



Annual report 2016

Summary of our achievements in 2016.

We have continued to work with Green Olive Foundation Kenya to distribute grants to University and High School students, and to the Musingu Friends Church Widows group. During the year Green Olive Foundation has administered on our behalf the distribution of funds directly to a total of 15 University Students and 10 High School Students, and through Musingu Church Widows Group partial support for eight further young people in High School.

We took on one new university student in January 2016 and a further four students in September. Two university students and 6 High School students graduated at the end of 2016. In December we accepted applications from three young primary school leavers for funding to take up High School places starting in January 2017

Extracts from a student's message:

I am writing this letter to express my sincere gratitude for the tremendous support that you have provided me through my four year degree studies. I am sincerely honored. Thank you for your generosity which has allowed my studies to be a success.

As I have completed my education at Moi University, I am very thankful for receiving your thoughtful gift. And my graduation will be next year, 2017, I will let you know when the date and month will be confirmed.

Because of your support; spiritually, mentally, financial and the investment in my studies, I am looking forward to a brighter future I hope that one day I could have a chance to help others, as you have helped me.

We have identified that a key element in the Green Olive programme is mentoring for young people still in primary school, and as they progress through High School and University. This is a strength of the Green Olive Foundation approach: Green Olive Board members, former students and indeed current students have all been actively engaged in mentoring in the local community. We provided financial support for all the

University Students to get together for a day workshop in Kakamega in June. This day event was an initiative of the students themselves who, following a similar day organised for them in 2015 by visiting Green Olive Trust volunteers, had established a WhatsApp group for mutual support. We were happy to respond to their request for financial assistance with this venture. They also invited as guests former students who could speak from their experience. They plan to fund future such workshops through their own regular contributions and local fundraising. Extract from the report of the workshop received from the students:

“Students had a couple of projects they wish to start running beginning in January 2017. Meanwhile, we have started making monthly contribution towards the project capital. We wish by the end of this year we will have gathered enough to set us going. Important topics that were addressed that directly were very impactful to the students were: i. The mind of a focused student. ii. Career and profession dynamics. iii. Importance of giving back to the community. iv. Maximizing on the available opportunities. v. How to be an exemplary resourceful individual within the pressures of the society. vi. Being a proactive and interactive person. vii. Developing a purposeful and focused life. viii. Nurturing good values, virtues and attitude”



Graduation day

We were very pleased that as a result of the visit by one of our Trustees in 2015 we were able to help an initiative by Oscar Shamalla, Pharmacist, who is a former Green

Olive beneficiary, and current board member of Green Olive Foundation Kenya, to set up an “eye camp” in the local area where many people had not previously had access to eye tests or treatment. We forged the necessary links with a UK based charity, SightAid International, for a specialist UK and Kenyan team of volunteers to visit for a two week period in February 2016. More than 800 people were provided with spectacles and other cases of more complex need were identified and referred for more specialist treatment. Two of our current students were also involved as volunteers. This project was funded by SightAid International and local Kenyan funds but would not have happened without the Green Olive initiative.

Financial activities

See Treasurer’s Report

We aim to ensure reserves sufficient to cover fees for at least one year of operation and budget to ensure that we can see all students through to the end of the current course of study. However we have no control over fluctuating exchange rates and saw the £ UK weaken significantly against the Kenyan shilling in 2016.

We have four main sources of income:

- Regular donations through standing orders (8 standing orders in place at the end of 2016) – this is the primary and most reliable source of funding
- One-off donations
- Fundraising events
- Gift Aid on all eligible donations

Fundraising in 2016

- In March 2016 a musical soiree was organised by friends of Green Olive. We were grateful for the lovely music, the funds raised on the night and for the awareness raising within Lewes which led to further later donations
- Two friends of Green Olive suggested to their wedding guests that donations to Green Olive Trust might be made in lieu of wedding gifts. Again we were most grateful for this generous gesture and the funds raised.
- In December Trustees and friends organised a Pop-up cafe, sale of crafts and gifts, and children’s activities.

Plans for 2017

Key issues for Green Olive Trust UK will be:

- the need to increase our funding base in response to unmet demand
- to undertake detailed risk assessment and develop a safeguarding policy
- to arrange a visit to Kenya to strengthen links and review procedures and the memorandum of understanding with the Green Olive Foundation

Conclusion

As a small organisation we can be confident that we know the people who we are working with and can be assured that the money we raise goes to fund students who we have selected on criteria agreed with the Green Olive Foundation in Kenya: we support those who show potential and who cannot afford to continue their education without our support. Many other bursary schemes look to fund the top achievers in the primary school exams. The young people we are working with are from very poor backgrounds and have often attended primary schools, which lack even basic facilities such as electricity, desks and books. So it is not surprising that their names do not figure at the top of the national primary school leavers exam lists. But our local contacts have proved themselves very good at identifying potential – we have not yet seen anyone we have taken on fail. There is a huge hunger for, and commitment to, education.