

The Mexico Child Link Trust

CHARITY REFERENCE NUMBER XO 354 / 92

Annual Report 1992

CHAIRPERSON

Mrs. A. R. Mc Murray, B.A., M.A., (Management Consultant)

TREASURER

Mr. R. P. Yarr, B.Sc., (Financial Adviser)

SECRETARY

Mr. D. J. Rendle, B.Sc., M.A. (Project Leader)

TRUSTEES

Dr. M.G.A. Mc Ginnity, M.B. M.R.C. Psych. (Consultant Psychiatrist in Mental Handicap)

Mr. G. F. Mc Elroy, LLB, (Solicitor)

Dr. T.B. Anderson, B.Sc. Phd, F.G.S., (Head of Geology Dept., Queens University Belfast)

Mrs. U. Brennan, S.C.T Cert. , (Teacher)

Mrs. C. Lewis, T. Cert., Dip. Sp. Ed., (Teacher)

Mr. M. Barbour, B.Sc. P.G.C.E., M.Sc., (Educational Psychologist)

Mexico Child Link is a Charitable Trust, recognised as such by the Inland Revenue.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Our main objective is to improve the quality of life of abandoned children in Mexico with special needs by providing them with permanent accommodation where they can reach their full potential. It is planned to build three houses for a group of 15 - 20 children in a rural setting and offer them a chance to learn useful agricultural skills.

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This year has two main objectives, the launch of the Mexico Child Link Trust and the development of fundraising strategies.

INTRODUCTION

The Mexico Child Link Trust was founded in February 1992 by Jonathan Getty and Colette Mc Ginnity, two people from Northern Ireland who have spent time in Mexico working as long term volunteers in projects involving children with special needs. It was established that in order to fundraise effectively, a charitable organisation would have to be founded. After liaising with representatives of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, it was decided to set up a Charitable Trust governed by a group of trustees. (See above.) Various professional people from Northern Ireland with a specific interest in the issue of Mental Handicap were approached and a group of nine trustees was formed in February.

G. F. Mc Elroy from J. W. Russell and Co., (Solicitors) drafted a trust deed which was recognised by the Inland Revenue as having charitable objectives in May. The objectives of the Trust cover areas such as:

- * Provision of accommodation for abandoned children with mental handicap in Central and South America.
 - * Research into areas related to the problem of mental handicap
 - * Promotion and diffusion of the aims and objectives of the Trust
 - * The creation of a capital base to fund the aims and objectives of the Trust.
- (A copy of the Trust Deed is available upon request)

FUNDRAISING

A series of trustees meetings took place in the premises of I.T.S. International Training Services, throughout the year in which fundraising strategies were discussed as well as issues relating to the work in Mexico.

- * It was decided to promote the *Give as you Earn* Scheme which is run by The *Charities Aid Foundation* (C.A.F.) and the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action. (N.I.C.V.A.) The Trust was accepted as a member of N.I.C.V.A. during the course of the year.
- * Leaflets were designed by Jonathan Getty and Colette Mc Ginnity and laid out by Colm Mc Andrews of *Culturlann Mc Adam O Fiach*. A general information pack about Mexico and the work of the Trust was also produced.
- * An Amstrad PC1512 computer was lent to the Trust and was used for general administrative purposes as well as to set up a donor database. It was also used to keep a record of ticket sellers in a successful raffle which was run in December. The draw was made by Mike Edgar of *B.B.C. Radio Ulster* and £2300 was raised.
- * The Trust organised 11 flag days in various towns throughout Northern Ireland.
- * Three teams of sponsored runners were entered in The Belfast Marathon and £1000 was raised. Another £1000 was raised by Colette Mc Ginnity who completed the Dublin Marathon in October.
- * Discos were organised in *The Elbow Room* and *The Terrace Wine Bar*.
- * A bowls contest was organised in Botanic Gardens Belfast
- * June Getty raised considerable funds through selling items at car boot sales.
- * Roslea Dramatic Society raised funds through a production of *The Field*

CONTACT WITH MEXICO

Through friends of Jonathan Getty and Colette Mc Ginnity, contact was established with two organisations in Mexico

(a) La Confederación de Asociaciones en Favor de la Persona con Discapacidad Mental, (CONFEMEX) This is a confederation of parents groups, schools and other individuals interested in the area of mental handicap. It is the largest organisation of its kind in Mexico.

(b) Promoción Ecológica Campesina. (PROE) This organisation provides assistance in ecologically sustainable technology and building techniques.

It was proposed that a project be set up in conjunction with these two organisations.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

Publicity was obtained through articles and features in *The Irish News*, *The Fermanagh Herald*, *Northern Woman Magazine*, *The Tyrone Courier*, *The Dungannon Observer*, *The Mid Ulster Mail*, *The Ulster Star*, *The Ballymena Guardian* and *The Ballymena Times*. Interviews were carried out with *National Radio 5* and *Northern Sound Radio*. Supporters were kept informed through a newsletter sent out in December.

SCHOOLS

Talks were given in the following schools;

The Boy's Model, Belfast

St Eugene's Secondary School, Roslea

Stranmillis Primary School

FINANCE

Through the fundraising schemes outlined above, a total of £22,864.00 was raised

The Trust currently holds total funds of £20,413.00

An audited copy of the accounts is available upon request.

THANKS

The Mexico Child Link Trust is indebted to the following organisations and individuals who helped us throughout the year.

Ballymena Round Table

Roslea Dramatic Society

Queen's University Student's Union

The University of Ulster

Mrs June Getty

Mrs May Blair

Lavery's Ltd.

I.T.S. Staff

The Round Table Trust

N.I.C.V.A.

J. W. Russell & Co.

Mike Edgar

Colm Mc Andrews

Derrylin Bingo Hall

Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School

We are also indebted to all our donors and those who support us through the *Give as you Earn* Scheme.

PLANS FOR 1993

Fundraising shall be continued and developed. It will also be necessary to arrange a working visit to Mexico in order to discuss the project in more detail with our partners.

Jonathan Getty

(Co-ordinator, The Mexico Child Link Trust)