

ANNUAL REVIEW 2014/15



A MIRACULOUS TRANSFORMATION



2014-15 has been a year of **transformation** for TRACKS autism. Having launched a Capital Appeal in September 2013 to raise the funds to replace its rented premises which were no longer fit for purpose, the Trustees were thrilled to announce at a Reception at the Mansion House in the City of London, that they had raised £375,000 of the £400,000 target. A property in Pin Green Stevenage was purchased in May 2014 and refurbishment work completed in December of the same year. With the help of staff, volunteers and parents the big move to TRACKS HOUSE was completed in February and a new chapter in the life of TRACKS autism began with the an amazing party to celebrate all that had been achieved. My thanks to Tony Charles, AMC Associates, and the team at LSI Architects of Norwich, Kirsten Aitken, Peter Courtney and David Andrews who put in endless hours and meetings managing the design and refurbishment so well for us and to Conamar Ltd

Stevenage, who undertook the refurbishment work and brought the project in on time and on budget. I am therefore delighted to report that 2014/15 has been yet another challenging but nevertheless, remarkable and successful year.

My thanks to our creative and hardworking staff and volunteers, in particular to Alleyne Cliff, our interim Principal who held the fort during the interregnum and with Sara Campbell and Nan Cannon Jones, combined to get our new Ofsted Registration and manage so smoothly the transition from the Annexe to TRACKS HOUSE in a little over two weeks. Alleyne retired in July after over ten years of committed service to TRACKS and we are grateful to her for all she contributed. This is also my opportunity to pay tribute to the wide range of Trusts, Foundations, Companies and Individuals who rose to the challenge when asked to contribute to the Capital Appeal without which, it would have been simply impossible for us to have achieved so much in a little over two years. THANK YOU.



Jane Pitman OBE DL
PRESIDENT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



I am thrilled to be Chairman of such an energetic and collaborative team that is working hard to ensure that children with an autistic spectrum condition in Hertfordshire have access to some of the best early intervention in the UK.

At the end of this year financial year I can report that TRACKS is well and truly settled into TRACKS HOUSE and at the same time is experiencing a growth in demand for its services. The Trustees have identified three key objectives to guide our governance of the Charity, year on year:

- **Meet Tracks' charitable objects responsibly**
The charity aims to maintain a strong board of Trustees with the relevant skills and expertise. The Trustees met five times during the year and three new trustees are currently attending as visitors with a view to joining the Board in the summer of 2015.
- **Sustain and develop our services and to support TRACKS efficiently and effectively**
The last three years have been focussed on preparing for and launching our first major Capital Appeal and raising the funds to provide a new contemporary setting to develop the work of our specialist pre-school. At the same time not only have our numbers increased this year but children attend from a much wider geographical area.

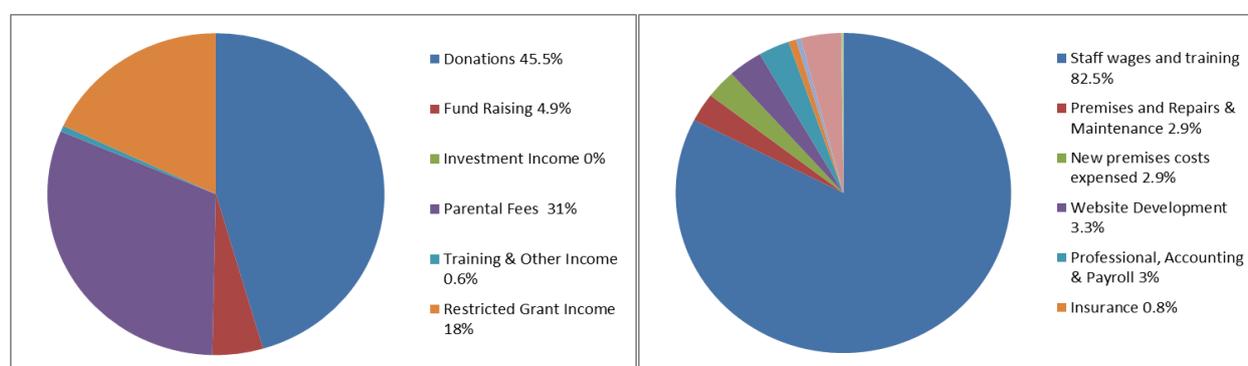
Maintaining a strong leadership team and a well-qualified cadre staff is fundamental to sustaining the quality of our provision and at the same time developing new and innovative approaches to the service we offer our families and sets us apart.

- **Achieve a sustainable financial future**

The Charity having successfully achieved it's the key objectives of its 2012-15 Plan is now actively approaching funders to help it build capacity and improve its sustainability in the years ahead. The purchase and refurbishment of TRACKS HOUSE has strengthened the balance sheet and designated funds have been set aside to build a Strategic Reserve and to help cushion the introduction of the Workplace Pension Scheme in 2017. Two key appointments have been made in the latter part of the year. Jane Wagstaff Smith has been appointed as Principal and a Local Fund Raiser, Lisa Burgess, will aim to increase both increase awareness as well generate new income from a wider target audience. Both Jane and Lisa will start in September 2015

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The full Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending March 31st 2015 is available on request. TRACKS autism is funded almost entirely by voluntary income from trusts, foundations, individual supporters and public subscriptions and does not receive any direct subsidies from Government or the LEA. We are grateful to all those providing us with financial support or benefit in kind including many individuals as well as local companies.



Capital Appeal 2013-2015

Future proofing & Contingency	£ 27,144
Building & Development Expenses	£ 15,759
Building Development Cost Balance Sheet Asset	£ 156,215
Building Purchase Costs Balance Sheet Asset	£ 210,000
Total Funds Raised	£ 409,118

Our appreciation and thanks to all those who have provided financial and practical support in the year, but in particular to the Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust, the Lloyds TSB Foundation and the Equitable Charitable Trust who have been pivotal over the last three years in helping TRACKS succeed:-

TRACKS GENERAL FUND TRACKS CAPITAL APPEAL

Archer Trust	The ACT Foundation	The Hertfordshire Community Trust
Awards for All	The Beatrice Laing Charitable Trust	The Hobson Charity
Baroness Howarth	The Breakaway Charity Committee	Keepmoat/Stevenage BC Community Investment
Equitable Charitable Trust	The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation	The Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation
Fence Club	The Clothworkers Foundation	The Percy Bilton Charity
Lloyds TSB Foundation	Conamar Ltd	The Rayne Foundation
Lynn Trust	The Christopher Laing Foundation	The Shanly Foundation
St James's Place Charitable Trust	The Follett Trust	The Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust
Stevenage Community Trust	The Gosling Foundation	The Yorkshire Building Society Charity
UIA Charitable Foundation	The Garfield Weston Foundation	The Wolfson Trust
Kiwanis Hitchin	The Greggs Foundation	Mrs C Archer
Stevenage Scouts	HCC Short Breaks Capital Fund	Lady PM Hobson
Asda Stevenage	Benefit in Kind:-	Altro Ltd Letchworth Garden City
Waitrose Stevenage	PM Mitchell Aggregates Hatfield	Diamond Print, Stevenage
Sainsburys Stevenage	Benchmark Products Norwich	ICT Installation - Dave, Paddy & Danny



Our single and primary focus is the provision of pre-school play, learning and support for children with an autistic condition, aged 2-5. This year our staff team of 9 part time specialist staff and 5 volunteers have worked with 31+ children and their families (25 in 2014) providing over 240+ pre-school and short break (respite) sessions totalling over 840 hours of play, learning, and support for our children, their parents/ carers and extended family members, including TAFF (Team around the Family) meetings. At TRACKS we are very aware that many parents need lots of help and support from time to time to cope with the huge stresses and anxieties they face as parents caring for a child with additional needs. TRACKS HOUSE now provides a Parent Hub and Drop In facility where parents can simply share experiences or talk to a member of the professional team or discover new resources.

THE KASPAR PROJECT

With financial support from the Equitable and UIA Charitable Trusts, the partnership with Hertfordshire University robotics department has enabled us to continue to offer the children who choose, to interact with Kaspar (a humanoid robot) and participate in individual and/or group sessions. KASPAR has been specifically designed as a minimally-expressive robot offering a more predictable and initially repetitive form of communication, which aims to make the social interaction simpler, non-judgemental and more comfortable for the child.



During the year an average of over 250 interactions took place with individual children to help improve the children's social interaction e.g. after 4 sessions with Kaspar, E.B. had begun to generalise the skills he had learnt about emotions at home. He was seen by his mother consoling his sister when she was upset by saying "no sad, happy face", which is a phrase he had encountered in his Kaspar sessions. This was one of several "WOW" moments for our team and in this instance E.B and his family. His mother said this had been the first time he had acknowledged any emotion.

SENSORY CIRCUITS & SHERBORNE DEVELOPMENT

The world can be a confusing place for our children and to help them we have introduced a programme of 'Sensory Circuits' linked to the Sherborne Development Programme. This approach helps the children to explore how their body works, to gain an awareness of their senses and to begin to learn how to manage them. Each child with autism is unique and will experience things differently and respond in different ways. A child might experience sensory overload or differences in intensity e.g. the senses might work too well (hyper

sensitive) or not well enough (hyposensitive). Children with an autistic spectrum condition (ASC) also often have problems with their vestibular system (balance) or body awareness (proprioception). All these factors inhibit the child's wellbeing and ability to be actively involved in regular day to day routines and activities. They also make it very difficult for the children to access learning opportunities. The introduction of a programme of 'Sensory Circuits' benefits the children by helping them to identify sensory disorders and providing them with a means of regulating and managing their responses, behaviours and actions.



WHAT OUR PARENTS SAY

- TRACKS taught our son how to communicate using sign language and pictures. Your perseverance supported his development in countless ways.
- We would like to stay in touch with TRACKS and help support you in the future, in your most important role in the lives of children with autism.
- I had read about Angels and Fairies only in books, until I met the staff at TRACKS autism
- My son was just over three when he first went to TRACKS and within weeks we saw his first smile 'again'.
- What happened at TRACKS was nothing less than a miracle. In the one-year that he went there, things started to make sense to him.

THANKS & APPRECIATION

Our thanks to ALL our dedicated staff and volunteers who have gone the extra mile as well as all those who make TRACKS the success it is – parents, funders, staff and volunteers who have worked so hard and with such enthusiasm throughout the last year. Our appreciation and special thanks to the many Trusts and Foundations, as well national and local companies and organisations in Stevenage, Hertfordshire and beyond for their encouragement and financial support throughout this year.

PATRONS & AMBASSADORS

Jane Asher • Baroness Howarth of Breckland OBE • Lady Hobson OBE • Revd Canon Roger Royle • Lauren Hall

BANKERS

HSBC, Station Place, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 3AJ

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Benjamin J Terrett, FCA

TRUSTEES AND STAFF

TRUSTEES

Mervyn Terrett (Chairman), Juliet Jamieson (Deputy Chair), Craig Winston (Hon Treasurer), Gemma Cannon Jones, Michael Shaw (Executive Trustee), Vicki Whent.

LEAD PROFESSIONALS

Alleyne Cliff (Interim Principal), Nan Cannon Jones (Autism Specialist), Sara Campbell (Administration)

TRACKS HOUSE, Boulton Road, Stevenage, SG1 4QX

Registered charity number: 1107257. Registered company number: 05156359

OFSTED Registration Number: EY 485394