

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2009



HISTORY, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

Better Lives Foundation was established in 2006 and was registered on the 14th January 2008. It is made up of a body of like minded people working to improve health and education conditions wherever the need and whose aim is:

- To provide quality medical care and education to the needy leading to long term healthcare independence.
- To improve the condition of people's health
- To promote good health through education
- To work in partnership with charities, especially local organisations
- To raise standards of sanitation and hygiene
- Improve access to water
- To make all projects, self sufficient, independent and self-supportive

MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The Charity's approach is its volunteers providing such support totally free of charge which includes not only their professional or specialised services but providing their own travel and accommodation costs, donations in kind and meeting charity's certain expenses out of their own pockets. The said team of volunteers have a vast heritage and wealth of experience. As administrative costs are absorbed by the volunteers all donations received are used for patient care.

The Trustees and volunteers meet regularly to discuss existing projects and consider plans for any new projects. The volunteer's skills range from professionals such as Surgeons, Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists, Technicians, Plumbers, electricians and other general and administrative individuals from the business community and members of the general public.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE CHARITY

BLF's first medical camp was organised in conjunction with other local and international organisations in December 2006 in Yonibana, Sierra Leone. 26 Volunteers from the United Kingdom (including Trustees) were joined by 70 local volunteers and 5,600 patients were treated for various ailments.

All volunteers and patients were looked after well at the camp by provision of food and refreshments and due to Christmas goodwill, 2,000 children were given gifts.

Around 3,000 mosquito nets (W.H.O. approved) and 50Kg rice bags were distributed to villagers. The local school was provided with plumbing and electrical facilities prior to the medical camp and such facilities were left behind for the school's use.

A need in the area for hospital facilities was identified and a hospital project was under taken in collaboration with Transammonia Foundation and the Alphasorie Trust of Sierra Leone. In November 2007, a second medical project was under taken and held at The Choitaram Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone. A team of 14 volunteers consisting of 5 surgeons, 2 anaesthetists, 1 surgical ward nurse, 1 theatre nurse, 1 pharmacist and 4 general volunteers carried out 56 Hernia and Hydrocoele procedures in 6 days. Medical Professionals took good care of the patients sending them to good recovery.



During 2008/09 a permanent base hospital along with a guest house for volunteers had been constructed on a 27 acre site in Yonibana. Also BLF arranged a 20 foot container of medicines and hospital equipment to be shipped from Mumbai, India in April 2009 for the said cause. All this was supervised and progress tracked by Trustees and volunteers alike. The hospital was named Yonibana Sai Hospital and applications were sent to the Government for licensing.

In 2009/10 more volunteers will fly to Sierra Leone from the UK upon completion of the building of the hospital to carry out more medical camps.