

ANNUAL REVIEW 2012/13



**“Even when I die, I cannot have a normal hole with a cross”**

These are the words that haunted me. Words spoken by someone so desperate that not even death would bring relief to her dismal existence.

That was until all the hard work that People against Poverty strive and work so tirelessly for stepped in and returned hope to her life.

It has been a demanding year and a constantly heart rending challenge when we have so much to do and insufficient resource. My job is to ensure we have the resources to meet the coming needs of the year and that every single child in our programme receives the life changing support that will deliver hope for the future. I believe that, with the dedication of our small team and our supporters, 2012-2013 has been a very successful

and rewarding time. It is a privilege to share with you some of those wonderful success stories in this publication.

We can sum up with the words from the song written by John Lennon **“Imagine”**

*Imagine no possessions,  
I wonder if you can,  
No need for greed or hunger  
A brotherhood of man  
Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world*

With still so much to do, I want to thank you for choosing to share

what you have to help free others from poverty and to shine hope into often seemingly hopeless situations.

We will continue to use your donations wisely as we progress into 2013/14.

**Val Huxley**  
CEO



## Child Sponsorship

### Nicoletta's Story



Child Sponsorship is central to People against Poverty and it was great to read a recent report from researchers at the University of San Francisco who revealed that sponsored children are more likely to graduate both secondary school and college, have salaried employment, and be leaders in their communities.

Child sponsorship appears to be a great “equalizer” helping raise overall baseline education outcomes for boys and girls alike. According to the report “ Sponsorship’s impacts on the educational outcomes are larger in countries with lower baseline education outcomes. Similarly, in countries where baseline schooling is higher for boys, child sponsorship tends to have a bigger impact on girls; where it is higher for girls, it has a bigger impact on boys.”<sup>1</sup>

We were extremely proud to read about some of our children who have been able to move on from their poverty and into further education/work. You can read their stories<sup>2</sup> overleaf.

**Born in Romania, Nicoletta had the sort of childhood no one should have.** Abandoned at the age of six she was taken in by a family who saw her not as a little girl, needing love and care, but a slave. This family put Nicoletta to work cleaning and cooking for older girls who they were selling for prostitution. Exposed to a world of vice and drugs she was made to work all day every

day, she was beaten, starved and forbidden to speak with anyone.

The only time Nicoletta was allowed any freedom was when she went to get water at the Way of Joy Centre but too scared of the repercussions she never spoke to Valentine, the founder, or anyone else. As she got older things at home got worse for Nicoletta.

The family she lived with had been grooming her and now they were planning on sending her out on the streets as a prostitute. Desperate she took a risk and spoke to Valentine. This was not a situation that could be fixed overnight, but Valentine and People against Poverty put into action a plan to help Nicoletta escape her old life.

Having been placed on the Child Sponsorship Scheme, the next step for Nicoletta was for her to start living at the Way of Joy. Here, with the support of her sponsors, she received food, clothing, medication and, most importantly, an education.

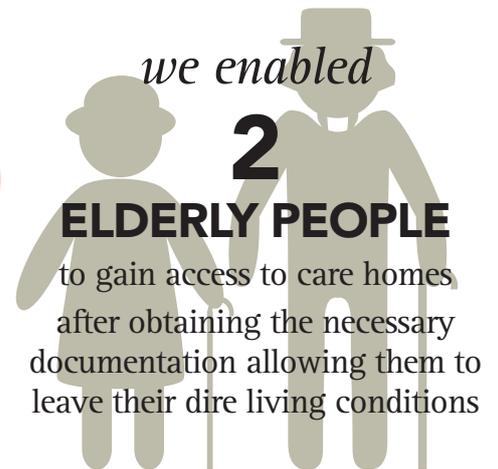
For Nicoletta this was a dream come true, she was able to learn and in an environment where she was loved and cared for. Not only that but for the first time in her life she had real friends.

For Nicoletta Child Sponsorship provided her with the way out of a life that could only have ended tragically. If that is all it had achieved it would have been a success but the story does not end there.

Over the years a real relationship has blossomed between Nicoletta and her sponsors who have been to visit her on several occasions. This autumn she will be leaving Romania for the first time and coming to England to visit them here. If this isn't exciting enough Nicoletta has, following support from People against Poverty, just graduated. This lovely young woman has finally reclaimed her life and started to smile again.

<sup>1</sup> *Christianity Today*

<sup>2</sup> *Roshan and Adrian's see page 5*



## Employment

- Employed an Operations Manager to help provide support and guidance for the small team in Romania
- Employed a Back to Work Project Manager
- Supported employment for 16 people throughout the projects

## Dobrovat House

- Completed the Dobrovat House Centre which will provide a base for recreational and educational projects to develop

## Chicken Coop

- Provided the cost to build a chicken coop at the orphanages in Haiti which will provide a food source to for the children of the two orphanages St Josephs and Notre Maison.

## Starlight Centre

- Launched the Starlight Centre in Nepal to provide a weekly programme to young children living within the community to have access to a hot healthy meal, educational play time and integration back into society.

## UK Schools programme

**Sanctuary Houses:** The impact for the homeless or those in scrap houses is enormous. It not only keeps them safe and warm but allows them to have a pleasant social space where friends can be invited into, and a sense of community developed:

- 41 students and 4 teachers from the UK provided another 3 Sanctuary Homes in Romania
- 8 photovoltaic lighting systems were provided and installed to all 8 Sanctuary Homes
- The test pilot horticulture project was installed – this will now develop in 2013 going forward.

## Education

### Roshan's Story



Lots of boys dream of becoming pilots but for Roshan living in Kathmandu, Nepal, that is all it was ever going to be, a dream. Without the means to finish even basic education. Roshan seemed set to remain within the cycle of poverty his family had found themselves.

In 2006 People against Poverty partnered with the Starlight Centre in Nepal, and as a result of this Roshan found a sponsor. His dream of becoming a pilot was still a long way off but now that he had support Roshan was able to start taking the first step and he completed his basic education by passing his exams with distinction.

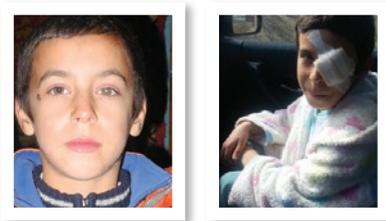
Roshan's grades were so good that he has been accepted on a part-scholarship to study a BSc in Cyber-Security at the South-East Missouri State University, USA. This is an amazing opportunity for Roshan

who still has his dream and plans to continue studying to become a pilot once his BSc is complete.

We will continue to support 18 year old Roshan throughout his studies but £5,000 is also needed to support the scholarship he has received. Education is the most powerful weapon in breaking the poverty cycle. Through sponsorship we have not only been able to turn Roshan's, and his family's, life around but bring a young man to a place in his life where dreams are now a real possibility.

## Medical Care

### Adrian's Story



Adrian is a nine year old boy. He lives in Romania with his parents, four brothers, sisters and grandmother. Unlike other children his age Adrian doesn't live in a house, his home is an abandoned railway station. It is a dark, cold and dangerous place where prostitutes, alcoholics and drug addicts gather.

Adrian stood out at school because he was dirty and smelled. It wasn't

his or his family's fault, they had no running water, but children can be cruel when someone is different and Adrian quickly became an outcast. Beatings by other children started until one day Adrian was hurt so badly he almost lost the sight in one eye.

Life for Adrian really did not hold any hope until we were able to intervene and bring him into our child sponsorship programme. This programme exists precisely for children like Adrian, who live in poverty without the necessities of life such as water, electricity, toilets and heating. Adrian began to make new friends with children at the Way of Joy Centre where he found people who accepted and valued him.

A hospital appointment was arranged and although there was some good news, an operation could restore Adrian's sight, the bad news was that if it didn't happen immediately the opportunity would be lost and he would be permanently blind. We were able to facilitate the necessary funding and the operation took place. It was a success and in April this year Adrian regained full sight.

Today Adrian is a boy filled with joy and happiness. Now that he can see properly he is back in education and working extremely hard to catch up. Life still has challenges for him but it also, most importantly, contains hope for the future.

*Your support for People against Poverty means that another child can find their way out of poverty.*



# Finance

## from our Finance Trustee

When I report the finances I am mindful of our many supporters who give generously of their money, time and encouragement in order to help those who suffer in extreme poverty.

The economic downturn continues to put a strain on donors budgets so we have continued to be diligent to our funding sources, spend wisely on our projects, minimising our cost base and seek out for more sustainable income streams.

I am proud to report 2012–13 was a year where we further strengthened our position. Our budget and our reserve are well balanced. We have

all but maintained our income levels, increased our giving and reduced our cost base.

On the downside there has been a real pressure on our child sponsorship funds which we have partially made up through fund raising. As personal donors have stopped sponsoring we have continued to support the children from our reserve fund and fundraising. Those reserves will need rebuilding.

I am excited about the anticipated financial growth next year from Business against Poverty which will provide the charity with increased stability and more opportunities to help those who are in so desperate need giving them hope and transformation.

**Colin Scull**  
Finance Trustee

	2012–2013		2011–2012	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£233,016.00</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£234,587.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
Child Sponsorship	£56,164.00	24.1	£60,221.00	25.7
Awareness & Education Trips	£46,462.00	19.9	£43,123.00	18.4
Fundraising	£45,153.00	19.4	£52,277.00	22.3
Donations	£44,161.00	19.0	£47,631.00	20.3
Business against Poverty Fees	£20,831.00	8.9	£11,600.00	4.9
Gift Aid	£20,245.00	8.7	£19,735.00	8.4
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£218,594.00</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>£231,601.00</b>	<b>%</b>
Charitable Causes (Projects)	£86,900.00	39.8	£81,208.00	35.1
Charitable Causes (Child Sponsorship)	£62,374.00	28.5	£62,512.00	27.0
Project Delivery (Staff Costs)	£42,221.00	19.3	£42,530.00	18.4
Office Costs	£13,692.00	15.8	£14,577.00	18.0
Fundraising, Marketing (Excluding Staff)	£11,262.00	5.2	£27,953.00	12.1
Banking & Governance	£2,145.00	1.0	£2,821.00	1.2



## Final Message

from our Chairman

Here in the UK, the Charity continues with its aim to engage with donors in new ways, showing them directly how their support can positively impact the lives of those living in poverty, our efforts allowing us to continue with our established projects in Romania, Nepal and Haiti.

Projects include Child Sponsorship, meeting medical needs, providing legal assistance, running food programmes and providing the means to access school and education for the children and their families.

In Romania the children we help are either abandoned, orphaned or are simply living in extreme poverty with their families, finding refuge in abandoned ghetto blocks with no heating, lighting, sanitation or running water.

In addition to the above we have also maintained a presence through our child sponsorship programme in India, Tanzania and Malawi.

Business against Poverty has met our projections, doubling its income by developing a higher SME content and increased sponsorship, albeit that member levels remained constant. The enthusiasm of our business partners

has been inspiring and it is a delight to see them developing into a cohesive focussed group.

In Education we continued to impact young people and students here in the UK. The depth of work strengthened through the Sanctuary House building programme in Romania run by our education partner, John Williams. Education led projects from the UK that enhance the lives of students and those receiving aid is becoming an increasingly focussed strategic aim of People against Poverty.

Many other wonderful developments occurred in our international projects and lives were changed. In particular the opening of our £120,000 respite home in Romania after five years of planning and fundraising. Despite the continued gloom of the economic climate I remain optimistic for the coming year and look forward to a

number of new and strategic projects coming on line, although in a move to further focus on our core skills of Business and Education we have put on hold the brand divisions of Arts and Music against Poverty.

Overall the Trustees are delighted with the 2012-13 performance of the charity and acknowledge the selfless contribution of the CEO, staff, volunteers and donors.

It has been a privilege working with our projects and our supporters and I thank them for the continued generosity of their encouragement and resources.

**Bill Huxley**  
Chair of Trustees



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