenya in terms of quality provided and inclusion. All of the children from Kibera with SEN have been isolated with no educational or social provision. Some of the mothers were struggling to carry their children to school and so a small van was hired to bring the children.

This year there were 18 children in the Zawadi Special Needs Class. Every week the children from the SEN class integrate with the youngest children in the kindergarten. They also enjoy swimming at a local pool accompanied by their mothers, teaching team and a physiotherapist. In addition a small group of children attend Riding for the Disabled every week to enhance their core strength and mobility.

Every day the children have access to 1:1 physiotherapy.

### **Integrated provision for Hearing Impaired Children**



This year, the unit for hearing impaired increased to 16 children. Most of the children have been issued with post aural hearing aids and been tested to assess the degree and type of hearing loss. The cost of the hearing aids was covered by individual donors. None of the children had received a formal assessment prior to joining the unit. Every month the children attend an audiology clinic to maintain the function of their hearing aids.

The children from the unit are integrated with hearing peers for dance, PE and art.

Every week a small group of the children from the unit also visit a local International school to join in with their afternoon curriculum. Both teachers in the unit are qualified to teach using Kenyan Sign Language.

Every Saturday a Sign Language Support Group for parents of the deaf and children meets in a church in Kibera. The purpose is to learn Kenyan Sign Language so that families can communicate together. In addition the group provides social support for mothers struggling to raise a deaf child. Parents and Learning Support Assistants attend.

The children visited the “Opportunity Factory” and met some adult deaf workers who are employed as artisans. The children enjoyed a pottery workshop and were very proud of their clay pots!

In total, 488 children have been provided with a good quality education for children aged between two and fourteen years between. This is as follows:

- 193 Kindergarten children
- 261 Primary children
- 16 Hearing Impaired - Profoundly Deaf children
- 18 Children with SEN

#### Nutritional impact:



**The Saturday Dinner Programme** This remains an essential provision for very vulnerable children. Since 2006, a Saturday Dinner programme has operated with our local team feeding up to 450 under 10 year olds. This fills an essential need to tackle hunger and malnutrition in the very young.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2022 “Many children under 5 years old are stunted or too short for their age. This is a sign of chronic undernutrition. Many children under age 5 are wasted (too thin for their height), which is a sign of acute undernutrition. Many children are also underweight, or too thin for their age.”

Hot meals provided **per year 229,572**

Hot meals provided **per month 19,131**

Hot meals provided **per week 4,414**

Hot meals provided **per day 882**



#### Extreme Need Provision:

Food packs: This year 35 families connected to the Lunchbowl Schools received crisis home food packs every month. These families were in acute need. Every food pack lasted for two weeks and provided one meal each day for each family member. These families had up to 8 members.



A food pack consists of maize flour, rice, sugar and oil. The families benefitting from the food packs were all connected to the Angel Kindergartens and the Good Samaritan Primary School. They were selected due to severity of need.

Emergency rents: On average emergency rents were provided to 25 families per month.

### **The Lunchbowl Network and The Lunchbowl Network Ltd**

The Lunchbowl Network Ltd UK partners with The Lunchbowl Network Kenya Ltd. This is a Kenyan registered charitable company. The Lunchbowl Network Kenya is incorporated and a registered Trust.

The financial donations have been achieved from the following:

### **UK volunteer team**

Based in the UK, the team give their time and energy to raise the profile and funds for The Lunchbowl Network.

### **UK schools**



### **World Wellbeing Week June 2024 - The Year of the Loving Lion.**

In June 2024, many schools joined again for the Lunchbowl campaign during World Wellbeing Week called "The Year of the Loving Lion". This promotes to UK children how giving is an essential part of their own wellbeing. UK school children had the opportunity to buy a soapstone rhino made in Kenya for £2.00.

In total, 9 schools have supported the charity this year. The donations ranged between £14 and £334.

### **A very special thank you to the following schools:**

All Saints C of E playgroup  
All Saints C of E Crystal Palace  
Dundonald Primary Merton  
Hatfield School  
Highfield Primary School  
Holy Trinity School Merton  
Joseph Hood School  
Morden Primary School  
St Boniface C of E Tooting

Total donations: This year £3,243 was raised through schools.  
Last year £10,629 was raised through schools.

### **Churches**

We are delighted to be Mission Partners with the following churches who have remained highly supportive: Christchurch New Malden, PCC All Saints Hampreston, PCC St Leonards Church of England, Amersham and St Pauls Church of England, Kingston Hill.

Thank you to every church for your kind support.

Total donations: £5,425.

### **Trusts**

Brothers Trust £10,000  
Bryan Guinness Trust: £3,000  
Carmela & R Pignatelli Foundation £2,500  
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust £2,000  
Mirianog Trust: £1,000  
Souter Charitable Trust: £5,000  
Sterry Family Foundation: £ 5,000  
The Collier Trust: £2,000  
The Tula Trust: £2,000

Total donations: £32,500.

We are deeply grateful to Mandy Cormack for her dedicated time and energy applying to Trusts and Foundations on behalf of The Lunchbowl Network.

### **Large donations**

15 private donations ranging between £500 to £10,000 were received. Total: £18,981. We are very grateful for every donation and respect the discreet manner in which these have been given.

### **Child donations**

121 children were sponsored in the two Lunchbowl schools by 82 sponsors. A total income of £37,234 was given. £1,240 of the income was given to buy Christmas presents.

### **Monthly donations**

10 donors have given specifically for the provision of food. Total £2,130  
6 donors have given specifically for for Angel Kindergarten and ACK Good Samaritan. Total £3,734  
11 donors have given to General funds. Total £3,053

### **Paypal donations**

9 donors gave to General funds. Total £2,486  
2 donors gave to the Saturday Food Programme. Total £463  
7 overseas donors gave to Child sponsorship. Total £2,997

We are so grateful to all our monthly donors and child sponsors whether you are individuals, schools or churches. Your commitment to these vulnerable children is a vital part of our provision and very much appreciated.

### **A Very Special Thanks:**

Our Volunteer Network: The dedicated core of the Lunchbowl team consists of Anna Kate Fuller, Jess Shadrach, Carolyn Green, Fran Turko, Heidi Gomes, Heike Paulson, Helen Masters, Jean Shipton, Jenny Stuart, Mandy Cormack, Hannah McGreevy, Jess Bridgland, Jenny Street, Pauline Collins, Selina Overy, Sue Stears and Wendy Clow.

The compassionate support and dedication of the whole Lunchbowl Team is highly valued. Together, the team in Kenya and the UK are helping to bring hope and change to a desperate situation. The whole team is greatly appreciated.

All of your wholehearted generosity of heart, time, energy and resources is deeply appreciated.

Sue Stears: The charity would like to express much gratitude to Sue Stears for her commitment, time and energy and not least her administrative and book keeping skills. Sue Stears tirelessly and thoughtfully administers all of the sponsorship programme for the kindergarten, primary and secondary school pupils. Her detailed financial expertise is highly valued and appreciated.



Finally, thank you to:

The Big Yellow Storage Company: We are always very grateful to The Big Yellow Storage Company for making it possible to store much of our event equipment and school resources for Kenya, including school shoes. Thank you very much, your support makes a big difference.

British Airways: For always giving generous baggage allowances to transport donations and educational equipment.

### **Lunchbowl Financial Management**

There are effective and appropriate financial and accounting systems in place. There is a segregation of responsibility such that all monies collected are counted by two designated individuals from the Lunchbowl Team

All donations are deposited into the bank by named regional team members. All gift aid forms are maintained by Mandy Cormack. All documentation is kept in compliance with data protection regulations. Monthly book keeping, receipts, bank statements and reconciliations of all monies debited and credited to the bank account are maintained on a monthly basis by Sue Stears. Monthly book keeping is also processed and checked by our accountants.

### **Present and future use of resource and team**

The Lunchbowl Network UK operates completely on a voluntary basis and consequently over **96 pence of every £1** raised reaches and impacts the orphaned and vulnerable children.



### **Reserves policy**

We currently have a no reserves policy. We focus on deploying funds as received for the uplifting of the poorest children.

No trustee or volunteer receives any financial remuneration or benefit from the charity. All visitors to Lunchbowl Network Kenya are self-funded.

*Sally & Stuart McGreevy*

Director & Trustees  
The Lunchbowl Network UK