

Company registration number: 05717237
Charity registration number: 1122809

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Period from 29 February 2008 to 28 February 2009

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited
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The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited
Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited	
Charity registration number	1122809	
Company registration number	05717237	
Principal office	The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited 20 Rosebarn Close Burgess Hill West Sussex RH15 0HN	
Registered office	Burnett Rae & Co. Limited The Ponds Court High Street South Moreton Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 9AG	
Trustees	L W Baker S A Rowland C G Paxman R Scott (Appointed 11 November 2008) R G Whaite (Appointed 19 June 2008) D Phillips (Appointed 19 June 2008) G Pinner (Resigned 19 June 2008) J Burnett Rae (Resigned 1 September 2008)	
Secretaries	Burnett Rae & Co Limited (Appointed 1 September 2008) J Burnett Rae (Resigned 16 September 2008)	

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited
Reference and Administrative Details

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
Burgess Hill
Lewes Area Branches 1
Lewes
East Sussex

NatWest
Launceston Branch
14 Westgate Street
Launceston
Cornwall

Accountant

Rickard Keen LLP
Chartered Accountants
7-11 Nelson Street
Southend-on-Sea
Essex
SS1 1EH

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited

Trustees' Report

The Council of Management have pleasure in presenting their report and the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 28th February 2009.

The Charity is new. On 15th February 2008, the Charity's application was accepted by the Charity Commissioners and it was registered with number 1122809.

Activities, achievements and performance

The Charity's main work during the year – its first full year of operation - was to support and raise funds for the Molly & Paul Childcare Foundation (M&PCCF) of Uganda. This is a Non-Governmental Organisation (corresponding to a UK charity), with origins 25 years ago, which today runs a group of schools, orphanages, a farm college, and a clinic in Southern Uganda, providing education, food, accommodation and basic healthcare for over 2,500 children, many of whom are orphans or otherwise destitute. In addition to financial support, professional support and advice were provided to M&PCCF, especially in the fields of teaching, agriculture, and management and accounting.

Significant new funds were generated by the autumn 2008 tour of the UK by the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir, comprising some 20 pupils drawn from the M&PCCF schools, plus accompanying teachers and choir-leader. Building on the foundations of the 2007 tour, the Charity helped organise this tour, and its Trustees and volunteers across the country acted as hosts for the children and teachers of the M&PCCF. We co-ordinated visits of the Choir to UK schools to carry out educational workshops in African music, dance, crafts and culture, and arranged concerts and performances to assist in our fundraising on behalf of M&PCCF. The success of the Choir's tour could not have been achieved without the dedication and hard work of a large number of volunteers across the country and the Council would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the volunteers giving freely of their time, and at the same time to thank all the generous donors to the work in Uganda.

Further information on the work of the Charity and of the M&PCCF can be found at their respective websites:

<http://www.pearlofafrica.org.uk/>

<http://www.mollyandpaul.org/>

The Charity recognised its limitations as a young and small body: the plan for this year was to develop and increase the professional and financial support the Charity can provide to M&PCCF. This plan was successfully implemented. The capacities of the respective organisations in the UK and Uganda were built up; in Uganda this included training additional staff in management and accounting practices. The M&PCCF Clinic overhauled and expanded its record-keeping system, and worked in conjunction with a government scheme relating to AIDS. In the UK, steps were taken to expand the Council of Management, to increase the range of skills and personnel available; to expand the network of volunteers, again to increase the resources available; and to help work up and analyse the business cases for a number of M&PCCF's projects. The M&PCCF schools have all adopted the principles of 'TAP' (Transparency; Accountability; and Participation), and we have seen big improvements in regular (monthly) reporting, budgeting, and accounting. The procedure, which is running smoothly, is that the Charity makes transfers of funds to Uganda only in accordance with agreed, detailed budgets, and only after the individual schools have submitted their monthly report and accounts.

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited

Trustees' Report

For the Ugandan economy as a whole, some 40% is dependent on grant aid from outside. Turning from the national economy to the income of M&PCCF, nearer 30% (at 28th February 2008) was dependent on grant aid. Whilst this is a commendable record, M&PCCF's ambition is ultimately to become self-sufficient, and it is an objective of the Charity to assist M&PCCF in these improvements. For example, today the Farm College has resources to cultivate only a portion of the land it already holds (through past donations); a priority is to help the Farm College grow maize and other crops as foodstuffs for the children cared for by M&PCCF, and to generate income, e.g. by growing suitable cash crops. During the year, the Farm College prepared business cases for and were able to start some pilot schemes, preparing land for cultivation of maize and coffee, and planting initial quantities of crops. In view of the problems of supply of potable water, initiatives are also under-way to increase rainwater collection from roofs of school buildings.

The future

Building on the success of, and warm reception accorded to, the Choir in previous tours of the UK, early planning has begun for a UK tour by the Choir to start in September 2010. (There had been early plans to arrange a tour for autumn 2009, but these hopes were dashed, not least by a late, unannounced official change in the interpretation of the rules, which meant that the necessary visas could not have been granted to certain of the choir members). The Choir's tour is vitally important in several ways - not least in promoting awareness of M&PCCF's work and in generating donations from a growing number of loyal supporters in the UK - but the Choir tour alone is not the whole answer to funding. Hence the Charity began investigating additional sources of funding with the aim of forming one or several key partnerships. One of these projects, started during the year, was for growing fruit trees in collaboration with an international body focusing on the role of forests in sustaining livelihoods in areas of extreme poverty; similar collaborations with other bodies are planned.

Objectives, Structure, Governance, and Management

The chief objects of the Charity are to support schoolchildren in Uganda, especially those vulnerable children whose lives are affected by poverty or the AIDS epidemic, and to advance their education.

The Registered Charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee (incorporated in England and Wales) and governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 21 February 2006.

The direction of the Charity's affairs and administration of its activities are undertaken by a Council of Management. It meets regularly. The members of the Council are the Charity's Trustees and the Directors for the purposes of company law. Presently six in number (at 28 February 2009), the Trustees are appointed under the Articles of Association and are members of the Charity who guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding-up. They have no beneficial interest in the Charity.

The Trustees who served during the year and since are:

L. W. Baker (appointed 24/6/2007)

S Rowland (appointed 24/6/2007)

G Pinner, Hon. Treasurer (& Trustee 05/01/2008 - 19/06/2008)

J Burnett Rae, Hon. Secretary (05/01/08 - 16/09/08) (& Trustee 05/01/2008 - 01/09/2008)

C Paxman (appointed 25/02/2008)

D A Philips (appointed 19/6/2008)

R G Whaite, Chairman (appointed 19/6/2008)

R Scott (appointed 11/11/2008)

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited

Trustees' Report

The Trustees maintain their direct involvement in the work of the Charity, which has had no paid employees and has relied entirely on supporters working on a voluntary basis, including the Trustees. In other words, those working at the Charity have borne their own expenses, such that every pound raised by the Charity is a pound transferred to Uganda for the beneficiaries (i.e. apart from just the bank charges for those bank transfers), without deduction of administrative expenses incurred by the Charity.

The present Trustees are fully informed of the Charity's aims and objectives and aware of their responsibilities. The scope of responsibilities is reviewed and discussed regularly at Trustees' meetings. There is a basic induction process for incoming Trustees; for future appointments to the Council of Management a more extensive induction programme is being developed, together with a framework for continuing training.

Financial review, Risks, and Reserves

As at 28th February 2009 the Charity held restricted funds of £ 114,060 and had unrestricted funds of £ 45. (These restricted funds were awaiting transfer to Uganda, to the M&PCCF and the respective schools – see further below).

Restricted funds are, typically, moneys donated for a specific purpose within the context of the M&PCCF: for example, a gift to cover the salary of a teacher at a specified school; or a bursary covering the cost of educating a pupil at one of the schools. The Council of Management's policy is that all unrestricted funds should, as far as possible, be used to support the Molly & Paul Foundation Schools in Uganda. Whilst most funds raised in the UK are transferred direct to Uganda, the Charity also (in the first instance) meets certain expenses in the UK associated with the visits of the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir (such as transport costs). These Choir tours raise funds: the direct expenses of the tours are deducted before the balance is transferred to Uganda for the work there.

The Trustees have reviewed the risks to which the Charity is exposed and have implemented a risk management strategy that comprises:-

1. A regular review of the risks the Charity may face;
2. The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified; and
3. The implementation of procedures to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of those risks materialise.

Statement of the Charity's reserves policy. Because the Charity does not generally incur liabilities and endeavours to donate all of its income to its beneficiaries in Uganda, the level of unrestricted reserves is kept to a minimum. The restricted reserve is income that has yet to be distributed to the beneficiaries in Uganda for whom it has been donated.

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited
Trustees' Report

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board (Council) and signed on its behalf by:

.....

R G Whaite
Trustee

Date:.....

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Trustees are required by company law to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial period and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the period ending on that date. In preparing those financial statements, trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited

I report on the accounts of the company for the period ended 28 February 2009, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 you as trustees concerning any 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:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 221 of the Companies Act 1985; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 226 of the Companies Act 1985 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
W J GOULD
Rickard Keen LLP
Chartered Accountants
Date:.....

Chartered Accountants
7-11 Nelson Street
Southend-on-Sea
Essex
SS1 1EH

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited
Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)
for the Period Ended 28 February 2009

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 29 February 2008 to 28 February 2009	Total Funds 1 March 2007 to 28 February 2008
Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	250	215,363	215,613	77,914
Total incoming resources	<u>250</u>	<u>215,363</u>	<u>215,613</u>	<u>77,914</u>
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds				
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	125,658	125,658	53,589
Governance costs	175	-	175	-
Total resources expended	<u>175</u>	<u>125,658</u>	<u>125,833</u>	<u>53,589</u>
Net movements in funds	75	89,705	89,780	24,325
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	(30)	24,355	24,325	-
Total funds carried forward	<u>45</u>	<u>114,060</u>	<u>114,105</u>	<u>24,325</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited
Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2009

		28 February 2009		28 February 2008	
Note	£	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	6	14,043		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		100,062		24,325	
			114,105		24,325
Net assets					
			114,105		24,325
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds					
			114,060		24,355
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted income funds			45		(30)
Total charity funds			114,105		24,325

For the financial period ended 28 February 2009, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 249A(2) of the Companies Act 1985; and no notice has been deposited under section 249B(2) requesting an audit. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Act and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the period and of its income and expenditure for the financial period in accordance with the requirements of section 226 and which otherwise comply with the Companies Act 1985, so far as applicable to the charity.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by:

.....

R G Whaite
Trustee

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 28 February 2009

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005)', issued in March 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 1985.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 9.

Incoming resources

Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the statement of financial activities at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating funds are the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 28 February 2009

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2 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 29 February 2008 to 28 February 2009 £	Total Funds 1 March 2007 to 28 February 2008 £
Donations and legacies				
Donations and gifts	250	201,320	201,570	77,914
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	-	14,043	14,043	-
	<u>250</u>	<u>215,363</u>	<u>215,613</u>	<u>77,914</u>

3 Total resources expended

	Donations and legacies £	Governance £	Total £
Direct costs			
Charitable expenditure	125,658	-	125,658
Governance	-	175	175
	<u>125,658</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>125,833</u>

4 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No Trustees received any remuneration and the Trustees paid for their own expenses during the year.

5 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from taxation.

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 28 February 2009

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6 Debtors

	28 February 2009 £	28 February 2008 £
Gift aid	<u>14,043</u>	<u>-</u>

7 Members' liability

None of the Trustees have a beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the Charity who guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of winding up.

8 Related parties

Related party transactions

During the year Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity made the following donations to the Charity:

L W Baker £515.00
S A Rowland £261.00
R G Whaite £8,000.00
C G Paxman £1,380.00

9 Analysis of funds

	At 29 February 2008 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 28 February 2009 £
General Funds				
Unrestricted income fund	<u>(30)</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>(175)</u>	<u>45</u>
Restricted Funds				
Molly & Paul Childcare Foundation	23,135	213,203	(125,658)	110,680
Individual beneficiaries	<u>1,220</u>	<u>2,160</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,380</u>
	<u>24,355</u>	<u>215,363</u>	<u>(125,658)</u>	<u>114,060</u>
	<u>24,325</u>	<u>215,613</u>	<u>(125,833)</u>	<u>114,105</u>

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir Limited
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 28 February 2009

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10 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 28 February 2009	Total Funds 28 February 2008
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	45	114,060	114,105	24,325
Net assets	<u>45</u>	<u>114,060</u>	<u>114,105</u>	<u>24,325</u>