Hope Begins

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Charity number: 1207705
Registered address: 16 Majendie Road, London, SE18 7QB

Trustees

- Gareth Johns – Chair
- Rachel Macnamara – Treasurer
- Timothy Reynolds – Secretary

The trustees are responsible for the overall governance and management of Hope Begins and for ensuring that the charity operates in accordance with its charitable purposes.

Objectives and Activities

Hope Begins is committed to helping children affected by poverty to access the support, education and opportunities they need to thrive and build a better future.

The charity works in partnership with Naomi's Village, a children's home, preschool and school in Kenya. Through this partnership, Hope Begins provides financial support towards the care, education and development of children at Naomi's Village.

A key part of the charity's work is its child sponsorship programme. Sponsorship support helps provide children with access to quality education, school transportation, books, educational supplies and school uniforms. Sponsored children also benefit from nutritious meals, regular medical evaluations, and spiritual care and development.

Achievements and Performance During 2025

2025 was a year of encouraging growth for Hope Begins, both in the number of children supported through sponsorship and in the charity's wider supporter network.

At the beginning of the year, Hope Begins had 13 monthly child sponsors supporting 12 children, generating £558 per month including Gift Aid. By the end of the year, this had increased to 20 monthly sponsors supporting 19 children, with monthly sponsorship income increasing to £754, including Gift Aid.

During the year, Hope Begins received a total of £17,938 in income, enabling the charity to make a significant contribution towards the care and education of children at Naomi's Village.

A total of £12,760 was sent directly to Naomi's Village during 2025 to support the care, education and development of children.

Fundraising and Community Engagement

The charity benefited from several fundraising activities and community initiatives during 2025, including:

- A HYROX fundraising event
- Donations by St Stephen's Church of England Primary School community following Hope Begins presenting at a school assembly
- Christmas and birthday fundraising
- A UK fundraising event connected with the Naomi's Village 5K
- A proportion of one-off donations helped part-fund the attendance of 16 Cornerstone students at a Karate Tournament in Rwanda

Hope Begins also maintained and developed relationships with churches and schools during the year, including partnerships with Brook Lane Community Church and All Saints Church, and a school partnership with St Stephen's Church of England Primary School.

Hope Begins was particularly pleased to welcome five sponsors and their families from the UK to Kenya, enabling them to visit their sponsored children at Naomi's Village in person. Two additional sponsors began supporting children through Hope Begins after meeting them personally at Naomi's Village.

A UK secondary school also visited Cornerstone Preparatory Academy, providing an opportunity for greater engagement between UK supporters and the work taking place in Kenya.

In December 2025, Hope Begins sent its first newsletter to 114 recipients, providing supporters with updates about the charity's work and the children and communities it supports.

Financial Review

Financial figures in this report are stated to the nearest pound unless otherwise indicated.

Hope Begins' total income for the year was £17,938.

The income was made up as follows:

Source of income	Amount
Child sponsorship	£8,051
Fundraising	£835
Christmas fund	£156
Other donations	£8,896
Total income	**£17,938**

Total expenditure during the year was £12,971, of which £12,760 was transferred to support Naomi's Village.

The principal source of income was donations and child sponsorship, while the principal area of expenditure was financial support provided to Naomi's Village.

At 31st December 2025, Hope Begins held £6,300 in its bank account, compared with £1,332 at the end of 2024. The increase primarily reflects the surplus of income over expenditure generated during the year.

As part of Hope Begins' commitment to good stewardship and financial transparency, for every pound received from child sponsorship and one-off donations, 85% is used for charitable activities and 15% is retained for the Charity's support and administration costs. The amount retained for support costs contributes towards the running and administration of the charity and helps Hope Begins operate sustainably and continue to further its charitable purposes.

The trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be sound. The charity experienced encouraging growth during the year, particularly in the number of regular child sponsors and the level of support received from individuals, churches and schools.

The trustees keep the level and purpose of reserves under regular review and aim to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet the charity's ongoing commitments, while ensuring that the charity's resources are managed responsibly and used effectively to further its charitable purposes.

Review of Objectives for 2025

The trustees established a number of objectives for 2025. These included:

- Increasing the number of monthly child sponsors to at least 25.
- Increasing regular monthly donations to £1,000.
- Securing a UK church partnership to broaden community engagement.
- Launching a regular newsletter to strengthen communication with supporters.

Progress Against Objectives

Although the target of 25 sponsors was not reached, the number of monthly child sponsors increased from 13 to 20, representing significant growth during the year.

Regular monthly donations also increased, although the target of £1,000 per month was not reached by the end of the year.

Hope Begins maintained church relationships with Brook Lane Community Church and All Saints Church, strengthening Hope Begins' links with UK churches and communities.

A school partnership was also established with St Stephen's Church of England Primary School, which subsequently raised more than £2,000 for Hope Begins.

The charity successfully launched its first newsletter in December 2025, which was sent to 114 recipients.

Overall, the trustees consider 2025 to have been a positive year of development for Hope Begins, with progress made across sponsorship, fundraising, community engagement and supporter communication.

Plans and Objectives for 2026 and 2027

The trustees intend to build on the progress made during 2025 while continuing to develop the charity in a sustainable manner.

Objective	**2026**	**2027**
Monthly child sponsors	25	35
Regular monthly donations	£1,000	£1,300
Churches/events at which Hope Begins shares about its work	2	4
Supporter newsletter	Annual newsletter	Two newsletters per year
Grant funding	Apply for and secure grant funding	Continue to develop grant funding opportunities

The trustees will continue to focus on growing the child sponsorship programme, developing relationships with churches, schools and other community groups, increasing regular donations and improving communication with supporters.

The charity will also explore appropriate grant funding opportunities to diversify its income and increase the level of support it can provide to Naomi's Village.

Risk Management and Governance

The trustees recognise their responsibility for ensuring that the charity is appropriately managed and that its activities remain focused on its charitable purposes.

The trustees regularly review the charity's finances, fundraising activities, and relationship with Naomi's Village. They also seek to ensure that funds are transferred and used appropriately and that the charity operates in a responsible and sustainable manner.

As a relatively new charity, the trustees will continue to develop appropriate policies, procedures and governance arrangements as the organisation grows.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable requirements.

The trustees are also responsible for maintaining proper financial records and for safeguarding the assets of the charity. They are responsible for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities and for ensuring that the charity's funds are used in accordance with its charitable purposes.

Approval

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the trustees of Hope Begins on 8 October 2026 and signed electronically on their behalf by:

Gareth Johns

Gareth Johns

Chair, Hope Begins

Hope Begins - SOFA

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Notes
Income				
Child Sponsorship		8,050.63	8,050.63	
5k & Hyrox Fundraiser	835.87		835.87	
Christmas Fund		156.02	156.02	
Other Income	8,895.55		8,895.55	
TOTAL INCOME	**9,731.42**	**8,206.65**	**17,938.07**	
Expenditure				
Grants to Leap/CPA/Naomi's Village	6,028.21	6,731.93	12,760.14	
Other Expenditure	210.53		210.53	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**6,238.74**	**6,731.93**	**12,970.67**	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**3,492.68**	**1,474.72**	**4,967.40**	
Opening Balance	1,332.34	0.00	1,332.34	
Transfers between funds	1,187.99	-1,187.99	0.00	
Closing Fund Balances	**6,013.01**	**286.73**	**6,299.74**	
Assets at Year End				
Cash	6,300.12			
Debtors (stewardship)	0.00			
Liabilities (NV & Cornerstone				
TOTAL ASSETS	**6,300.12**	0.38		