

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2011

This report carries on from the Trustees Annual Report for the period ended 31st March 2010.

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 continued approach with its volunteer's base to providing 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 medical care and support.

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 has continued with its program of medical camps from previous year at the Yonibana Sai Hospital, in Yonibana, Sierra Leone.

MEDICAL EYE CAMP - APRIL 2010:

A team of 15 volunteers were recruited to continue the work left over from the January medical camp and concentrate on the Eyes. The first team of 4 volunteers arrived in Yonibana on the 10th April with the rest of the group of 11 which were due to join them on the 16th April. Unfortunately the medical camp had to be called off as the Volcanic ash from Iceland prevented flights from the UK for a six day period. The 4 volunteers were able to research local medical prevalence's further during their stay in Yonibana by visiting the various villages in the vicinity. They also manage to start the Aids Awareness Program in the local villages as an Outreach Program. Two local nurses were trained for the program. Data was collated from the Outreach Program and was to be used for the forth coming November Medical Camp.



CONTAINER - SEPTEMBER 2010:

A container load of dental, ophthalmic and medical equipment, medicines, furniture, clothes and many other items were shipped out in July. The container was cleared on arrival in September. The container was unloaded and all the items warehoused by local well wishers.



OCTOBER 2010:

Two of the trustees went out in October to oversee the transfer of all the items from the warehouse to Yonibana. The Trustees met the Inspection Team from The Medical and Dental Council of Sierra Leone. Their letter of confirmation of Registration was received on the 30th September 2010. Their comments included – “The hospital was found to be very well organised and equipped to provide quality healthcare service and has accordingly been registered by the council.” The official Certificate of Accreditation was presented during the November Medical, Dental and Eye Camp.



MEDICAL, DENTAL & EYE CAMP - NOVEMBER 2010:

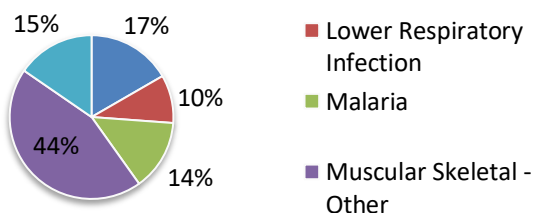
- A team of 40 volunteers consisting of 1 Consultant Orthopaedic, 1 Consultant Ophthalmologist, 1 Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, 3 General Practitioners, 1 GP Specialist Pain Management, 6 Optometrists, 2 Optical Dispensers, 2 Dental Surgeons, 7 Pharmacists, 2 Theatre Nurses, 1 General Nurse, 4 Dental Students, 2 Medical Students, 1 Engineer, 2 IT technicians and 4 General assistants from the UK flew out in 3 groups – the first 20 volunteers left on the 21st November, the second group of 18 left on the 24th and the final two volunteers left on the 26th November.
- There were over 70 volunteers from Yonibana to help with a successful official opening of the facilities in the Yonibana Sai Hospital.
- The medical camp was official opened on Monday the 25th November 2010.
- In total, 3,444 patients were examined and treated for a variety of ailments. Patients travelled from many different villages around Yonibana and including Freetown.
- 1008 Dental extractions were performed by the two Dental Surgeons from 595 consultations.
- 68 Cataract Operations were performed by the Ophthalmic team with 26 further cataract patients identified who were referred for operation at the UMC Hospital, Kissy.

Total Number of Patients

3444

General - 5 Most Common

Diagnosis



Consultation	Number	Total %
Total Consultations for General - Adult (Age > 16 years)	1614	42.79%
Total Consultations for General - Child (Age <= 16 years)	207	5.49%
Total Consultations for General - Child (Age <= 5 years)	391	10.37%
Total Consultations for Optometry	897	23.78%
Total Consultations for Dental	595	15.77%
Total Consultations for Cataract Surgery	68	1.80%
Total Patient Consultations	3772	



Data collected from the medical camp was added to previous data collected to give a further picture of health issues within the area. This data is the first real data that high-lighted diseases and prevalence's which we will continue to tackle during future camps. Further medical camps had been planned for April 2011 and November 2011.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITY

Better Lives Foundation Volunteers undertook Fund raising challenges in October 2010.



Several of our volunteers embarked on the Kilimanjaro Challenge collecting sponsorship from family, friends and local businesses. It created a lot of awareness of our activities in Sierra Leone.

BLF organised a 13km Sponsored Walk along the Thames River Path from Richmond Bridge to Hampton Bridge ending the walk with a picnic in Hurst Park along the river. This was an event which helped raise in excess of £10,000 with many new volunteers. It managed to generate further awareness with no costs to BLF as the picnic and the whole event was sponsored by various individuals.

Fund raising as a whole has been gathering momentum and this is reflected in our annual accounts with receipts of £91,686.

Formal presentations were carried out at various places and including

Dr J Patel, Sutton, Surrey

June 2010

BMI Southend Private Hospital, Southend On Sea,

Aug 2010

North London Ladies Group

October 2010

Bradford, Yorkshire

March 2011

Sri Sathya Sai Centre, Tooting, London

March 2011

