



## Friends of Amasango

c/o 2 Dean Clarke House,  
2 Southernhay East,  
Exeter Devon,  
EX1 1AP

U.K. Charity No. 1116268

### Annual Report for the year 2019/20

#### 1. Overview of the year

During the year the Friends of Amasango (the Charity) has engaged in fundraising for and the facilitation of volunteers to the Amasango Career School (ACS), Grahamstown, South Africa to support in particular the following objectives --

1. Food at Amasango
2. Clothing at Amasango
3. Honoraria to local volunteers
4. Past Pupil Support for those at High School
5. Overseas fund raising
6. Accountancy support
7. Capital expenditure on necessary equipment

At the beginning of the year it was known that income would be down and thus very detailed budget projections were generated and plans made at the school, and have in the main been well carried out by the school, to meet these tightened budgets. A total of £44,681.03 (about ZAR 826,599) was sent to ACS meeting the above objectives as agreed in the Budget. The Charity's contributions to ACS have been adversely affected by a reduced GBP to South African Rand exchange rate (now standing at just over GBP 1 = R 18.5) and the very difficult fund-raising climate in the UK. The School managed to avoid an excess of spend due to good on-site management and reduced administration/accounting costs. During the year, 6 overseas Volunteers helped at ACS, all of whom came from U.K.

In U.K. the Charity received a total of £59,691 during the year. Compared with 2018/19 and excluding legacies, individual donations were increased whilst yet again corporate donations reduced. Gift Aid tax recovery has worked well. UK bank balances at the year-end were up to £58,417 ensuring the charity has the cash flow resources to meet the needs of the School which start immediately in the new financial year whilst funds only come in during the year. The Trustees are continuing to consider ways of reversing the downwards trend in corporate donations and increasing the Individual donations and to this end ran a successful fundraising project amongst supporters during the year. It is hoped that slightly less stringent budgets for next year will be helpful for the School. However ongoing/increased fundraising is heavily constrained by ongoing delays in South Africa with the building plans for a new school which are outside the control of the Trustees.

To maintain financial prudence but take note of increasing demands in the School a Budget **has been agreed** for the forthcoming year with revenue expenditure in 2020/21 totalling R 806,120 (about £ 43,574) has been agreed which the Trustees



believe can be serviced, and which the school believes is adequate in the current circumstances. This Budget was approved by Members at the AGM held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The AGM has had to be held online via Zoom this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has also meant that the Principal of the School has, for the first time for many years, not been able to visit the UK and this has potential negative effects on our fundraising ability which has had to be taken account of in our budgets.

Unfortunately, although local Department of Education in the Grahamstown area, had identified and approved a new “green field” site in a good location for the new school to be built on, it has not progressed matters further. The Department remains under a contempt of a court order for its failure to provide educational facilities, as the South African Constitution requires, suitable for extrinsically disabled children, and it has been necessary to revert to the NGO lawyers again to try and move matters forward. All this means, yet again, that a further year’s delay is likely.

The Charity is the largest single donor to ACS.

## 2. Statutory information

The Charity is regulated by its Constitution which was adopted in General Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

The Charity’s Objects as stated therein are as a Christian organisation to advance the education of pupils who are street children in South Africa and in particular those attached to the Amasango Career Schools in Eastern Cape Province by financial support through bursaries or otherwise and through assisting in the provision of facilities not provided by the Provincial Government and by facilitating the availability to the Amasango Career Schools of volunteer teachers and assistants.

The eight Trustees of the Charity in 2019/20 were Ian Irvin (Chairman), Hannah Peters (Hon Treasurer), Martin Coombs (Hon Secretary), John Cartmell, Alison Evans, Kate Mier, Mark Newton, Charl Oosthuizen, Rebecca Pennells and Brian Wakeham , none of whom holds any property on behalf of the Charity. Eleven Trustees meetings were held during the year.

The Charity’s bankers are Santander Commercial Bank of Bridle Road, Merseyside, L30 4GB and HSBC Bank plc of 20 Market Place, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1DW. The Charity’s Independent Examiner is Nicholas Wharam, ACCA, of 22a Duffield Road. Little Eaton, Derbyshire DE21 5DS..

This Annual Report was approved by the Charity in General Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and signed on its behalf by

*Ian Irvin, Chairman*