

Annual
Report

October 12

2011



refugee welcome trust

Registered in the UK
1138256

“There is nothing more beautiful than to be able to live together with your family. Today, I am able to eat and I can laugh, and I can find enjoyment with my children.”



“The unity of the family, the natural and fundamental group unit of society is an essential right of the refugee (UNHCR, 1983)”

Our Aims

On its formal charity registration in October 2010 the objectives of the Refugee Welcome Trust were set out as; the relief of financial hardship, the advancement of education and the relief of unemployment among refugees living in the UK and their dependent family members.

Our vision is that all refugees in the UK seeking family reunification are able to do so with full financial support to cover the extensive costs involved in the process and allowing them to be reunited without significant delay.

Our core activity is the provision of grants to cover family reunion costs for those granted refugee status in the UK.

Plans for the first year included:

1. Establishing the concept and operating methods of the organisation
2. Building up funds to allow the first few cases to be processed
3. Promoting our work to raise the profile of both the issue and the organisation

Achieving Our Aims

The aim of the trust is to be able to carry out its work extremely efficiently to maximise use of available funds and improve the client experience.

To allow the small income of the organisation to have the most impact possible it was necessary to design operating methods that require no ongoing funding. In the first year there was additional capital expenditure for general administration which was kept to a minimum and met by one donor. Ongoing costs stand at zero with the all running of the organisation being undertaken by volunteers and some services being supplied free of charge.

Use of not for profit travel agencies

We are able to make significant savings through using not for profit travel agencies when arranging travel for our clients.

This reduces the cost of the airfare by around three quarters and ensures that appropriate travel arrangements are made for our clients.

Having come through the rigorous and complicated asylum process we wanted to create a user experience that was simple and avoided raising the hopes of those who were not able to fund. No applications are currently being taken and the two cases processed in the first year have come through our referral charity, Freedom from Torture. It was felt by the trustees that considering the lack of funds limiting the applications was important to reduce expectation.

Those who are invited to apply are only required to provide the information directly relevant to us being able to process their case and once the application is submitted we aim to provide a response within a fortnight.

Despite being closed to applications many enquiries have been made through the website. In accordance with our desire not to raise hopes we have successfully responded to all these enquiries within two days.

Development

Going into the second year we hope to grow our income streams allowing us to help more families be reunited.

Increasing client input and involvement

At the end of the first year there has been one successful reunion and one case is in progress. These cases should amount to seven children being reunited with their parents.

We also hope to be able to further develop great fundraising ideas from our supporters and investigate ways we can generate our own income in the process of furthering our aims.

Fundraising Ideas from Our Supporters

Knit Families Together

A knitting initiative submitted to our fundraising blog providing knitted items in return for donations.



Make Your Books Go an Extra Mile

A student based scheme collecting old textbooks and reselling them online.

Supply and demand

There is a lack of funding provision for families seeking reunion. During the first year the trust has received 27 enquiries from individuals seeking assistance and 7 were from organisations seeking help on behalf of a client. This is despite a clear message on the trust's website stating that we were not open to receive applications.

Of the applications received 18 appear that they might have qualified for a grant.

Working on the assumption that each case costs an average of £500 an additional £9000 amount of funding would have been required to meet this need.

“The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state. (UN , 1948)”

About the issue

Reuniting their family is one of the main priorities of refugees settling in the UK. After they have had their asylum application approved and gained refugee status refugees have the right to have their dependent family members join them. This extends to a spouse and any children under 18 who have not formed their own family unit.

Although they are given this right for many people in this position it is almost impossible to get together the amount of money needed to fund the legal expenses and travel.



“The circumstances in which refugees leave their country of origin frequently involve the separation of families. Such separation invariably leads to hardship and sometimes to tragic consequences. It may also create serious obstacles to a refugee’s integration in a new homeland. (UNHCR, 1983)”

Fundraising Activities

Our key 'selling point' for fundraising is that we are able to guarantee that 100% of donations made go directly to the grants with none spent on administrative or fundraising costs. We hope to be able to continue this promise into our second year.

Fundraising in the first year was done on a fairly informal basis with the most significant event being sponsorship received for the Manchester 10k in which the Refugee Welcome Trust had a small team. This raised £1470.14 and provided a significant boost to our fundraising efforts.

However the majority of the income in year one came through corporate sponsorship from FreshStart Living. A total of £4000 was received to go towards grants made and some additional start up costs were also covered directly.

Publicity for the trust came from some coverage in the Guardian and the Big Issue and it is hoped that in the second year we can increase the PR activity and raise our profile.

To raise our profile and promote the cause social networking has been widely used with active Twitter and Facebook accounts along with a fundraising blog on our website.

Towards the end of the year the trust was accepted for the Google Grants programme which allows \$329 a day of free online advertising. We hope to be able to utilise this more in Year 2 in our fundraising efforts and the recruitment of volunteers.

Manchester 10k

Eight people ran on our behalf with t-shirts kindly donated by teese, a local supplier. Between the team a total of £1470.14 was raised all of which will go towards a grant.

We hope to be able to encourage volunteers to participate in more events next year.



Financial Overview

2010 / 2011 Year One Financial Summary

Restricted Funds	£7167.97
Unrestricted Funds	£320.81
Total Income	£7488.78
Total Expenditure	£3006.61
Total Grants Made	£2814.78
Total Carried Over	£4482.17

A significant part of the trust's promise to those who donate is that none of their donation is spent on running the organisation. In the first year costs amounted to £191.88 and were covered on an item by item basis by specific donations and a contribution from the University of Manchester.

Sources of Income

Whilst one off donations from a local company have formed a large part of our income in year one the only sustainable source of income is the few direct debit payments we have coming in at £75 a month.

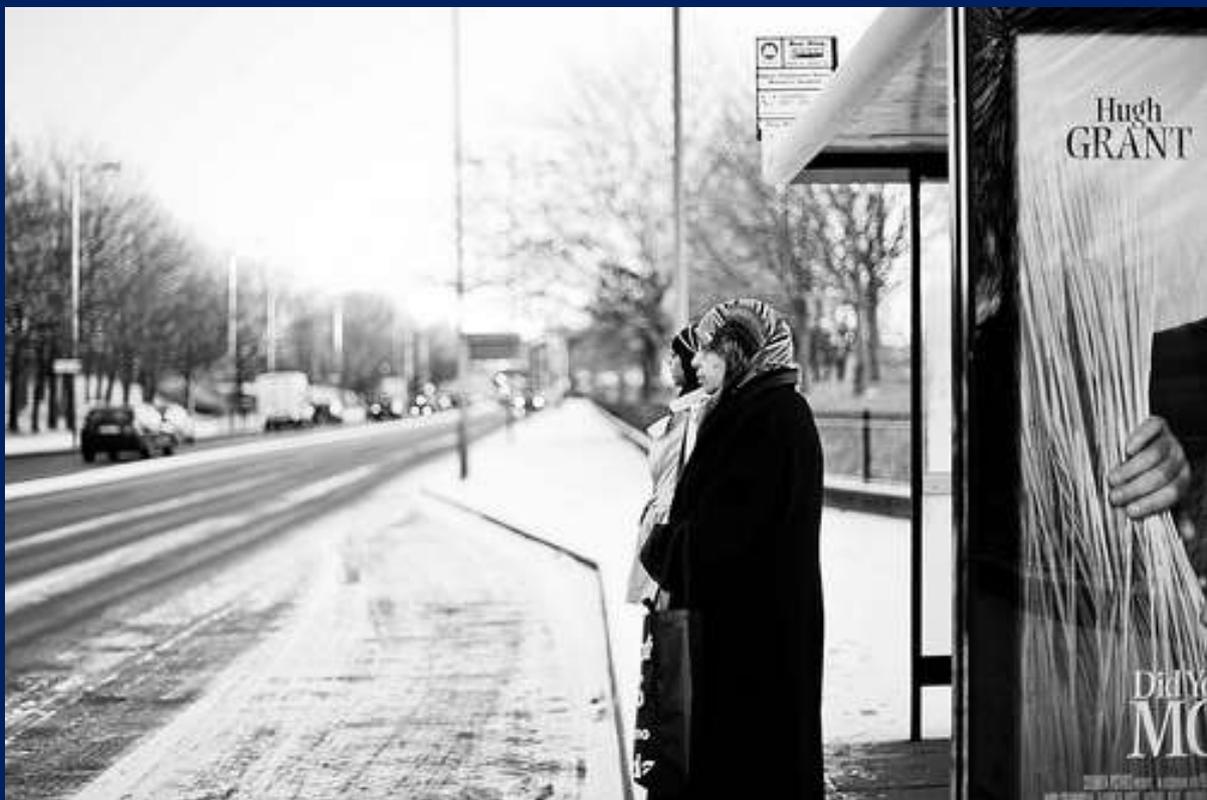
Individual Giving	£1430.44
Corporate Giving	£3994
Fundraising Activities	£1857.03
Miscellaneous	£200

A priority in planning for the year ahead should be establishing a sustainable source of income.

Looking ahead

Moving into its second year the priority for the trust is establishing new and more sustainable sources of funding to allow our work to continue.

At this early stage in the organisation growing our income strengthens us both in terms of capacity to deliver a vital service and our own credibility. As a new organisation growing our reputation and profile is important to gain the trust of potential donors and funding bodies.



Special Thanks

We would like to give special thanks to the following people:

Amanda Calder

For all the information and support

David Wostenholme and IdHost

For providing our hosting and ongoing support with the website

Henrietta Grant Peterkin

For your invaluable advice

Zaki Grant

For the use of your wonderful photos

Jude Boyles

For your wisdom and continuing support

And to the many others who have taken time to support us in getting set up. We wouldn't have been able to do this without your help.

“I would like to say thank you to the Refugee Welcome Trust for everything that was done for me. Before I had lost the joy of living, but today - even without money - I am happy. My children join me in saying thank you.”

Registered Charity Number: 1138256

For more information please contact us at:

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Or visit our website:

www.refugeewelcometrust.org