

"HELPING HAND"

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Principal Activity

The objects of the charity are exclusively charitable being for the benefit of patients by means of the advancement of their health care needs.

Principal Office

3rd Floor
Children's Hospital
180 Falls Road
Belfast BT12 6BE

Structure, Governance and Management

The Helping Hand Charity was established in 1997 by the medical staff at the Children's Hospital, with the single aim of helping the children in their care. The hospital has been caring for children since 1873 and now provides most of the paediatric regional specialities for Northern Ireland.

Board of Trustees

Helping Hand, a registered charity, is managed by a Board of Trustees, which meets on a regular basis, chaired by Mr Ivan Martin.

Administration

The organisation and management activities of the charity are undertaken by the fundraiser, Mr Nigel Kearney, with the assistance of an extra person who is paid an hourly rate. All decisions in respect of the day-to-day affairs of the society are taken by the Charity through its Board of Trustees at committee meetings.

Independent Examiner

TaxAssist Accountants provide an independent examination of the annual accounts and act as advisors when required.

Objectives and Activities

The stated aims and objectives of the charity are --

- To provide the best equipment to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children;
- Fund research and education into children's illnesses; and
- To support the immediate needs of children and their parents.

Helping Hand has assisted in the continued provision of new medical equipment and provision of items to enhance and improve the patient and parental experience. The charity is also committed to continuing to assist in the provision of much needed equipment in various departments.

The charity will continue to support or fund staff to attend courses to enhance their ability to improve the care of patients and their families.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (cont'd)

Achievements and Performance

During 2023 we continued to work closely with local and national companies such as Gordons Chemists, Andor Technology, Spirit AeroSystems, Sig Ireland, Thales Defense Systems, Shield Accident Management and ASB Technical Services who all ran a series of events throughout the year with their employees to raise funds for the hospital.

Regular supporters Willie Nugent, Stinfield Nursery, Portlaur, Surf School, the Cullen family and Malton family all organised events again this year to raise funds.

New events in 2023 were the Drift Aid car event at the Titanic Belfast, several mountain challenges including a Six Peak Hike in the Mourne by the Stokes family, an ascent of Croagh Patrick by the Cummings family and a fire for Helping Hand, a climb to Everest Base Camp where Vanessa Wynn proudly flew the H&H flag. Throughout 2023 we worked closely with Scott Carson, the Mayor of Lichum and Castleknock City Council and his team who ran a series of events including a Colour Run, Teds team's picnic, White Food Festival, a Golf Day and several theme days around Lichum and managed to raise a fantastic €35,000.

H&H trustee Louise Beggs dedicated her year as Lady Captain of Royal Belfast Golf Club to raising funds and we are indebted to her for her efforts.

We again had the support of local churches, small businesses and community groups as well as numerous families whose children attended the hospital who came on board to support the charity.

With the funds raised we were able to support many projects around the hospital including a joint project to refurbish the glass corridor garden area which is now open to access for patients and families and provides a safe outdoor area for patients to relax and get some fresh air.

We continue to support the Commit to Fit programme, the Bereavement group, adolescent week and the Renal units annual transplant games.

We have committed to an annual budget of €20,000 to enable the play department to provide their support services throughout the hospital, purchased an Ultrasound scanner for PICU, TV's for Allen ward, a V-Create visual diagnostic management and decision making system for the Neurology department and a similar system for the Radiology team as well as a new Defibrillator training system for the Sim Ed department.

Major spend items as follows:-

Commit to Fit programme	- £5,065
Adolescent week	- £2,100
Play department	- £30,000
Transplant games	- £1,061
Stargazer beds - Short stay	- £5,816
Garden project	- £24,000
Ultrasound scanner	- £42,500
Sim Ed defibrillator	- £9,080
V-Create system, Neurology Dept	- £8,100
I-pad and software, Radiology	- £7,795
TV's - Allen Ward	- £3,290

Other achievements

As planned, we were able to fund the Horizons bereavement programme to assist families who a lost a child. This programme is run by the NI Hospice charity at a cost of £80,000. Payment for this has been made by Helping Hand and will appear in the accounts for 2024.

Similarly, three new ultrasound scanners have been provided to the Theatres at a cost of £117,000 and this will also appear in next year's accounts.

Results

The results for the financial year are fully set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 6.

Trustees

The trustees of the Charity during the year were as follows:

Mr I Martin (Chairman)
Dr L Sweeny (Hon Secretary)
Dr P Jackson (Hon Treasurer)
Mr A Bailie
Mrs S Baker
Mrs L Beggs
Dr S Christie
Mrs J McKinstry
Ms B Moneypenny (Ladies League)
Mrs B Reid
Dr M Reid
Dr A Reid
J Stephens
Prof M Shields
Mr C Bradley
G Welby
J O'Rourke
H Jackson

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial period in line with recommendations set out in 'The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015' which give a true and fair view of the assets and liabilities of the Charity and of its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Accountants

A resolution proposing the reappointment of TaxAssist Accountants, as accountants will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board of Trustees


Chairperson

Date: 22/08/2024