


**CHRISTIAN
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Christian CARE Association

Annual Report 2011 - 12

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2012	2011
	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Legacies	697	39,902
External Grants	2,280	3,000
Donations	10,583	11,450
Fund-Raising Appeals	401	457
Interest Received	467	12
Gift Aid/Tax Rebates on Covenants	3,660	-
	-----	-----
Total Income	18,088	54,821
	=====	=====
Expenditure		
Direct Charitable Expenditure	(17,250)	(13,754)
	-----	-----
Net Incoming Unrestricted Funds	838	41,067
	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
External Grants	3,340	3,720
Donations	3,320	2,567
	-----	-----
	6,660	6,287
Expenditure	(6,872)	(6,388)
	-----	-----
Net Outgoing Restricted Funds	(212)	(101)
	=====	=====
Management and Administration	(3,837)	(4,445)
	-----	-----
NET INCOMING FUNDS	(3,211)	36,521
Total Funds brought forward	52,294	15,773
	-----	-----
Total Funds carried forward	49,083	52,294
	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2012

	2012	2011
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	7,847	10,187
CURRENT ASSETS		
Short Term Investments	25,087	25,000
Cash at Bank and in hand	10,835	17,107
Debtors and prepayments	5,314	-----
	-----	-----
	41,236	42,107
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	-	-
	41,236	42,107
	-----	-----
	49,083	52,294
	=====	=====
FUNDS		
General Fund	49,083	52,294
	-----	-----
	49,083	52,294
	=====	=====

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This is an extract from the full accounts available at the Annual General Meeting on 11 October 2012 or by application to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.

In the year to 31 March 2012, the total income of the charity amounted to £24,748 compared with the previous year's income of £61,108. £39,902 of last year's income was the result of two very generous legacies and net of these, the charity's income last year was £21,206. The increase this year is due to our gift aid claim (£3,660) and I am pleased to report that our gift aid position is now completely up to date. We continue to be most grateful to those individuals and organisations which support our work year on year as well as those donating for the first time, enabling the charity to maintain its level of recurring income. Once again we thank the Charles Skey Charitable Trust for its support and Help a Capital Child which financed the day's outing to Littlehampton. Annual expenditure of £27,959 was in excess of the previous year's expenditure of £24,587. This is indicative of the more difficult economic times in which we live; and the Executive Committee continues to balance the need to control expenditure with its desire to support those in need.

At 31 March 2012, the funds of the charity were £49,083, a slight reduction on last year's figure of £52,294. However, as a result of the legacies we feel able to 'dip into' our reserves to support the families in genuine hardship who approach us, often as a last resort. The funds are made up of cash deposits and the van which has enabled the furniture project to continue. We are conscious that the prospects for the most vulnerable in society are unlikely to improve in the near future and so the Executive Committee continues to look for new sources of funding, realising that external grants are increasingly difficult to find.

Ann Thimont, Honorary Treasurer

PIRATES PARTY 2012

'Ahoy me hearties and welcome aboard our pirate ship!'

Our annual party took place on 28 January and from 3pm the halls at Martin Way Methodist Church were a hive of activity. Children were soon engaged in a wide variety of activities including face painting, singing and games. A team of students from Wimbledon High School together with their teacher, Andrew Low, had this well in hand and parents were able to sit back, relax and chat to each other, knowing their children were having a thoroughly good time.

Ann Thimont and her team of willing helpers had been very busy in the kitchen and by 4.30 everyone was tucking in to a delicious spread. The pizzas, which had been donated by one of our parents, were extremely popular with the children and the cakes made by the girls at Wimbledon High School were a real treat! We were then off into the church for a performance of *Salty Sue and the Stolen Treasure Map* by the theatre group TITCH. We all climbed aboard the Jammy Dodger for a swashbuckling adventure. This was enjoyed by adults and children alike.

Salty Sue and One-eyed Wilma (an evil pirate...but very popular with the children!) joined us all back in the main hall to help with the distribution of the gifts. These had been generously donated by the Junior Department of Wimbledon High School, Godalming Baptist Church, Martin Way Methodist Church and Wimbledon Salvation Army. The children all sat and waited with eager anticipation for their names to be called. The clock had crept around to 6.30 and the drivers were arriving to take everyone home. It was time to say goodbye to friends with promises of 'See you again next year!'

As always we are extremely grateful to Martin Way Methodist Church for the use of their premises, to the St John's Ambulance Team for being there in case of emergencies, to Gloria Ball for organising her team of volunteer drivers and to all the Christian Care volunteers. Everyone contributed to make this a day to remember.

Sue Boyd

FAMILY SUPPORT

Much of the support we provide to families is in the form of the most fundamental of necessities - food. Increasingly those that are referred to us are hungry. It used to be the case that the majority of such families were asylum seekers who could not obtain benefits and depended on the fragile support of their community. Now a growing number of those we help are referred by Social Care or the NHS. These include families whose benefits have been stopped or delayed, including those who are chronically sick and disabled, and families whose benefits are insufficient to meet their living costs, often because they have fallen into debt.

Just before Christmas we had a desperate plea from a nurse on behalf of a client with a baby living in one room who had no support at all. On Christmas Eve a Christian Care volunteer arrived with food for a week, nappies, warm baby clothes - and Christmas presents for mother and baby; at the New Year another visitor arrived with a second food parcel. We took groceries and fresh food to a mother and son when their Family Support Worker was distressed that they had virtually no food in the house in advance of the 5 day Diamond Jubilee holiday weekend. 'Food insecurity' is a term applied to this type of desperate situation and by regular food deliveries we try to allay the fear that parents feel when they have no way of providing for their children. Sometimes we underestimate the level of need. On receiving his fortnightly food donation, one father of five insisted on serving his shopper with tea and biscuits, then said quietly, 'We have not eaten for two days.'

We have been able to collect emergency food parcels from a new venture, the Foodbank at the Hope Centre at Elim Pentecostal Church; we deliver this food to those who cannot afford the bus fares to get to the centre. But our aim is different - we promise 'food security' over a period of time. In order to be able to do this, we are so grateful for the donations of groceries from a number of local churches - St John Fisher, Martin Way Methodist, Merton Park Baptist, St Mary the Virgin, St Barnabas, and the Parish of St Helier - as well as from Wimbledon High School.

Our work in this area is literally vital for these families; their thanks and relief on receiving our donations are a real testimony to the help we provide. One mother told us, 'You are our saviour!' Another, whom we had helped for a considerable length of time, once she had managed to get back on her feet, gave £10 for another family in need as a token of gratitude.

Ann Thimont

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

*'Go it alone,
Go it alone,
There is no need
To go it alone.'*

These words from the Passion Play *A Man Dies* encapsulate for me the spirit of Christian Care.

Bert Hyde, our Founder, always said that befriending was the very heart of our work. Essentially what we are doing when we link a volunteer with an individual or a family is saying to them *'There is no need to go it alone.'* It is an offering of time to be alongside them through a sudden crisis or maybe over several months, even years. The needs of our clients are very varied, for example a diagnosis of cancer, a threatened eviction, a marriage break-up, an unresolved immigration problem, redundancy, and the numbers have risen significantly this year. For this reason we have been very pleased to welcome two new befrienders, Lesley Morrison and Neville Squires, who also attends the Merton Asylum Welcome drop-in as one of our representatives.

Moving house can be a very stressful experience for anyone, but when you must take over a property in a matter of days and have very limited resources it can be overwhelming. Eighteen families helped by the Furniture Project this year needed complete house furnishings and to know that they did not have to *'go it alone'* was such a relief. Both the collections of second hand furniture and the deliveries have more than doubled this year, and the three teams have been very busy. They have been joined by Ciaran Sheahan and Pete Boyd, with Michael Lawlor, our Administrator, also helping out. We really appreciate the good

working relationship we have with Thames Valley Housing who have made a further grant of £2000 to us from their Community Chest and also encourage staff and tenants to donate furniture.

As our volunteers are faced with challenging situations, it is important they do not feel that they have to shoulder heavy burdens *alone*, and we have been developing ways of strengthening the support and training we offer. We are so grateful that we can call upon other organisations, statutory and third sector, for advice and guidance, and we acknowledge in particular help given by the Commonsense Trust at Pollards Hill. We feel part of a much wider team committed to supporting the most vulnerable families in Merton.

It is encouraging to know that both workers, as well as clients, have a sense of belonging to the Christian Care 'family'. So we were saddened to learn of the death of John Hutchinson, former secretary to the Sub-committee for the Homeless, last December and to say farewell last October to Geoff Coyne, our Vice Chair, whose 20 years of service to the charity we gratefully acknowledge. John Golden has taken on this latter role and we have welcomed Sue Boyd and, more recently, Jane Savill to fill the vacancies on the Executive Committee. The Christian Care network reaches not only across the borough but far beyond with our former volunteers and supporters keeping in touch from as far away as Perth, Knaresborough, Bristol and Dublin. Thank you all for your concern for the work, your generosity and your prayers. This is God's work and we do not *'go it alone.'*

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Thick

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT 31 MARCH 2012

Gillian Thick	Chair
John Golden	Vice-Chair
Pat Spencer	Hon Secretary
Ann Thimont	Hon Treasurer
Sylvia Baxter	
Sue Boyd	
Dr Ann Phillips	
Jane Savill	
Gwen Wildman	
The Revd Robert Wright	

Helping Families in Need in the London Borough of Merton

IN 2011-2012 WE SUPPORTED 101 FAMILIES

- 51** families were befriended long and short term by volunteers
- 54** households were aided by the Furniture Project through 116 deliveries
- 29** families received long-term subsistence or emergency food parcels
- 115** parents and children accepted invitations to the New Year party
- 32** children went on the outing to Littlehampton
- 22** young people went to Falcon Camps
- 2** families went for a holiday at Butlins in Bognor Regis