



hope and homes
for children



impact report
2016/17

FAMILIES. NOT ORPHANAGES.

Orphanages do not protect children. They harm them. Which is why we are working towards a day where every child can grow up in a loving family.

Hope and Homes for Children is a global expert in the field of deinstitutionalisation – supporting children into loving families and preventing family breakdown. With your support we are building a global movement that will eradicate orphanages in our lifetime.

Our mission
To be the catalyst for the global eradication of institutional care of children.

Our vision
A world in which children no longer suffer institutional care.

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THE IMPACT WE ARE MAKING TOGETHER



MARK WADDINGTON,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our impact is shaped by the change that children want to see in their own lives. There are many statistics in this report that have been meticulously verified and which present an overview of the scale of change we are helping to deliver, with your support, around the world. But each statistic represents a real person, a child with hopes and dreams, like Neima.

Neima was six when her father died. Her mother, Zainab, struggled hard to support her and her brothers and sisters, selling vegetables in Omdurman City, just over the river from the capital, Khartoum. Somehow she managed. But Neima has cerebral palsy and needs the constant care and supervision of Zainab. So she would accompany her to the market every day. Not ideal, but Zainab had no choice.

Then the police arrested Zainab for operating without a permit. She was taken to the police station, protesting and increasingly distressed that Neima, left unattended without anyone to care for her, would not be able to survive. The police returned to the market place to try and find Neima but Omdurman is the largest city in Khartoum State and Neima was lost.

Eventually, Zainab was released and she focused all her efforts on trying to find her daughter.

For three months, Neima wandered alone, living off the occasional kindness of strangers who might provide her with food or allow her to use their toilet. But she was regularly harassed.

Hope and Homes for Children had been working with the police in Sudan to establish and support a network of child protection units. Eventually, a person who had seen Neima, homeless and bewildered, contacted one of the units and they found Neima, 50 km from the place where Zainab had been arrested.

Neima was brought to the Referral Home established by Hope and Homes for Children and our partners in Khartoum. The Home is the first service of its kind in Sudan and is designed to prevent lost and abandoned children from entering institutions by either reuniting them with their parents or finding safe, alternative families to care for them. At the Referral Home Neima received the care and support she needed while the task of tracing her mum began.

Today, Neima lives with her mother, Zainab, and her sisters



Photo: HHC

Thankfully, Neima was able to pronounce her mother's name and the area in the city she came from. So our team took Neima to the market place, close to her family home. There she was recognised by neighbours who took her to Zainab and, at last, Neima was reunited with her mother and her sisters.

The impact of these events on Zainab and Neima's life can never be conveyed by statistics. But there are many more children like Neima who are benefiting from the work of Hope and Homes for Children because of your support.

All children belong in a family. We are working with the Government and local authorities in Sudan to pioneer reforms in the orphanage system and the development of family support services.

We have closed two institutions in two States and provided emergency foster care for more than 5,000 children in Khartoum State alone. We have worked hard to address the root causes of the problem, which has led to a significant reduction in the number of children being

separated from their families in the first place. And we are working with local authorities in a similar way in White Nile, Gazira, Gadarif and Red Sea States.

Wherever we work we develop partnerships with governments that enable us to benefit individual children like Neima in a way that delivers a systemic impact in the lives of many more children than we could possibly hope to work with directly.

This report tells the stories of some of those children and of the wider impact we are making around the world. Indeed, 2016 was our most successful year on record, not only because of the impact we were able to deliver, but also because of the heavy lifting we were able to undertake in preparation for 2017. It presents our achievements as well as our ambition for 2017. An ambition we are confident of delivering because you are treading that path with us.

Thank you. On behalf of all the children we exist to serve, thank you so very much.

REPORTING BACK

In 2016 we set ourselves five priorities, designed to bring us closer to achieving our mission. Here we highlight some of the year's key achievements.



In January the ill-named Home of Hope in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, closed its doors for good

Photo: HHC / Laura Elizabeth Pohl

1. DEMONSTRATE DEINSTITUTIONALISATION BY CLOSING INSTITUTIONS AND ENSURING ALTERNATIVE FAMILY-BASED CARE FOR CHILDREN

27,296 CHILDREN DIRECTLY BENEFITED FROM OUR PREVENTION WORK

884 CHILDREN PLACED IN FAMILY-BASED CARE

In 2016, we helped to close ten institutions including the Home of Hope and the Orphélinat Mère du Verbe in Rwanda, the Zlatica institution in Bulgaria, the Floare de Colt Institution in Romania and the Institution for Children with Hearing Impairments in Balti, Moldova.

In total, we helped 884 children to leave institutions and move into loving families or community-based care and continued work on a further 36 deinstitutionalisation programmes. At the same time, we helped to establish family support and alternative care services to prevent children from being subjected to institutional care.

In April 2016 we finally won permission to close Bjelave, the largest orphanage in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The news marked a truly historic moment in our history. It was Mark and Caroline Cook's experiences in Bjelave during the Bosnian War that led them to found Hope and Homes for Children. Despite enormous resistance, we have been fighting for its closure ever since. The work to find family or community-based care for the more than 90 children who live there is now underway.

“BJELAVE IS THE PLACE WHERE I STARTED MY CAREER WITH HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN AS A VOLUNTEER IN 1997 AND I HAVE BEEN TOLD SO MANY TIMES AND BY SO MANY PEOPLE THAT NEGOTIATING AGREEMENT TO CLOSE BJELAVE IS “MISSION IMPOSSIBLE”. I TRULY DO NOT HAVE WORDS TO EXPRESS ADEQUATELY HOW I FEEL TODAY AND HOW PROUD I AM OF OUR TEAM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.

”
Julia Kragulj, Child Protection Manager,
April 19 2016.

In Bulgaria, we won a clear commitment from the Government to close all baby institutions by 2020. Hope and Homes for Children was instrumental in ensuring that an updated Action Plan for deinstitutionalisation, adopted by ministers in October 2016, specifically referred to the closure of the 17 remaining facilities that house children under the age of three. If implemented, as a whole the new Action Plan will lead to the eradication of Bulgaria's last 46 orphanages in the next four years.

In April 2016, together with our regional partner, RELAF, we delivered the first module of the foster care course developed for Tabasco State, Mexico. The course is tailored for trainers and will give them the skills to develop a network of 50 foster carers to meet the needs of the children in the area.

"We got to the end of the first module! What a great experience it has been. The group proved to be knowledgeable, interested, passionate and participative. They came with an honest desire to learn and get things going on the ground."
Otto Sestak, Country Director,
Hope and Homes for Children Romania.

In 2016 we trained 5,809 professionals and volunteers. If each person trained goes on to work with 50 children – a conservative estimate – they will go on to benefit 290,450 children.

5,809
PROFESSIONALS & VOLUNTEERS
TRAINED



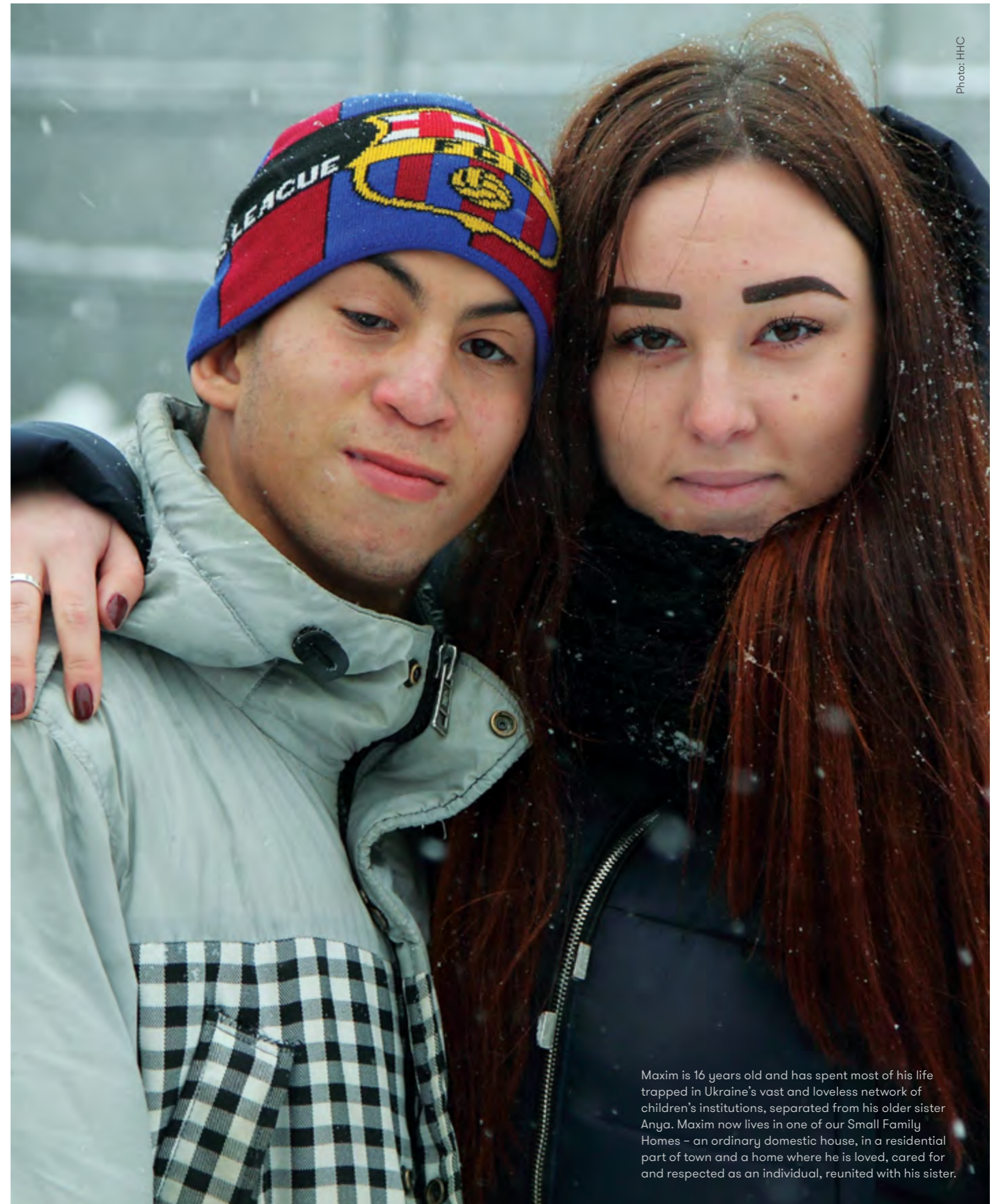
BENEFITING
290,450
CHILDREN

In Ukraine, in December 2016, we completed and published the first comprehensive audit of the country's children's institutions. Our research revealed the extent to which Ukraine's vast system of orphanages is failing vulnerable children and resisting reform, providing the evidence and data we need to drive change.

"The practice of institutional care belongs in the past. Investing in children and their development, rather than in the walls of institutions, will be a top priority for the Government in relation to child protection."

Prime Minister of Ukraine, Volodymyr Groysman, attending the launch of Hope and Homes for Children's National Audit of Ukraine's Child Protection System, December 2016.

"This level of political support is unprecedented particularly on an issue relating to children, indeed the most vulnerable and marginalised children in society. This is hugely significant for the work of Hope and Homes for Children and for the 100,000 children confined to institutional care in Ukraine."
Mark Waddington, Chief Executive.



Maxim is 16 years old and has spent most of his life trapped in Ukraine's vast and loveless network of children's institutions, separated from his older sister Anya. Maxim now lives in one of our Small Family Homes – an ordinary domestic house, in a residential part of town and a home where he is loved, cared for and respected as an individual, reunited with his sister.

2. INCREASE OUR GLOBAL INFLUENCE

In 2016 we expanded our role in providing technical assistance to other organisations, supporting ten new organisations across seven countries that are committed to deinstitutionalisation and the development of alternative care.

In South Africa we completed an extensive research project to provide the first reliable picture of institutional care in the country which led directly to the signing of an agreement with the Department of Social Development of Gauteng Province to deliver a pilot project to close three orphanages.

“ I DON'T THINK WE REALISE THE INCREDIBLE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT SIGNATURE TODAY. I'M SO HAPPY FOR THE CHILDREN - THIS BRINGS ME A SENSE OF HOPE FOR INSTITUTIONALISED CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA. YOU MADE HISTORY. ”

Monica Woodhouse, CEO, Give a Child a Family, partner organisation, South Africa, July 20 2016.

In October, Chief Executive Mark Waddington and our Regional Adviser for Latin America and Caribbean, Victoria Martin, contributed to a major conference on deinstitutionalisation in Panama City, organised by our partners, RELAF. During the course of the event, which involved 90 representatives of government and civil society from over 20 countries, Mark launched the Latin America and Caribbean Centre of Excellence, a training and information hub for professionals and volunteers in the region.

Dr Delia Pop, Director of Programmes and Global Advocacy at Hope and Homes for Children, shared her expertise at a major conference organised by the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) in Florida. The annual event attracts 2,500 delegates and is aimed at encouraging Christians and Christian organisations to help vulnerable children to grow up in safe, permanent families and not in orphanages.

“ OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS I'VE SEEN MORE AND MORE CHURCHES AND CHRISTIAN MISSIONS MOVING AWAY FROM INVESTING IN ORPHANAGES AND TOWARDS INVESTING IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT COMMUNITY LEVEL. THERE IS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING NOW THAT INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT WORKING FOR CHILDREN AND ADDRESSING THE CAFO CONFERENCE WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE THAT MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN. ”

Dr Delia Pop, Director of Programmes and Global Advocacy, Hope and Homes for Children.

In July 2016 we appointed Mark Riley as the consultant to lead a pilot project in Jharkhand State, India. The project will explore the potential for Hope and Homes for Children to build political will, increase the capacity of child protection professionals and unlock funding for family support and alternative care services in this part of India. It will also demonstrate how it is possible to provide crisis care for children who have been separated from their families.

Hope and Homes for Children in Ukraine hosted the Superhero Summit, bringing together 150 child protection “superheroes” from across Eastern Europe and Central Asia to pool their expertise. Forty children attended the event and contributed their ideas for ending orphanage care, along with legislators, business leaders, scientists, IT and media experts.

“ I AM VERY PLEASED THAT THE SUMMIT SET THE TASK OF NOT ONLY VOICING THE PROBLEM [OF THE INSTITUTIONALISATION OF CHILDREN] AS IT IS, BUT OF FINDING A SOLUTION. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT CHANGE AND NOT JUST RESTATING THE PROBLEM. ”

Ms Judith Gough, British Ambassador to Ukraine.

As members of the steering committee, Hope and Homes for Children helped to organise and deliver a major international event, the Alternative Care Conference in Geneva in October, consolidating our position as a global leader in child protection reform. At the event we launched our new paper, *End the silence: the case for the elimination of institutional care*, to the 400 representatives of governments, NGOs and major private and institutional donors.

We launched the second phase of Opening Doors for Europe's Children, our pan-European campaign, in partnership with Eurochild, to strengthen families, end institutionalisation and promote family and community-based care for children across the Continent. The launch of Phase II saw SOS Children's Villages International, the International Foster Care Organisation and the European branch of the International Federation of Educative Communities join the campaign, expanding its reach from 12 to 15 countries.

“ WHILST WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROGRESS MADE ACROSS A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, WITH PHASE II OF THE OPENING DOORS CAMPAIGN, OUR GOAL IS TO ENSURE THAT DEINSTITUTIONALISATION REMAINS A KEY POLITICAL PRIORITY ACROSS EUROPE. FAMILIES AND CHILDREN NEED TO BE AT THE CENTRE OF POLICY MAKING AND INVESTMENT SO WE CAN END INSTITUTIONAL CARE THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT. ”

Dr Delia Pop, Head of Programmes and Global Advocacy, Hope and Homes for Children.

3. PILOT THE UN'S GUIDELINES FOR THE ALTERNATIVE CARE OF CHILDREN TRACKING TOOL

As a member of the inter-agency Tracking Progress Initiative, Hope and Homes for Children has continued to support the roll out of a web-based tracking tool to help drive the global eradication of institutional care. The tool is designed to measure the extent to which individual countries have adopted the UN's *Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children*.

The tracking tool, which was launched in November 2015 and has been piloted in five countries, was presented to delegates at the Alternative Care Conference in Geneva in October 2016. We plan to continue its introduction to new countries in 2017.

4. DEVELOP WAYS TO CREDIBLY EVALUATE OUR IMPACT

We set up a system of reviews to measure the impact of our work, in order to ensure the quality of our programmes and to give us credibility when influencing the practises and policies of governments and partners. The reviews included an examination of case management, data collection and storage systems, child protection and participation policy and practice, team morale, innovation and best practice. We consulted with individual Hope and Homes for Children teams, governments and other stakeholders in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, Romania and Ukraine in 2016 and will continue the reviews in 2017.

5. SECURE THE PARTNERSHIPS, FUNDING AND INVESTMENT NEEDED TO DELIVER OUR MISSION

In late 2015 employees at Deutsche Bank voted to make Hope and Homes for Children one of their two Charities of the Year for 2016 and 2017. The partnership raised over £950,000 in its first year and has given us the opportunity to engage the Bank and its staff in our cause, not just in terms of fundraising but also by staff offering their time and skills to help us achieve our vision.

Throughout 2016 the St. James's Place Foundation supported Hope and Homes for Children by funding our transformational work in Romania. Employees from across the St. James's Place partnership took part in our annual Triathlon and Duathlon, cycled the hills of Rwanda and trekked across the Carpathian Mountains to further support our work. Now approaching its 17th year, our partnership with St. James's Place Foundation continues to grow, thanks to the dedication of the amazing partners at St. James's Place.

Our flagship fundraising events and challenges raised over £375,000 in 2016 and kick-started relationships with new supporters. Our sell-out Night of Adventure event, organised by Patron Alastair Humphreys, drew a crowd of over 900 adventure lovers. Meanwhile, 24 of our own adventurers tackled our overseas challenge events, including the Love in Every Step trek in Romania and the inaugural Ride Rwanda cycle. Our dedicated Support Groups were once again at the heart of our success, offering boundless enthusiasm and innovative ways of fundraising. The Diamond Ball, organised by the Midlands Ball Committee, raised an incredible £83,500 and is set to return in 2017.

Deutsche Bank staff on a fundraising trek through Romania in July



“

DEUTSCHE BANK CHARITIES OF THE YEAR PARTNERSHIPS ARE NOT JUST SOMETHING FOR THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP. TAKING PART IN FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES TOGETHER IS A WAY TO BUILD AN EMOTIONAL CONNECTION WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES AND, HAVING SEEN HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN'S WORK FOR MYSELF IN ROMANIA, I WOULD SAY EVERY PENNY THAT'S RAISED REALLY COUNTS.

”

Lawrence Shaw, Chief Operating Officer for Global Markets, Deutsche Bank.

- We secured six new major grants from previous and new Foundation supporters, worth £1.9 million over the coming years. These grants are in support of work around the world, ranging from the delivery of our East and Southern Africa regional strategy, to investment in the construction of two new Small Group Homes in Bucharest.
- We established a high-level Private Sector Working Group to help support the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) to understand the negative influence of institutional care of children on their strategic priorities, with a view to influencing the establishment of an internal policy position on deinstitutionalisation and the allocation of funding for reform. Despite a complete change in the DFID ministerial team, we secured ministerial meetings and engagement with senior civil servants in the course of 2016 and enrolled significant support from a number of members of the House of Lords to help build on this momentum.

“

THERE ARE THOSE WHO SEE THE WORLD DRESSED IN NOTHING BUT GLOOM. OTHERS COME ALONG, ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES AND LIGHT A TORCH OF HOPE. HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN OPERATES IN SOME OF THE DARKEST PLACES ON THE PLANET AND YET BRINGS LIGHT, GIVING COUNTLESS CHILDREN BACK THE FUTURE THEY DESERVE.

”

Lord Dobbs, politician and author, including *House of Cards*, now an award-winning Netflix series.

- Our long-term supporter Riviera Travel renewed their generous commitment through their passenger promotion and employee fundraising, raising £110,000 in 2016.
- During the second quarter of 2016 we secured a commitment of £850,000 from UBS for investment in our capacity to deliver our strategy together with £250,000 in match funding for a client dinner in October.

“

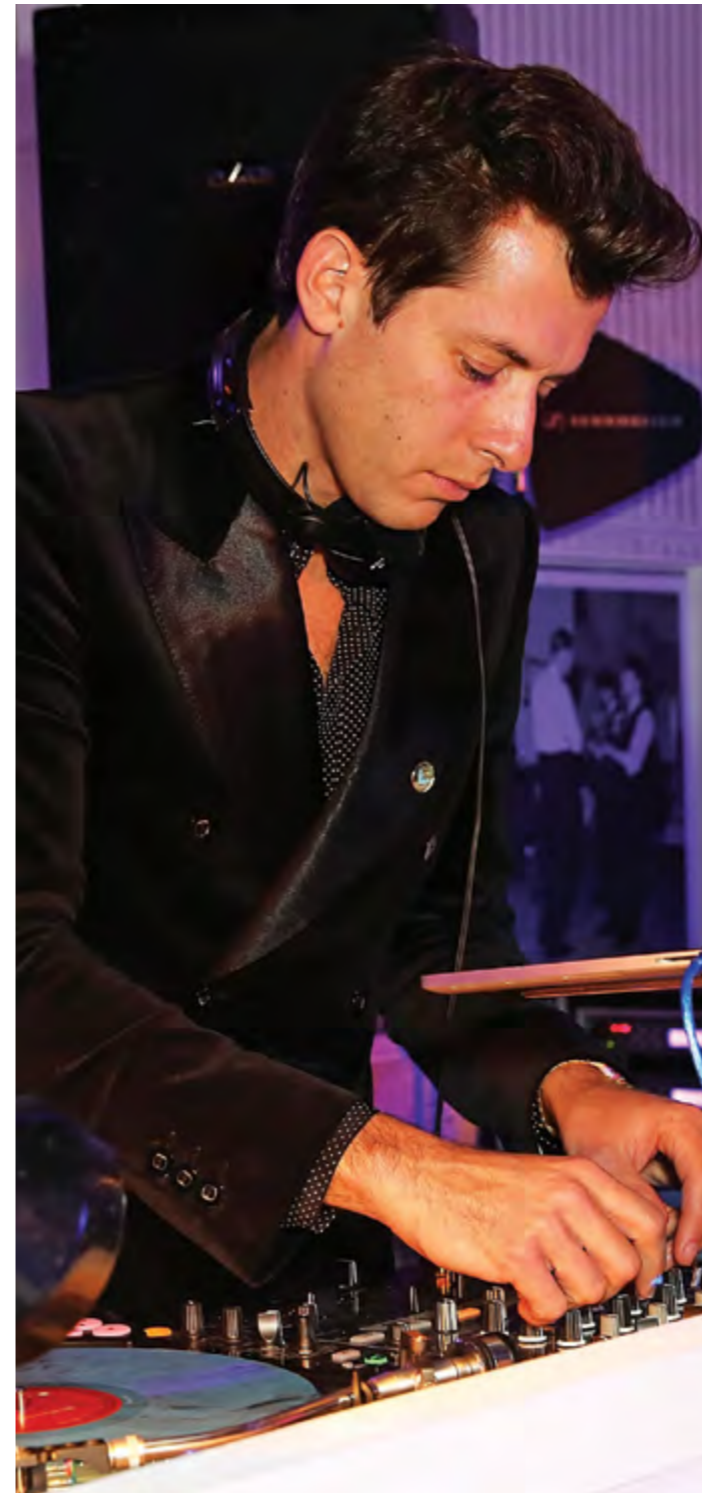
HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN LAYS OUT SUCH A COMPELLING VISION, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FILE AWAY UN-ACTIONED!

”

David Soanes, Group Managing Director, UK Country Head, UBS Group, Global Head of Financial Institutions, UBS Investment Bank.

- In June 2016 we delivered our first End The Silence event, bringing together stars from the music industry, Formula One, film and television as well as royalty at the world-famous Abbey Road studios in London. The evening was a game-changing success for our organisation, netting £300,000 and establishing relationships with new supporters who can help us achieve our mission.

“We intend to banish the stigma, sadness and silence of these forgotten children through two of the loudest forms of entertainment - F1 and music.”
Natalie Pinkham, television presenter, Hope and Homes for Children Patron and host of End The Silence 2016.



ADA'S STORY



Ada Habibovic is such a friendly, confident little girl, it's hard to believe the enormous challenges she's had to face in her short life.

Ada's father abandoned her mother before she was born. Her mother tried to care for her by herself but struggled with drug and alcohol addiction and so the authorities decided that Ada would be better off in an institution. When she was six, Ada was sent to live in Bjelave, the largest orphanage in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo.

Life in the orphanage was very hard for Ada. Despite her problems, Ada loved her mother very much and missed her terribly. In Bjelave, she was just one child out of one hundred – all desperate for love and affection. She shared a bedroom with five other children and had nowhere, nothing and no one to call her own. At school, when Ada's teacher asked her to draw a picture of her family, Ada drew a picture of the staff at the orphanage.

Hope and Homes for Children is now in the process of closing the Bjelave orphanage by making sure that Ada and all the other children who live there have families of their own to love and cherish them. In many cases this means reuniting children with their birth parents by giving families the support they need to care for their children themselves. In Ada's case this was not possible and so our team looked for the right foster family to care for Ada.

In April 2016 they succeeded and Ada left Bjelave to live with her new family – a couple with two children who live on the outskirts of Sarajevo.

Moving from an orphanage to live as part of a family is a very challenging experience for a child and it takes time and care to ensure the move is a success. So far though, our team say that Ada is coping well.

In addition to her new foster mum and dad, Ada now has a 13-year old foster sister and a foster brother called Faruk. Ada and Faruk are both nine years old and are in the same class at school. They are great friends but also great rivals when it comes to their school work.

Ada's foster mother says that, at first, Ada was afraid to sleep alone and needed a light on at night. (When she lived in the orphanage, the older children watched horror films in front of the younger children and she still had nightmares). Ada could also be aggressive when she was upset. But her foster parents are determined to do all they can to reassure her and, although she continues to need a great deal of attention, she is beginning to settle in.

Ada's new home has a garden with an orchard. She says she likes collecting fruit with the rest of the family and she knows all the names of the different trees. She also has a cat and a dog to play with. In the summer the whole family went to the seaside and Ada learned how to swim.

Ada says that she really likes her new family and she would like to stay with them forever although we are also helping her to maintain contact with her extended birth family. Working with the local social work department, Hope and Homes for Children will monitor Ada's progress and make sure that she continues to grow up safe, knowing that she's loved.



Ada in her very own bedroom in her new foster home.

Photo: HHC/Alexandra Smart

THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT IS BUILDING



J TIMOTHY RICHARDS,
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



Almost five years ago, in January 2013, Hope and Homes for Children launched a new strategy with a clear and crucial mission at its heart – to be the catalyst for the global eradication of institutional care of children, and to do it within our lifetime.

Ending a global problem once and for all is ambitious. But it is achievable and we are seeing great success. When we started work in Romania more than 100,000 children were confined in the state orphanage system. Today that number is less than 8,000. Rwanda is on track to become the first African nation free of orphanages and just this year the Bulgarian Government committed to end institutional care for babies by 2020.

Hope and Homes for Children has become increasingly successful in making the case

for family-based care over institutional care and winning the support of more and more individuals, organisations and governments across the world.

The task before us may be vast but the global movement, which you are part of, is building and we will succeed in seeing our vision, of a world in which children no longer suffer institutional care, become reality.

This year I will step down as Chair of Trustees and pass the baton onto the next Chair to help lead the organisation into its next phase. I am privileged to have worked with the supporters, staff and volunteers at Hope and Homes for Children in my capacity as Chair and will continue to actively support the organisation into the future.

Thank you for your continued committed support, together we really are changing the world.

“

NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.

”

Margaret Mead, Anthropologist,
author and speaker.



Poverty meant that Vasile and his siblings were at risk of being split up and put into orphanage care. Hope and Homes for Children in Romania provided his family with food, clothing, a stove to heat their home and support to find work. Now Vasile and his brothers and sisters can stay with their parents and grow up together.

Photo: HHC/Andrei Lupu

AT A GLANCE

Our impact since launching our five year strategy in January 2013.

43,000
CHILDREN

PLACED IN 
FAMILY-BASED CARE

15,694
PROFESSIONALS & VOLUNTEERS
TRAINED
SINCE JANUARY 2013



BENEFITING
784,700
CHILDREN

CHILDREN IN
INSTITUTIONS
IN RWANDA



▼ **60%**

CHILDREN IN
INSTITUTIONS
IN MOLDOVA



▼ **12,000 - 2,000**

120
NATIONAL PARTNERS



0 ▶ 20

COUNTRIES OF INFLUENCE

RECORD HIGH
£8.9 MILLION
ORGANISATIONAL INCOME IN 2016*



▲ **42%**
SINCE JANUARY 2013

*This is management data. Hope and Homes for Children's full, audited accounts will be published later in 2017.



Bucur's parents were struggling to find work to feed their children and pay for the physiotherapy Bucur needed to manage his disability. Consequently, the children were at risk of being separated from their parents and confined to an institution. We helped Bucur's parents to find work, access the funding they needed to pay for treatment and to stay together.

Photo: HHC/Andrei Lupu

2017 PRIORITIES

TO ACHIEVE OUR MISSION OF THE GLOBAL ERADICATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CARE OF CHILDREN, WE MUST BUILD ON THE SUCCESSES AND MOMENTUM ACHIEVED IN 2016.



1. Assess the readiness to transform child protection in the countries we have influence in and to drive that readiness forward so that reform gains momentum
2. Document and share our learning on how to deliver reform, and expand the training support we offer so that others can work with us to eradicate institutional care of children
3. Deliver our 100th orphanage closure and celebrate how these closures build the momentum to trigger global reform
4. Progress the commitment of globally influential organisations, including across the private sector, to stop funding orphanages and re-direct their generous support toward prevention and delivering family-based care for all children

JOSEPH'S STORY



Imagine spending your childhood, lying on a mat on the floor, unable to move, day in day out, week in week out, year in year out. Imagine if, instead of cuddles, instead of songs, instead of toys, the only stimulation you were offered was the mashed food that was spooned into your mouth at mealtimes – the same food, the same taste, the same texture every time – so little variety that you become malnourished. Until very recently, that was Joseph's childhood.

Joseph was abandoned as a baby. He has cerebral palsy which means he's unable to coordinate his muscles and so he was confined to an orphanage, isolated and ignored. Joseph had no friends, no visitors and because of the stigma associated with his disability, there was very little hope that he would ever experience the love of a family. There was little chance that he would survive for long.

A couple called Albert and Faith changed all that. Hope and Homes for Children has pioneered the development of family based services for disabled children in Rwanda, and identified Faith and Albert and their daughters as a potential foster family for Joseph.

Faith had been trained in basic physiotherapy several years ago, and understood that disability was not a curse or a punishment and that it was not infectious. We provided Faith and Albert with further training, invested in their home to make it suitable for Joseph and helped them to welcome him into their family.

Their house is a traditional structure with a grass roof. Unlike the orphanage, it is a real home. Faith has worked hard to stimulate Joseph's muscular development. He can now sit unassisted and look around. When a member of our team visited recently, he very proudly did a roly-poly on the bed, and then rolled out of it with a smile so full of life that he could have lit up the universe.

Faith says that when she turns her back, Joseph will mischievously crawl out of the house and up the bank to the path above where he triumphantly calls out to proclaim his achievement. Faith will playfully admonish him. His sisters have taught him how to turn the pages of a book with his feet, and he is becoming familiar with picture books and some words.

Joseph is a courageous boy. He has been called cruel names by some of the other children in the village, but whenever any of them come into his home to visit his sisters he will determinedly make sure they greet him just as they do everyone else by following them around until they shake his hand. The name calling has reduced and he is becoming a part of the community. His prison of isolation has been removed. >>



Joseph and his foster mother, Faith.

Photo: HHC

Faith says that when she went with Albert to register for social protection payments, they took Joseph with them. The secretary who registered them asked very candidly – but not in a cruel way – why they had chosen to take Joseph into their family. Faith's answer was simple: "He is our blessing." The secretary looked at her, apparently smiled, and said that from thereon he would call Joseph "Blessing". And the name has stuck.

Albert is clear that Joseph can never recover and that while he has made remarkable progress – he can now eat proper food – he will remain deeply dependent on his new family for the rest of his life. But Albert is also clear that Joseph has a life worth living.

Our work in Rwanda proves that children with severe disabilities like Joseph's can lead fulfilling lives if they have the love and protection of a family. And this matters because many of the children who remain in institutions in Rwanda live with disability. They are too easily written off and left behind. Hope and Homes for Children is demonstrating how to change this and using the results to drive reform.



Our work in the East and Southern Africa region is supported with UK aid from the UK Government.



Joseph is nicknamed Blessing by many of his new family and the community.

Photo: HHC

THANK YOU

The impact we are making for children is only possible because of your generous support. We would like to thank the following supporters who made especially significant contributions to our work in 2016:

The ACT Foundation
 Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Trust
 The Allen & Overy Foundation
 James and Laura Amos
 Sarah Anderson
 Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust
 Australian Aid
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 John Banerjee
 Bank ABC
 Chris Barkey and Martine Gagne
 Bathford Support Group
 Bath Support Group
 BGC Brokers L.P.
 BrandFuel Ltd
 The Breadsticks Foundation
 Butler & Wilson
 Jenson Button
 Buxted Construction Ltd
 The Calleva Foundation
 Rob and Cheryl Cairns
 Chieveley Beer Festival Committee
 Amanda Coldridge
 David and Karen Coulthard
 Credit Suisse
 Deutsche Bank AG London
 Doha English Speaking School
 Evan Cornish Foundation
 Financial Lifestyle Management Ltd
 Flare Audio
 Nick Froggatt

Maurice and Katie Gale
 James and Deirdre Garvey
 GHR Foundation
 Fulva M Giust
 Google UK Limited
 Carol Haslam
 Hawkesdown House School
 The Heathgate Trust
 Hertfordshire Support Group
 Kate Hobhouse
 The Hyperion Foundation
 International School of Milan
 Kevin Jackson
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 Christopher Rupert Bryan Martin
 Keith and Julia Masdin
 Steve McKnight
 David and Terry McMurtry
 Medicor Foundation Lichtenstein
 Sarah-Jane Mee
 The Melbreak Trust
 Midlands Ball Committee
 David and Patricia Moran
 Norfolk Support Group

Oak Foundation
 Gino Palmieri
 Chris Partington / CMP Financial
 Penelope Martin Charitable Trust
 Nick and Liz Perry
 The Persula Foundation
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Finally, we would like to give special mention to the following individuals and groups:

- Our loyal fundraising groups and individuals who host quizzes, balls, golf days, jazz evenings, bridge days and commit their time in a number of ways to raise money for Hope and Homes for Children
- Our Volunteer Speakers, Night of Adventure speakers and all our supporters who pledged a gift in their Will

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our Trustees and Patrons for their generous support and tireless work over the last year.

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