OUR KIDS FOUNDATION

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

COMPANY NUMBER: 7085647
CHARITY NUMBER: 1136276

OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CONTENTS **Page**

Legal and Administrative Information	**1-5**
Balance Sheet	**6**
Statement of Financial Activities	**7 -8**
Notes forming part of the Financial Statements	**9-11**
Independent Examiner's Report	**12**
Report of Directors/Trustees	**13-22**

OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

The Board of Trustees presents its report and unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company / Charity Name	OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
Company registration Number	7085647
Charity registration number	1136276
Registered Office and operational Address	447 Staines Road West Ashford TW15 2AB
Directors & Trustees	S Memic (Chair) D Kulas (Treasurer) D Koluder D Kreso L Kulas S Coric R Wiltshire F Nowell
Bankers	HSBC 47 Church Road Ashford TW15 2UA

OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS / TRUSTEES

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 24th November 2009 and registered as a charity in 2010. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under its Articles of Association. The directors of the company are called "Trustees", and the company is called "the Charity" in its Memorandum and Articles of Association and in this Report and the Financial Statements, as well as "directors" and "the company". In the event of the company being wound up the members (who are the same as the Trustees) are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are recruited primarily from individuals who by way of active participation and involvement have an interest in the growth and development of the Charity. These individuals are interviewed by the Trustees and elected by a vote (historically unanimous), either at the AGM or as an item in the agenda of the regular meetings of the trustees.

Trustee Induction and Training

Trustees are inducted by way of an introduction to the Charity by one of the Trustees and provided with information on the role of a trustee. Periodic training sessions are provided to the Board of Trustees as a whole.

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review, on a regular basis, the risk which the Charity faces and will endeavour to maintain the reserve levels around its current figure. The review of the controls of the financial systems will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees have overall authority for the Charity, determining its strategic direction and ensuring the Charity complies both with company and charity laws. Under the operating name, "OUR KIDS", the charity is dedicated to the prevention and relief of poverty of the children of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The charity is concerned with the preservation and protection of good health, relief of sickness and advancing the education of the children in Bosnia and Herzegovina; in particular but not exclusively by supporting the Egipatsko Selo children's home in Mostar.

We aim to help to remove barriers that disadvantage communities and prevent them from achieving their full potential. Through training and education, we hope to equip the current

generation with the skills and tools that will make them self reliant and self-sufficient as well as encouraging them to become trainers and educators of future generations.

The charity aims to improve the quality of children's lives through the following:

- **Providing funds, clothing and goods**
- **Improvement of facilities**
- **Arranging activities**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our funding this year came from the following sources: London Community Events, The Heathland School, Chelsea Academy, gifts and donations.

Reserves policy

We have a policy of maintaining six months overhead expenditure, to which we have kept this year.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Company and Charity laws require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the Charities SORP and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Charity and enable the Trustees to Ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also

responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

We, the Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 3.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's accountant is unaware: and
- We have taken all steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's accountant, in preparing for us the financial statements that follow is aware of that information

Review and Results

The Trustees report net incoming resources of £50,380 (2016: £37,473) on operations for the year under review, £17,540 (2016@ £4,561) on restricted funds, and net incoming resources of £32,840 (2016: £32,912) on unrestricted funds.

Balance Sheet

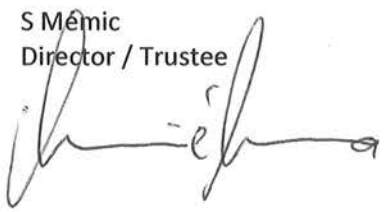
Details of the major items on the balance sheet can be found in the notes to the accounts.

The fluctuations in debtors and creditors year on year are purely the result of the timing of receipts and payment around the year-end.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005) and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on **19th September 2018** and signed on its behalf by

S Mêmic
Director / Trustee



OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2017 Total Funds	2016 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Incoming resources from Charitable activities				
The Heathland &Chelsea School	7,414	10,115	**17,529**	21,800
Davor&Matt donation		12,711	**12,711**	0
Other Donations		120	**120**	0
Incoming resources from Generated funds				
Local Community Campaign		4,469	**4,469**	5,860
Gifts & Donations	8,234	983	**9,217**	16,045
Community Events	9,659	-	**9,659**	7,907
Standing Orders	2,300	-	**2,300**	1,870
Bank Interest	11	-	**11**	3
Total Incoming Resources	**27,618**	**28,397**	**56,016**	**53,485**
Resources Expended				
Charitable activities				
Local Community Campaign	-	4,469	**4,469**	**5,860**
London Community Events	6,776	-	**6,776**	**3,622**
Staff Training / Travel / CRB	-	-	-	-
Operational Costs	-	-	-	-
Research Services	-	-	-	-
Activities & Services Expenses	20,012	9,886	**29,898**	**36,585**
Volunteers Expenses	-	-	-	-
Governance costs	-	-	-	**119**
Accountancy Fee	13	-	**13**	**13**
Legal & Professional Fees	-	-	-	-
Company Administration	30	-	**30**	-
Bank Charges	859	1,063	**1,922**	**1,529**
Depreciation	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended	**27,690**	**15,418**	**43,108**	**47,728**
Net incoming (outgoing) resources For the year	(72)	12,979	12,907	5,757
Balance brought forward at 01 JANUARY	32,912	4,561	37,473	31,716
Balance carried forward at 31 DECEMBER	**32,840**	**17,540**	**50,380**	**37,473**

OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2015 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	1	-	-
Current assets			
Debtors & Prepayments		2,914	8,168
Cash at bank and in hand		47,466	29,305
		50,380	37,473
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year		-	-
Net current Assets		**50,380**	**37,473**
Net Assets		**50,380**	**37,473**
Funds			
Unrestricted income funds:			
General		32,840	32,912
Restricted funds:		17,540	4,561
		50,380	**37,473**

Directors' Statement:
The Directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption under Section 475(1)(a) of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(i) Ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

(ii) Preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the assets, liability, financial position and profit or loss of the company for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393 and 394 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors have taken advantage of the exemptions conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and have done so on the grounds that in their opinion the company qualifies as a small company under section 382 (3) Companies Act.

The Board of Directors approved these accounts on **19th September 2018**

S Mëmic
Director / Trustee

OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

(i) These accounts are the accounts of OUR KIDS FOUNDATION, a not for profit organisation in its first period of trading.

(ii) These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash are received or paid.

(iii) The recommendations of the Statement of Recommended Practice (Accounting by Charities) have been followed in the preparation of these accounts.

(b) Fund accounting

(i) The Charity's general fund consists of funds, which the charity may use for its purposes at its discretion.

(ii) The Charity's restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds, which are legally binding.

(c) Voluntary income

(i) All voluntary income is included upon receipt.

(ii) Grants receivable is credited to income immediately upon receipt.

(d) Investment income

Credit is taken for interest when the interest falls due for payment.

(e) Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are included in the accounts at their historical cost and are written off through the statement of financial activities.

(f) Administration expenditure

Administration expenditure comprises costs incurred in running the charity. Where applicable, some of these costs have been treated as direct charitable expenditure.

OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2 Interest receivable and similar income

	2017	2016
	£	£
Bank interest	11	2

3 Fixed Assets And Depreciation:

Fixed assets are only capitalised if their value is above £1,000 and have a life of more than one year.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off of the cost of fixed asset over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Furniture & Fittings	25% straight line
Equipments	25% straight line

No fixed assets were held during the period.

4 Share Capital

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

5 Remuneration of Directors (Trustees)

No directors received any remuneration in that year.

6 Analysis of Restricted Fund

	Balance at 1-Jan-17	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers to/from General Fund	Balance at 31-Dec-17
	£	£	£	£	£
Project Activities	**4,561**	**28,397**	**(15,418)**		**17,540**

OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7 Analysis of Unrestricted Fund

	Balance at 1-Jan-17	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers to/from General Fund	Balance at 31-Dec-17
	£	£	£	£	£
General	**32,912**	**27,618**	**(27,690)**		**32,840**

8 Analysis of Fund Balances between Net Assets

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	32,840	17,540	50,380
Current Liabilities		0	0
	32,840	**17,540**	**50,380**

OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OUR KIDS FOUNDATION

I report on the accounts of Our Kids Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on pages 7 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Romero Tayong FCCA
105 Fullbrook Avenue
Reading, RG7 1FE
28 September 2018

NASA DJECA

Renovation of premises of the Children's Club within the Children's Home Mostar;
The premises where the workshops were held were renovated at the beginning of the year. The roof was changed with the help of local donors as well as actions through which the funds for the purchase of materials and assistance from the construction company Patak. The decoration of the interior was funded by Our kids UK and Våra Barn Sweden.
Development of individual plans for children leaving the Children's Home Mostar;
The development of an individual plans was carried out in the first six months of 2017 but was not carried out till the end of the year due to organisational changes within Children's Home Mostar. In the first six months we introduced the adoption of culinary skills in a newly equipped kitchen, inclusion of children in the activities of dance, sports clubs, day trips and excursions, education workshops delivered by health practitioners etc. Improved life quality and healthy eating through sponsorships and fruit lunches; During the first months we managed to provide fruit lunches for children with the help of donors Vila Mine Neum, funds for the mentioned branch from the Bakić family. We developed education and work practice for the young man who attends Secondary hairdressing school with the help of practical training in the city hairdresser's salon who in turn provided haircuts for other children attending the Club.
From September 2017, due to reorganisation within Children's Home Mostar, we handed over Children's Club to Children's Home and all activities are carried out by Children's Home staff.
Plans for new collaboration with Children's Home Mostar started in September 2017 in the form of organising summer trips to Ireland where children will be hosted by the families with the idea that they will experience family life during their two week stay.
Empowerment and vocational training of young people leaving Children's Homes after the age of 18;
Two girls and one boy were placed in a housing unit and included in the program of empowerment. During the year, they showed affinity and ability to work on the project Guesthouse-Naša Djeca and Second Hand Shop. In the framework of the project, three beneficiaries have been empowered since the beginning of the year. From September 2017 another young man was given accommodation, advisory support and medical support. In addition, we also provided support to seven beneficiaries not living in Nasa Djeca accommodation but the help was provided in the form of external support in funding, advice and emotional support.
Three original beneficiaries are still living in the accommodation and are given full support continuously.
Second hand - Our Kids – Shop and educational workshop;
During 2017 we were able to employ two girls leaving care in addition to three girls with special needs who are living in Nasa Djeca house. We also employed a number of volunteers who provided additional support to the beneficiaries.
Clothes donations continued coming from Sweden but the good news was that we started getting the donations from the local people which increased to average 30 donations per month.
At the end of 2017, at the Assembly of the Association, a decision was made to register the shop as Ltd. company
Guesthouse - Our Kids;
In 2017 we completed equipping and preparing the apartment floor for renting, developed booking, marketing and competition analysis, put the van into the function of organizing group

tourist trips, engaged our beneficiaries in the project implementation. This project provided seasonal employment to two of our beneficiaries.
Medo the Walking Love;
Created marketing brochures and visited kindergartens and schools to promote while encouraging participation of our beneficiaries in the promotion. This project provided part time work to three of the beneficiaries
Other activities, support and volunteers;
Humanitarian concert with song and dance for Nasa Djeca-Our Kids. This was the fifth year of the organization of the humanitarian concert, which was held on in December 2017 in the hall of the National Theatre Mostar with all funds from the concert directed to the realization of the humanitarian mission and project activities of Nasa Djeca.
In 2017 we had two bazaars where Second Hand boutique items and handicrafts were sold, also a team from Mostar participated as member in the organization of the Sports Association of Mostar, where we had a promotional stand, while the team from Pazarić had a promotional stand of the in front of BBI Center Sarajevo.
During the year we developed many cooperative relationships with local organisations and individuals. These relationships are essential for the improvement and realization of the activities implemented by Nasa Djeca.
Volunteer engagement and participation of volunteers in the work of Nasa Djeca is crucial. During the year we managed to establish cooperation with the Association of High School Students in BiH. Where we participated in the "Be a Volunteer" campaign and on the 20th October Volunteers Day we welcomed a high school student who provided assistance and support to our beneficiaries. This engagement promoted the openness of the project to welcome volunteers and many got in touch with us to express their interest in taking up volunteering for the organisation.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE IN PAZARIC CENTRE
During the period Jan – Dec 2017, Our Kids Foundation continued the employment of the 3 personal assistants supporting 3 children for five days a week, 1 full time (8 hrs) and two assistants (part time until Nov 2017 4 hours). The charity foundation decided to terminate the contracts with the two part-time assistants in Nov 2017, as the project could not afford to pay the pension contributions required by their employment contracts. One part-time assistant continued to work with the same boy voluntarily in December 2017. In addition, the project was supported by three more volunteers during 2017. The assistants have been given a room by the Centre for their work with the children on a temporary basis.
In 2017, the assistants organised birthday parties for 19 children. The project bought a trampoline and build a shaded playground for the children. The assistants organised several trips during the year: Igman, Bjelašnica, Vrelo Bosne, Sarajevo, bakery in Pazarić twice, and a summer holiday in Neum. The summer holiday in Neum was financed by the Danish humanitarian organisation Hjaelp Sarajevo Born. The children spend 5 days in Neum. The project organised Christmas parties with gifts on two occasions. In 2017 the project also initiated „godparenting "supported by overseas donators who as part of that initiative started making regular donations for their child which were used for buying fruit, toys, medicine, clothing, shoes, etc. Several visits by the godparents have been organised in addition to the visits by Our Kids and Våra Bara volunteers.
The cooperation with the Pazaric Centre is good and the project is respected and supported

REPORT OF DIRECTORS – TRUSTIES

All three children have made a remarkable progress this year.
17-year old I.K. continues to make amazing progress and is now a young girl well developed physically and with regular periods, albeit quite painful periods. She is still suffering from severe episodes of epilepsy and self-harming. She is now learning how to dress up and take off clothes and how to eat on her own. Her sister visited her a couple of times during the year.
S.H. has made good progress both physically and mentally. He now has 4 new teeth. He has become more independent and can now enjoy swinging on his own. He is very mobile and can get out of the bed and take a bottle on his own to indicate that he is thirsty. He took part in the Christmas party and was dancing on the stage; this is a remarkable progress for the boy who would have probably remained unable to move without personal assistance.
S.S.Z. has now become better at socialising and likes playing with dolls and with educational toys. She likes drinking milk shakes. She is now able to control her physiological needs and is able to go to the toilet on her own. She has regular physiotherapy where is receiving therapy by TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) machines. She is learning short children songs and loves listening to the music.

HALF WAY HOUSE
In summer 2016 the House opened its doors to the first eight tenants from the homes from Mostar, Zenica and Turija. One of the beneficiaries reaching the age of 25 completed the program and was supported in finding accommodation and employment in nearby city of Stolac. In early 2017 four beneficiaries were supported in finding employment with the nearby mushroom grower as casual staff, which continued into the late spring 2017, when one of the tenant was supported in securing a job and training opportunity to become a chef in a newly opened restaurant. Two of the beneficiaries still in secondary education were supported in securing casual work in a local shop and car-wash business, whilst a training for one beneficiary was secured by Intera Technology Park and was successfully completed the training in mid-2017. Throughout 2017 the program of the House implied an individualized approach through the development of individual support plan for self-reliance, developed in cooperation with young beneficiaries. The goals of the individual plan were based on the assessment of the needs of the young person and their perception of her own skills, abilities and individual's aspiration for their own future. Personal development plans were developed from the templates that were successfully developed by FSCI [Foundation for social Change and Inclusion] who have been using this model in West Balkan countries such as Bulgaria, Serbia and Croatia in their House of Opportunities programme.
Mentoring approach by the staff of Half Way House was set to provide individual support plan for future independence and self-reliance where creative methods of work were carried out through workshops, topic-focused interviews and training with young beneficiaries. Three house parents consisted of qualified social worker and psychologist provided day to day support, advice and care.
A particular focus of the work was on workshops and one to one sessions, training the beneficiaries of the house halfway to find the labour market and in the situations of communication with employers, and for this purpose their training in acquiring the knowledge of applying to work places, creating a CV and motivation letter and developing job interview skills. The education coordinator employed by the House liaised with the potential employers in order to highlight the importance of their role in the process of involving young people in work practices and employment.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS – TRUSTIES

In December 2016 and opportunity to develop a small food production business that was run by an elderly couple in Mostar arose and the plan to purchase the equipment was developed for 2017 with the idea to start the production of conserved food such as jams and preserves and try to expand sales in the following years in order to take first steps in long term self-sustainability of the project.
Since Half-Way House had conditions for the installation of equipment and it also has the potential for its own agricultural production at the plot of surrounding land, the family decided to transfer the equipment and deliver the training of the technological process free of charge. The idea was to download existing recipes in order to maintain the quality of the product and retain their customer base.
The production on larger scale started in late August into September 2017. However, the sales of the products didn't take up as hoped and we had to reconsider the continuation of this business. As it transpired, with lack of funds to develop quality control of the product as well as marketing and sales strategy, the profits from such small production cud not provide a percentage of funds for self-sustainability as originally hoped so the review of future continuation started taking place at the end of December 2017.
The project developed an excellent relationship with the local community and various local organisations that provided an enormous support in the way of donations, partnership work, educational support, staff support and volunteering and here are a few:
UG Nasa Djeca-Our Kids u BiH , Udruga Nesto Vise, Djeciji Dom Mostar, Udruga Vedri Osmijeh, KPZ Mostar, City of Mostar, Poliklinika Vitalis Mostar, Caritas, Chamber of Commerce City of Mostar, SIK company, O.P.T.I.O.N., KPZ Mostar prison, Forma F, Intera Technology Park, Efpsa, Centri civilnih inicijativa (CCI) and Agencija za saradnju, edukaciju i razvoj (ACED), Zinkteknik Mostar,CZSR Sarajevo, Center Zvezda in Belgrade and Niš, Udruzenje Orhideja Stolac, SOS , Forma F, Hercegovački plodovi mediterana , University Džemal Bijedić Mostar
In March 2017 KNPP team attended the annual conference organised by our partners FSCI in Sofia, Bulgaria. A truly enjoyable experience where we were able to meet with various partners and learn about their challenges and exchange good practices from various House of Opportunity and other similar social inclusion focused groups from Western Balkan.
We had a total of 45 volunteers participating in various activities and providing assistance and support to our beneficiaries and organised students visits by MSYP participants, International Summer School University College of Southeast Norway, Heathland School London UK.

As the original funding of the project which was set for two years was coming to an end in early 2018, in November 2017 the Board of Our Kids Foundation started exploring possibilities of changing the operative model of Half Way House which was a registered institution of social care, to a more efficient model which would enable continuous support to our beneficiaries with lower administrative cost that the current model required. Plans were laid out for transformation of the project in early 2018.

MSYP 2017

Our Kids Foundation once again supported the Mostar Summer Youth Program (MSYP) in 2017 to help it raise funds and to deliver two actions specifically aimed at engaging Mostar youth with some of the local initiatives supported by the Foundation. MSYP 2017 ran between 27 June and 15 July 2017 and saw 63 participants aged between 15-19 from 15 schools in and around Mostar

(as well as schools in Travnik, Gračanica, Sarajevo and Podgorica - Montenegro) attend 3 weeks of English language courses, extra-curricular workshops, talks and events.
Courses taught at MSYP 2017 included: Anthropology, Business Development, Global Politics, Ethics, Logic and Mathematics, Art History and Literature Studies.
Extra-curricular activities included: a business start-up challenge day, a trip to Ruište involving hiking and arts and crafts workshops, talks on themes including mental health and wellbeing, gender identity, LGBTQ+ rights, political corruption and Balkan cultural history and workshops engaging participants in public speaking, social media content creation and initiatives for everyday sustainability.
MSYP 2017 was staffed by 17 local and international volunteers, coming from BiH, UK, Argentina, Italy, USA, South Africa, Austria, Canada and Croatia.
MSYP 2017's local and national partners included: Shüler Helfen Leben, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, UWC Mostar, European Youth Parliament BiH, Intera Technology Park and OKC Abrašević.
Two unique one-off events were delivered as follows:
A visit to Kuća na Pola Puta by a group of MSYP participants who learnt about the project, met the house's beneficiaries and staff team and helped construct planters for the house's garden and
A 'flea-market' event promoted across Mostar, at which MSYP's participants, their families and friends and other Mostar residents could bring along any unwanted clothes, toys, household appliances, books etc. and take anything they liked, with all the donated goods left over being given to Naša Djeca to be distributed, used or sold in their second hand shop. Volunteers from Naša Djeca, as well as beneficiaries of the organisation's work attended this event and spoke to attendees about other opportunities to engage with and support them.
MSYP continues to expose the work supported by the Foundation to a network of potential supporters and volunteers and engage a generation of young Mostar locals with this work.

RASNA AND MUM VISIT OUR MOSTAR PROJECTS

Rasna, who first visited the Foundation's projects in Mostar on a school trip in 2015, revisited the projects with her mother Simi this year. They spent time working with the children at Egipatsko Selo orphanage, taking part in therapeutic art sessions for example. They also visited the two homes run by the Foundation in Mostar and Vrapčići, and spent a lot of time socialising with the residents, and helping out around the homes. In addition, they made a 14-hour trip to meet with one of the children from the orphanage who had been adopted. They were very pleased to see his progress and reassured to see that he had found a permanent, nurturing family. Enabling these ongoing relationships and connections is extremely important for the future of the Foundation and our goal of sustaining long term care for our beneficiaries. These visits help us to establish a new generation of fundraisers, volunteers and project leaders. What follows is their first-hand experience in their own words:

Rasna's Story:

'Nobody stays in Mostar for 7 days'. 'Why are you here for so long?' asked the receptionist at our hotel. I pointed to my Nasa Djeca t-shirt and told him about the cause that is so close to my heart and also added, much to his surprise, that this was my third consecutive trip to Mostar.
So what draws me to this beautiful place? To put it plainly, the people. They are so warm, welcoming and always full of life. The children in particular are special, each one possessing their own unique personalities. I always end up having a favourite, which I know isn't necessarily right,

but I just can't help being drawn to some of them! Each day was always different, as we completed a variety of activities, which were all superbly organised by the wonderful Belma and I soon realised after spending a few hours with them, that each afternoon was never long enough. My favourite activity was when were divided into two groups competing against one another, to see who could get the most points. The most heart-warming part about this was hearing the children screech with laughter each time someone in the team was successful, quite simply it was the sound of pure, unrestrained joy.

I was also lucky enough to meet the lovely women at the girls' house, who I spent most of my mornings with. We were thoroughly spoilt and so well looked after. They treated us to coffee and delicious, traditional Bosnian sweets. The language barrier was also never an issue, due to the fact that we had our own personal translator, the lovely Amir, who also took such good care of us, always taking care to ensure that we had a taxi back to our hotel.

In addition, we visited the halfway house, a project which I saw when I came, with my school, two years ago. From its foundations, it has progressed into an amazing home for young men, where they are taught basic life skills that will aid them for their future. As before, we were treated so well, with the boys offering us tea, coffee and despite the fact that we said no, even some of their delicious homemade cherry juice. We were utterly overwhelmed by their kindness and I hope to spend more time with them next year.

To say I was sad when we left is an understatement. It always takes me a few days to adjust back to life at home, but I can confidently say that Mostar is a very special place for me and I will definitely be back next year. In the words of Aida, 'Rasna is Mostar'.

Mum's Story:

Two years ago I remember sitting in the presentation given by my daughter's school teacher about their forthcoming trip to an orphanage in Bosnia. I was reduced to tears when we were shown a video of a previous trip, so moved was I by the plight of these children. Little did I imagine that two years later mother and daughter would be visiting the very same orphanage. As a solicitor specialising in child protection for over 25 years, I have first-hand experience of the distressing background of these children's lives, and the lifelong experiences for them as a result of poor, neglectful or at its worst, abusive parenting. Whether, as they approach adolescence and their adult years, it becomes a vicious cycle of alcohol or drug misuse, sexual abuse, or violence in their relationships.

I was overawed by the dedication, professionalism and commitment of a handful of staff who go, and indeed have been going, that extra mile for these children and young adults, with very little financial rewards. As one professional commented as she scoured YouTube late into the night to find ideas for working with the children, whether it be for therapeutic or creative purposes, " for me this is not a job, it's a way of life."

No one afternoon at the orphanage was the same, the children were always being stimulated, challenged and entertained, largely by one member of staff who may have up to 15 children that afternoon, including some with special needs, who require greater support. It was an incredible experience to witness. Despite a language barrier, we had a great time playing with the children, and spotting a future Ronaldo!

However, it was the afternoon when therapeutic work was being done with the children that was by far the most distressing to witness, especially as a mother. The children were asked to lie down, relax and dream, about anything, whether it be their parents, experiences, other loved ones, etc. Thereafter they were asked to draw their dream. Apart from two children, all of the children drew pictures of unhappy people and distressing situations. See for yourself - as they

say, a picture speaks a thousand words. This activity was invaluable as it enabled the therapist to know more about the children's experiences and how to assist them in their recovery.
Post 18 there is no support from the government for the children. Two homes have been set up for the girls and boys, to engage them into society and teach them to become independent. The house for the boys boasted a garden the boys where they are being taught to tend to a garden, and we sampled delicious cherry cordial and jam that they had prepared. We met two of the boys, one of whom is training to be a mechanic, the other a chef.
The girls' house was equally impressive - from their skills at keeping it immaculate and witnessing them running a second hand clothes shop, create artefacts to sell, etc. thus teaching them invaluable life skills.
Two years ago when my daughter went to the orphanage she was absolutely besotted with a three-year-old boy who she spent the best part of the fortnight with. His photos were her screensaver on her phone, computer, and she had photos of him dotted in her room. We found out that he had been adopted, and made a 14-hour journey to meet him with his adoptive parents. It was totally worth it - he has since blossomed and is blessed to have such wonderful parents. As a mother I can now close that chapter in the knowledge that he is so very happy in his new home, and thus end a mother's story.

BOSNIA CHALLENGE 2017 – HEATHLAND SCHOOL VISIT
In August 2017 Students from Heathland School in London visited our projects in Mostar as a part of Bosnia Challenge that happens traditionally every year. After all the expenses of their trip were paid by the funds they raised, the remaining funds of £7,413.83 were paid toward Our Kids Foundation projects. Here is what they said about 2017 visit:
"The Bosnia Challenge is a unique experience undertaken annually by a selected group of Year 12 students at The Heathland School. It is a leadership experience, which has two main components: fundraising for a charity in Mostar called Our Kids Foundation; and a trip to Mostar in the summer to support the work of the charity. For the ninth year in this ongoing tradition, a record-breaking 26 students from The Heathland School were selected to take part. Our Kids Foundation is a remarkable charity which supports the growth and development of children in institutional care in Mostar, Bosnia. OKF also funds and operates two halfway houses, one for girls and one for boys. These houses, which have full time staff, provide accommodation and assistance to young adults when they leave the orphanage at the age of 18 and need support to develop their independent living skills.
Each Heathland student that participated in The Bosnia Challenge had to raise £1000 throughout the school year. The students came up with a variety of creative ways to raise the money, such as: packing bags for customers at local grocery stores, singing alongside the riverbank in Richmond, bake sales, and doing sponsored runs in funny costumes. Some of the money raised was used to pay for the trip to Bosnia and the rest was donated to support the work of Our Kids Foundation. After the fundraising was complete, we travelled as a group to Mostar at the end of August to spend time with the children and young adults that the charity works with.
The first couple of days were spent at the orphanage, settling in and getting to know the children that lived there. There was some nervousness at first, but it didn't take long to break the ice with a game of soccer! The Heathland students and teachers were accommodated in their own building on the orphanage grounds, which had several different rooms with bunkbeds and toilets. This was very convenient for being able to spend as much time as possible with the children. We had breakfast all together every day and shared several lunches and dinners as

well. The kitchen staff provided us with delicious meals and worked very hard to accommodate a number of different dietary requirements, which was greatly appreciated!
Around the orphanage, everyone participated in a wide range of fun activities. We were able to spend a significant amount of time in the sports hall, where we played a lot of basketball and soccer. Sometimes big competitive matches would take place with everyone involved. Other times, smaller groups invented their own games together using the different sporting equipment we had available. Some highlights include being dazzled by Saud's and Ivana's soccer skills. They were amazing!! We all played lots of different tag games outside around the buildings and also played in the small playground. When everyone needed a break from all the running around, we did arts and crafts and made bracelets inside the dining all. There was always something for everyone to do!
We also went on lots of exciting excursions together, along with the older girls and boys from the halfway houses. The weather was very hot and we were lucky to spend two afternoons at the outdoor pool. The water was so refreshing and the view of the mountains in the distance was spectacular. We played in the pool for hours, taking just a couple breaks to have an ice cream or a drink. One of the most exciting trips was the white water rafting. To get there, we travelled on narrow roads, winding our way deeper and deeper into the Bosnian forest. A delicious brunch was provided for us before we arrived. We then set out on our rafting adventure. Led by experienced rafting guides, we made our way down the river. The rapids were thrilling, we sang songs as we paddled, and we had lots of fun jumping off a rock into the water. Our last outing, towards the end of our time in Mostar, was the much-anticipated boat trip to Croatia. Swimming in the ocean, delicious seafood lunch on a small island, spectacular views all around, dance party on the boat: this day was a highlight for everyone!
We spent some time exploring the "Old Town" side of Mostar. A big highlight was watching the professional bridge jumpers leap off the famous 24-metre-high bridge that connects the two sides of the city, into the river below. On two occasions we went to the big shopping centre, called Mepas. The first time we saw the big new release, The Hitman's Bodyguard, at the cinema, which proved to be a big hit. On our next Mepas adventure we went bowling. This was definitely a highlight of the trip. There was lots of laughter, cheering, and some great chants invented for everyone's favourite teacher, James!
For one afternoon, we were graciously hosted by the older girls at their halfway house in the "Old Town." They gave us a tour and told us about their jobs at a local charity shop, run by Our Kids Foundation. After some refreshments, we watched a slideshow and heard more about the work of OKF. We also had a special ceremony to say a big thank you and farewell to James. James, a teacher at the Heathland School, has been running the trip for 9 years and sadly, this was his last year. James has contributed so much to the charity and the children at the orphanage over the years. He will definitely be back to visit!
We also spent a fun-filled afternoon with the older boys at their halfway house. There were many basketball games and keep-ups with the soccer ball. Everyone tapped into their creative side with some picture drawing. Andrea, a teacher, and one of the older boys, Sultan, are both amazing artists. They took ideas from both of their drawings and painted a stunning painting on canvas. Afterwards, the painting was hung up on the wall in the boys' house. For dinner, we all helped prepare a delicious barbeque, which was followed by lots of singing and dancing.
The last day was one of the busiest days, but everyone worked hard and pulled it all together. A team of students led by Andrea, the artist, painted a mural-sized version of the painting from the boys' halfway house on the wall of the orphanage. Afterwards we all made a handprint on the

wall and painted our names. This has become a tradition over the years. Gift bags were prepared for each child in the orphanage, filled with clothes, school supplies, and games. Some students prepared a collage of pictures from the trip to give to the children and we had a delicious buffet barbeque dinner. Finally, it was time for the final event: the greatly-anticipated talent show! All of the acts were fantastic and so many people got involved, including the teachers! The group bhangra dance got everyone up off their feet dancing together and it was an amazing feeling. It can be difficult to put into words, but this experience has undoubtedly had a profound impact on the life of each student and teacher from The Heathland School who participated in The Bosnia Challenge. Many special bonds were formed throughout trip and memories were made to last a lifetime. Needless to say, it was very difficult to say goodbye. The students have made plans to run a few more fundraising events throughout the year to continue to support Our Kids Foundation. We look forward to being part of this amazing experience again next year!"

DAVOR AND MATT'S DONATION

Davor Golub and Matthew Ostrower have been longstanding supporters of Our Kids Foundation. In the past they have generously donated to our appeals for help. Davor was also one of the founders of the annual Bosnia Challenge, taking students from the Heathland School to Egipatsko Selo. He has selflessly given of his time and this summer both Matt and Davor visited Bosnia on their holidays. This year they donated an amazingly generous €15000. They specifically requested that this be donated to the halfway house in Vrapcici for the installation of the heating system. This would not have been possible without their generosity and for that we are very grateful.

FOUNDRAISER FOR OLD PEOPLE'S HOME IN MOSTAR

In March 2017 three young girls from Mostar organised a fundraising party in benefit of Old People's Home in Mostar. They managed to raise £3.575 from which they purchased necessary equipment for the Home and food donation from the remaining funds.

AMIRA MEDUNJANIN FUNDRAISING CONCERT IN LONDON

For the fourth year running, Amira Medunjanin performed on 10th of June 2017 to fundraise for Our Kids Foundation. The concert took place at St Peter's Church in Notting Hill and on this occasion the audience had the opportunity to listen to Amira's live performance of her album "Damar", released in November 2016. Amira was accompanied on stage by virtuoso talents from Croatia Ante Gelo (guitar) and Zvonimir Sestak (double bass). The evening was truly enjoyable and we raised £7694.10 which will go directly to support our existing projects in Mostar.

MARKO GOVORCIN FUNDRAISING CONCERT IN LONDON

Another fundraising concert in support of Our Kids Foundation took place in St Peter's Church in Notting Hill on December 9th, 2017. This time it was performed by Our Kids Foundation all time biggest supporter Marko Govorcin musician from Salzburg who has been helping our fundraising activities since 2010. He was joined on stage by musicians Sanja Govorcin an accomplished artist currently residing in Manchester and a guitar player Slaven Janjic from the Czech Republic. Marko brought with him two new albums which have been produced in a very successful Balkan studio in Munich owned by Brano Likic. There was 72 people joining us and we have raised a total of £2,174.47

OUR KIDS FOUNDATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF DIRECTORS – TRUSTIES

COMEMORATIVE FUNDRAISING FOR IVAN KARACIC

On Saturday 13th May 2017, Ivan Karacic tragically died in a plane accident, along with three children and a 19-year-old. His death was sudden and a great shock to all who knew him. He had dedicated the last few years of his life to working with children who were in care or who had recently left care, helping at the Halfway House and Nasa Djeca projects. He was a father figure to the young people supported by our projects and the children who lived in the Egipatsko Selo orphanage. Ivan loved these kids as if they were his own; he looked after them and made them believe that a better life and future were possible for them.
The fundraising page has been set up in Ivan's memory, to raise funds to continue the work of the organisations and projects he supported in Mostar.

DONATIONS

Religious Society of Friends
Charities Trust
Charity Aid Foundation
Lone Pine Foundation
Vojislav Djordjic

We would like to thank the following companies for their donations in kind: Magaza, London for their generous donation of food and refreshments for our events and Lion Creative UK for their donation in designing our marketing material; banners, posters, logo.

Throughout 2017 our projects, fundraisers and other events were supported by help of 45 volunteers, which is our record number of volunteer engagement. We would like to thank all the volunteers for their generous support in 2017.