Chairperson Report for the Annual General Meeting

For the financial year 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

This year has been a very challenging year, seen as we have not been able to carry out any fund-raising activities since 2019. We have been able to stand firm in faith.

During this period, we have lost some of our main regular donors and St. Pauls church which was our main regular donor has reduced its donation to us from monthly to quarterly.

This has been a year of great difficulty, but the trustees have been a great example of pulling together and managing things. Many thanks to all our trustees. Special thanks go to the treasurer and secretary, Tim Cromwell. I am extremely proud of him for the role he is playing in keeping this charity active.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objectives of Edith's dream charity

 Our main objective is working with Grace Foundation Trust Mbengwi in Cameroon to promote affordable and effective health care to the poor communities of Mbengwi and its surrounding villages.

 To provide a self-sustaining medical centre through the provision of resources like medical equipment and finances.

 Provide health education to individuals, families and communities to reduce ignorance and deaths due to treatable diseases especially in children.

 To give hope to the less privileged making a difference in the health of individuals living in ignorance and poverty.

 To volunteer in Mbengwi to support Grace Foundation Trust in its outreach activities and many other activities to promote health in the community.

 Create charity events to raise funds and health awareness

Our Mission is to save lives. To reduce mortality rate due to diseases that can be treated. To make provision for easy accessibility to affordable health care to the rural communities in and around the Meta villages in the Mbengwi subdivision in Cameroon, Africa.

Improving health care services to the communities, building strong communities, prolonging life and promoting development.

Summary of the activities of the charity in the past year

 In the past year the trustees have held 3 meetings. These meetings were not easy as the activities of the charity have reduced greatly since the covid -19 pandemic, and it was a worry whether we should close the charity. The trustees finally agreed to remain standing.

Thank you all for your great endurance and support for Edith's dream.

 We received donations of 6 medical examination tables for the health centre in Mbengwi.

These are in storage and yet still to be shipped over.

 Also, last year Ediths dream sent money to Grace foundation trust Mbengwi as you will see below in the financial report. These funds were a great support to this institution which is struggling due to the consequences of covid-19 and more especially the political unrest that has been in Cameroon, mainly in the Northwest and Southwest regions since 2016. Details of the financial report from Mbengwi is also found in the report from Grace Foundation Trust.

 A big milestone achieved by the charity last year was the unanimous decision to use the little funds that were raised when we started raising funds for the purpose of building a medical centre to begin the construction of part of the building plan. Although the money is not enough for the block we plan to put up, we agreed to start with the foundation work. The good news is work has begun on the new site of the medical centre.

 The trustees are working towards changing the website as we cannot make editing on the current site since we do not have the signing in details, and we cannot reach the person who created the website originally.

Main concerns of the charity and uncertainty

 All charities which rely on funding from users and from grants face an uncertain financial future.

 The trustees address this by reviewing fund raising activities looking into new ways of raising funds for example changing the website and making it more traffic pulling and going digital in the ways we raise funds for the charity.

 The trustees provide detailed financial report at every quarterly trustee meeting for scrutiny and discussion.

 However, no one could have predicted the covid-19 pandemic and the effects it has caused on all sectors of the society. Also, there is the political unrest in Cameroon and its untold consequences on the health institutions and the communities. Had it been these factors didn't come to play, perhaps we would have achieved or close to achieving the objective of the health institution, which is to be become self-funding and self-sustaining.

 Edith's dream has been able to ride through this storm with grateful thanks to St. Paul's church and all its individual supporters. Now that covid-19 is over and there seem to be a gradual calmness returning to the communities in Mbengwi, the trustees will have to work out a new strategy of raising funds for the charity to continue with its objectives.

 The charity's main source of funds in the past year was St. Pauls church Weston-Super-Mare and individual donations by direct debit or sometimes a one-off donation.

Risk of Edith's dream charity

 The charity risk having no more funds in the nearest feature if it does not adopt a new strategy for fund raising.

 The diminishing number of people willing to be volunteers.

 The high cost of supporting Grace Foundation Trust especially as it is not yet self-sustainable.

Conclusion

Ediths dream is a charity founded on Faith. We work on faith and God's direction. God has a purpose for placing us where we are right now. We wait for his directions always. While waiting we do whatever he leads and direct us to do.

Thank you all.

Chairperson.

Edith Focho