

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2014/15



# Annual Review 2014/15

Val Huxley

CEO



Who would have thought that by March 2015, a Micro Farm would be in existence and fully functional.

Just last year we reported how it was our dream to expand our new micro farm project over the coming 4 years to provide livestock, vegetables and fruit trees. Due to the great work of our Educational partner Jon Williams and his fabulous teams of youth from 4 local schools, the dream has become reality and already this year the animals have produced baby chicks and piglets.

Although there is still much to do, the achievement reached is a milestone to this community becoming self sustaining in the near future.

We also introduced last year our UK project, Bridging the Gap a project helping local communities of people who have faced and are facing crisis times.

Still in its infancy and still needing funds to help its growth, Bridging the Gap has served many individuals in the Wiltshire area primarily who otherwise would have struggled with everyday basic life needs.

You can read more about the recipients of Bridging the Gap in this brochure. Names have been changed to protect their identities.

We would like to thank all our supporters, individuals and businesses who contribute to supporting our humanitarian efforts to help people out of poverty both internationally and here in the uk.





**10**  
**RABBITS**  
*purchased*



**1**  
**TON**  
*Animal food purchased*



**7**  
**PIGS**  
*purchased*



**3**  
**ANIMAL PENS**  
*built, glazed & insulated*



**50**  
**CHICKENS**  
*purchased*



**63**  
**UK VISITORS**  
*to Romania projects*



**228**  
**YOUNG LIVES**  
*changed through sponsorship*



**150**  
**PEOPLE**  
*attended social classes*



**48**  
**IDENTITIES**  
*recovered or created*



**26**  
**BIRTH**  
*documents received*



**3**  
**COMMUNITIES**  
*now run 'Feed a child'*



**16**  
**JOBS**  
*found for people*

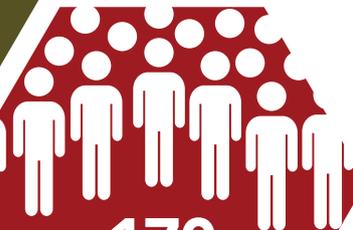
**£18k**  
**RAISED**  
*for Nepal Earthquake project*



**2568**  
**FOOD PARCELS**  
*given out*



**15,355**  
**HOT MEALS**  
*provided*



**170**  
**UK INDIVIDUALS**  
*in crisis received help*



**5**  
**STAFF**  
*undertook further training*



**2**  
**SANCTUARY**  
*homes built*



**1**  
**HYGIENE**  
*block prototype built*



**1**  
**ENGINEER**  
*employed on project*

**60m**  
**BOREHOLE**  
*created for Micro Farm*



**£2,620**  
**RECYCLED**  
**GOODS**  
*rehoused in UK*

# Nepal

Jenny James

PaP Office Manager



Our concentration for 2014/15 was to launch the new Starlight Centre in Nepal in which we would be giving children living in poverty the chance to experience an environment where they would receive a hot meal, followed by educational play from their teachers Krishna and Sita Pokharel (our project leaders).

The project began with just 6 children living locally to Krishna and Sita in Kathmandu and every week they attended with great enthusiasm; knowing that they would be eating a hot meal especially cooked for them by their Aunty Sita and then having lots of fun, learning about colours, how to count, knowing left from right – just the simple things in life that helps us grow!

However, you will remember the devastating 7.8 earthquake that struck Nepal on the 25th April 2015. We certainly do, as the epicentre lay between Kathmandu and Pokhara, the 2 cities that our project The Starlight Centre operates out of.

Once we knew that Project Leaders Krishna and Sita were safe, as were all the families and children we work with, we knew we couldn't ignore what was happening in the country.

After losing his home in Gorkha, Krishna took the long arduous journey by bus to check on the children living in the Pokhara area. Along the way however, devastation after devastation was seen as 100's of families lost their homes, their businesses and for some, their families.

There are still many 100's who are still unaccounted for.

Our need to visit the project was justified and in October our CEO and Charity Manager made the journey to the country to assess the damage and what support we could give, if any!

The evidence of the earthquake that killed around 9,000 people across the country can be seen everywhere in Kathmandu with huge cracks running down the sides of the roads, buildings and homes destroyed to rubble or being held up by rudimentary scaffolding – basically wooden poles and historic temples crumpled to the ground.

Aftershocks continue to hit, including one new earthquake in the west of the country while we were there, and many people have fled their Town Houses in favour of a one level dwelling constructed of corrugated iron.

Most people have found more permanent dwellings but tents are still present on the outskirts of the city for those less fortunate.

These huge challenges as well as the regular day to day ones like rolling daily power cuts and now a fuel blockade on the border are what face Project Leaders Krishna and Sita as they continue to dedicate their lives to giving impoverished children a chance to change their lives that others do not have.

Our work is not finished and there is so much more needed to support these unfortunate people get through the aftermath of such devastation; however we cannot continue The Starlight Centre in its present form.

So 2015/16 will see education be the main focus for our Nepal project aptly named The Starlight Scholarship programme, which will allow the children to attend school through sponsorship and give them the chance to break the cycle of desperate poverty in which they live.

# Bridging the Gap

Claire Parfitt

Project Leader



I regularly give out cards and leaflets advertising the services of Bridging the Gap and I never know when one of these is going to result in a call.

\*Lucy is a mum with young children. She was trapped in an abusive relationship with a man so violent that she was hospitalized more than once. Finding the strength to leave was a huge step for Lucy and with nowhere else to go she sought refuge at a womens shelter.

This should have been the start of her new life but Lucy and her children had to move over and over again because her partner kept finding her.

I met her at a time when she was feeling very alone, unable to contact friends or family in case her location was revealed again, with only the possessions she could fit into the bags she could carry.

A month later I received a call from Lucy, she had held onto my card and after being moved once more she desperately needed help. She had found herself in yet another shelter with her small family living in a bare room.

They had nothing at all, not even the things needed to clean the dirty floor where she had to sit and feed her youngest child. We were able to provide her with some kitchen utensils, toys and a highchair. When Lucy realized these things were hers to keep she was overwhelmed, crying and hugging because not only had she somewhere safe to feed her baby

but that there was someone there when she needed help. This small gesture gave her back the hope and dignity she needed.

A week after one particular leaflet drop I was contacted by a group working with children from deprived backgrounds, with several referrals. One of these was for a family where mum struggled with learning difficulties and dad was unemployed.

Their small children were on the Social Services at risk register, and they were desperately in need of everyday items including clothing, shoes, toys, books, coats, a stairgate and nappies. Within 24 hours of the referral we had delivered the items needed.

Mum was delighted and the children's faces lit up with pure joy when they received their new things, things they could call their own. In particular they loved their new teddies which they desperately clung on to tightly whilst the eldest loved a little red dress we had included, just in time for Christmas.

Whilst Social Services took the decision that the children needed to be placed into care we know that most of the items were able to go with them providing some sense of continuity.

Recently we helped two homeless men. The first needed a waterproof coat, shoes and toiletries and the second clothes, toiletries and bedding as he was hoping to be housed shortly. The items were very gratefully received and have been a lifeline for both of them, enabling them to keep a little bit of dignity.

We are currently sorting out some other essential home items for the man who is being housed, including kitchen utensils, pans, crockery, cutlery, towels, curtains and more.

Thanks to our service and that of other likeminded organisations such as Storehouse, local foodbank in Trowbridge and Queensway Chapel in Melksham, these gentlemen are being given the help and support that they so desperately need to lift themselves from poverty.

Behind every saucepan or pair of boots that we pass on is the story of an individual or family seeking to find their way out of poverty and a community reaching out to them.

*\*some personal details have been altered in order to ensure individuals privacy.*

# Business against Poverty

We were excited that we broke the 100 member's milestone toward the end of the year. Business against Poverty as a source of income continued to achieve momentum with membership revenues of **£28.7k** and associated revenues through business fund raising income to **£59k (2014:£48.5k)**. This is a critical source of income as 100% is unrestricted and therefore we are able to distribute some to projects and some to overhead as we see appropriate

At the end of 2014 we undertook a comprehensive survey of our member's views and wishes. We asked them what they liked and what they did not like. We asked them to help us shape our future based on our vision and they were generous with their comments. From the feedback we have developed a new and stronger strategic vision. We have formed a new 'purpose' statement for BaP i.e. our reason for existence: It is;

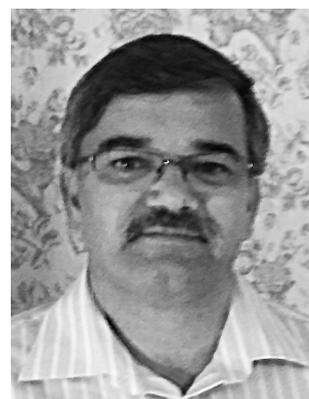
**"To encourage Business to have a social Purpose; to influence and position Ethical Sustainable Businesses to achieve exceptional growth and in doing so, support through their engagement the humanitarian work of the charity People against Poverty."**

Business against Poverty goes from strength to strength and is forecasted to be the main stream of income for our humanitarian work overseas and here in the UK.

## Finance 2014/15

**Colin Scull**

Finance Trustee



The financial position remains strong.

In this financial year the charity had increased its fund raising & marketing spend whilst at the same time raising child sponsorship and project spend.

This was a conscious decision to invest further in the development of the charity and increase the project aid spend with the knowledge that total

reserves would fall. We believed this was necessary to give further impetus for growth. We still maintained a relatively strong reserve carry forward position of £75,000.

The financial position for 2016-17 is forecasted for continuous improvement. We anticipate a pressure on costs as

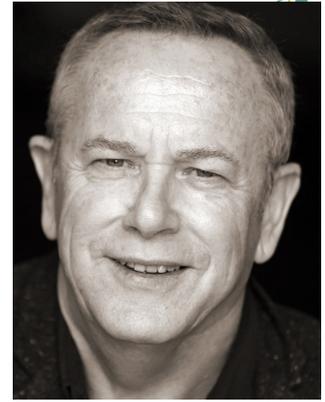
we continue to invest in growth of Business against Poverty that will result in increased income return in 2017-18 allowing further investments in our charitable projects and a strengthened market position.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Income
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£108,983</b>	<b>£161,485</b>	<b>£270,468</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>			
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income	£42,419		£42,419
Project Spend	£56,474	£190,481	£246,955
Governance Costs	£2,778		£2,778
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>£101,671</b>	<b>£190,481</b>	<b>£292,152</b>

# Final Message

**Bill Huxley**

Chair of Trustees



I am delighted to report that the charity continues to develop in its giving and in the development of its fundamental core offering in a way that is sustainable for future growth.

The increasing impact People against Poverty has on lives across the world is heart warming and humbling. Our small team continue to work tirelessly to support those in absolute poverty.

In October 2014 we introduced 'Bridging the Gap' to our project portfolio as the charities' first UK project, achieving our strategic aim to work here in the UK. Bridging the Gap, based in Melksham Wiltshire is a resource to those who face crisis times and finding themselves in poverty within our own local communities in Wiltshire.

Focus on Business against Poverty as a driver to fund our charitable objectives remains a core strategic aim. As the brand grows in credibility so does its voice in the business world. Plans are in place to develop Business against Poverty in the long term as a Social Enterprise focussing on its member's ethical stance and promoting ethical and sustainable business practice differentiating our members in an increasingly competitive market.

The Board of Trustees are delighted with the 2014-15 performance of

the charity and acknowledge the selfless contribution of the CEO, staff, volunteers and donors.

Many wonderful developments occurred in our international projects and lives have been changed. We look forward to 2015-16 with much expectation



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