

CROSSROADS CARE ATTENDANT SCHEME TRUST - NATIONAL

11 WHITFIELD ROAD, RUGBY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1981 - ORDINARY

	1980	1981		
	£	£		
Grants D.H.S.S.	25000.00	20000	Grants to E.E.C. Schemes (ex D.H.S.S.)	5000.00
Grant from E.E.C.	12750.00	36796	Salaries and Expenses	41197.25
Donations	8400.00	175	Heat and Light	210.00
Interest Received	48.80	417	Insurance	1355.90
Re-charged E.E.C.	18610.67	3218	Telephone, Postages, Stationery and Advertising	5585.66
Affiliation Fees	561.00	-	Repairs and Renewals	93.77
		191	Legal Charges	-
		134	Professional Charges	163.75
		142	Incidentals	136.58
		3076	Value Added Tax	2396.36
	65370.47	64149		56139.27
Deficiency for the Year	-	-	Surplus for the Year	9231.20
	65370.47	64149		65370.47

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20 SEP 1985

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CROSSROADS CARE ATTENDANT SCHEME TRUST - NATIONAL

11 WHITEHALL ROAD, RUGBY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1981 - SPECIAL

	<u>1980</u>		<u>1980</u>		£
£		£		£	
46945	Donations	7925.27	6000	Donations to New Schemes	28500.00
-	Donations - Radio Appeal	11683.22	3000	Donations to Existing Schemes	3500.00
1454	Interest Received	2066.12	8461	Training and Development	2367.92
-	Grant from E.E.C.	7500.00			
48399		29174.61	17461		34367.92
-	Deficiency for the Year	5193.31	30938	Surplus for the Year	-
48399		34367.92	48399		34367.92

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Waiting in my car at a busy junction recently, watching the seemingly endless stream of traffic, I was suddenly aware of a pang of nostalgia. Could it really be possible? Yes, it was.... my old orange Mini. I wanted to shout to the driver, "Hey, wait a minute, that is my Mini you are driving. Have you been kind to her? Has she been as good to you as she was to me?" and with a smile to myself, I wondered if the driver knew that once-upon-a-time the back seat and the boot were invariably filled with bedpans, incontinence pads, students, dozens of toys or bric-a-brac or "jumble" for some Crossroads fund raising event or the other.

Still waiting for the passing of the traffic, I started to work out how many years had passed since I had owned that Mini, and, as with all passing of time in retrospect, it seemed incredible to think that it had been so long ago - seven years, in fact. That was the car that had..... that was the car that went..... and so my mind went on to realise how far we had come since those early days.

Maybe it was that experience, or maybe it was the experience of attending an International Conference in Luxembourg a few days earlier; what ever it was that day, I have to share with you the wide horizons that are possible when one is firmly entrenched in a work in which one so firmly believes.

So many times I have pleaded with people to look outside their own professional or voluntary roles, to look outside their own geographical boundaries; to be aware of the problems which other people have; to share knowledge and experience and expertise; mistakes and miseries, laughter and joy.

Apart from the nostalgia that morning, it was also a very good lesson for me to realise that I still regarded that Mini as "mine"; but it was not, and had not been for many years. Because I was so closely connected with the Rugby Scheme and the beginnings of the national organisation, so many people ask me if it has been difficult for me to "let go". I can say with complete honesty that it has not. There are always more goals. "Love is not love until you give it away". Those of you who are now involved in your own Crossroads Schemes will know how very much I believe in the autonomy of them and try to encourage them to be truly their own. At the same time, the national organisation is here to help and advise when asked, or, like a good friend, to "be around" whenever needed.

Children are given to parents for such a short time and eventually parents have to let them go. That does not mean to say that there is no love, no caring. It is because there is the love and the caring that they do let go. A doctor colleague once said to me that I should regard my role within Crossroads as "Grandma"; the Rugby Scheme was the first child, and all the other Schemes are the children of the first. In a sense, this is so true because the first Crossroads Scheme was never intended to be solely for Rugby. From the very beginning the Trustees had the vision to see that this idea was one which should apply to all disabled people and their families everywhere. From Day One, through all the suspicions, apathy and plodding, we looked towards setting a pattern which any other area could adopt. I must admit that in 1974 we only visualised the United Kingdom as eventually being covered in Crossroads Schemes and even that seemed a somewhat forlorn hope at that time. Now it is 1981 and for the past four years we have worked closely with the E.E.C. so our horizons have broadened somewhat.

At the Seminar in Luxembourg, I was asked to speak on "Caring in the Community", and the following is an extract from that talk:

"It is my experience that "handicapped" families have their values right about true love and caring and sharing. So-called "normal" families could learn a lot from them.

I would also like to remind all of us here, from what ever background, professionally or socially, or from what ever country, why we are here.

My talk was entitled "Caring in the Community". "The Community" was really meant to be "Community with a little "c" - the local community from which we all come, made up of people we know and love. But we have to go on believing in that wider "Community with a capital 'C' ".

We have to try to break down the "us and them" and become the "you and me together", if gatherings like this have any meaning and any justification.

These days, now that Crossroads is a success, people often say to me, "you must be proud of your work" and in this respect I would like to say that I am proud of the people with whom I work, and I am proud of the people for whom I work. Those early days of struggling have been a lesson to me that our work will always be a struggle - there is no looking back.

For my part, there is no room for complacency, there is no room and no time for personal pride or achievement. My desk is where the letters end - the letters from people in desperate need, people of whom a very great deal is expected by society; my telephone many times rings and a total stranger will pour out his or her problems - because Crossroads' reputation is one of understanding. I do not like answering those letters - I do not like answering those cries for help on the telephone because there is no way I can help them if we have no Crossroads Scheme in that area. What will they do? Thank me for listening, or write something like the following which I received recently.

"I am most grateful to you for writing to me, for even if you are unable to do anything in our case it is good to know that there are people who recognise the problems that arise and are actively doing something about it".

I say that with no sense of pride - but to help us all to renew our commitment. I wrote to that man and he thanked me for what? For writing and for recognising his problem. The nurse in me wants to be able to do so much more for that family - and those letters give me the encouragement to keep on keeping on, even though they are emotionally draining. We have to keep in front of us "what it is all about".

Those of us who work for Crossroads are totally committed and our job is more than just a job. It is a labour of love and that love shines through so much tragedy, so much sadness, so much hurt in our world - so many wrongs. Those of us who work so closely with problems arising from the ongoing stress and strain that caring, borne of love or duty, presents, could be forgiven for getting the balance wrong. But we have to believe that things can come right, we have to believe in the goodness that we find - and to go on believing that we will go on finding it".

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Last year when I wrote my Annual report, I was trying so hard to hide the deep despair I felt at the enormity of trying to keep the funding of the national organisation on an even keel. I imagined that if I lost heart, or did not go on trying to raise money, my mood would reflect on our work. It really seemed to me that the beautiful bubble we had kept going for four years was about to burst. But what happened? After a whole year of worry, our friends in the Multiple Sclerosis Society sent a cheque for £5,900, in November, which, apart from its salvation to the national office, was an incredible morale booster. The Charities Aid Foundation sent us £2,500, which arrived on Christmas Eve. Suddenly, everything seemed possible again. Both organisations stressed that the donation was for "administrative purposes".

As well as the large donations, I want to thank so many people for every stamp, anonymous 50 pence postal order, small donation and little notes of encouragement. The gifts and letters are received with much gratitude for so much thoughtfulness. I want to give everybody concerned a big hug. There is no way that I could explain what those gifts meant when morale was so low.

It seemed that we had just got used to the idea that maybe we would be around in 1981 after all, for International Year of Disabled People, when an unexpected telephone call from Brussels nearly made me fall off my chair. Our first project had proved such a success that within two months we had another contract for £45,000 from the E.E.C. This meant that having said "goodbye" to Anna Bristow and Judi Brenig-Jones, we could re-employ them and start the first Crossroads Scheme specifically designed to include mental as well as physical handicap. This is the Wirral Crossroads Scheme.

You will notice, when reading the accounts, that our finances are in an apparently healthy state, and this is due to the timing of the E.E.C. grant which came in March, 1981, and a very successful BBC Appeal in January, 1981. However, I have to stress that the money is earmarked. We still cannot relinquish efforts for ongoing finance:

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This is the last year of the "Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme Trust". On April 1st, the new name is "Association of Crossroads Care Attendant Schemes Ltd". I recently filed away the minutes of the last meeting of the Crossroads Trust, closed the old file and started a new one for the new Association. It was a quiet moment, here on my own in the office, one of many things which needed to be done that day. I could not help reflecting on the past four years: when the "Trust" Minutes file was started 28 families were receiving care; £5,000 per annum was all that was being spent and there was one Crossroads Scheme. When the file was closed, over 1,000 families were receiving care; over £500,000 of statutory authority money had been argued and fought for, there were 28 Crossroads Schemes, with many more in the pipeline. Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Brussels, Luxembourg had been visited. Those uncanny coincidences again - 28 families in 1977, 28 Schemes in 1981....

I still felt as frightened starting the new file as when starting the old one, but this time it was at least in the sure knowledge that Crossroads will be around for a good many years. In 1977 there were many things we wanted to achieve; one was an organisation which did not rely upon one person for its image and success, and I want to thank so many people who together now represent Crossroads. My own part is very, very small in relation to the kindness, generosity, hard work and courtesy which is so much a part of what you all represent.

"Love is not love until you give it away".

I return to you all the love that the old file represents..... but still admit to being terrified at all the implications the success of our organisation means, and am cheeky enough to request your help, finance, support and prayers for the future.

Without you there would be no Crossroads. Without Crossroads there would not be so many happy families.

Patricia Osborne, SRN. NCDN.
Director.