

# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JANUARY 2016



## St Gregory's Foundation

Changing the lives of vulnerable people in Russia  
and the former Soviet Union

Charity Registration no. 1002469

[www.stgregorysfoundation.org.uk](http://www.stgregorysfoundation.org.uk)

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



This year SGF has continued its work, focussed on children and families in north-west Russia and in Georgia.

The biggest project so far undertaken by SGF has been the construction of the Dinamika school for disabled children in Saint Petersburg and in the course of the year the majority of the work on this project has been completed. The school provides training aimed at preparing pupils to live independently in the community. Another important partner is the Sunflower centre which provides social and psychological support for the

families of people brought up in orphanages and for other disenfranchised families; its work includes children's summer camps, for which we run specially targeted fund-raising activities.

In Georgia the home for street children continues its many-sided work, including the program of legal support for children brought before the juvenile court. Plans are being discussed for the development of a larger centre.

The overall situation in Russia is not easy, with a serious economic crisis gripping the country and with growing state involvement in all aspects of charity work. The economic situation makes the work of SGF ever more important, but it also makes fundraising more challenging. Some years ago SGF created a St Petersburg based organisation named PDD. This invaluable body, set up in full accordance with Russian law, allows all funds for SGF projects to be administered and delivered by a purely Russian organisation. In the last months, a Russian state audit of this organisation gave it a very high mark of competence.

Historically, SGF has only had one employee, who was on maternity leave and then during the year decided to resign, Julia Ashmore, a highly suitable new executive secretary was appointed in her place. The previous incumbent is now head of the social media side of fundraising. This is an important strategic move towards developing a younger generation of supporters - most of the members and supporters of SGF are well over retirement age. The charity was the beneficiary of a substantial legacy left by a long-standing supporter of the charity, a well-known member of London's Russian emigre community. A number of fundraising events were organised during the year, notably a concert held in the City of London which raised more than £6000. Chester Cathedral community's support of the activities in the more remote areas of Northwest Russia continues to be a valuable source of income.

The decision by the SGF board of directors to approve a prudent lowering of reserves in favour of spending on projects at this time of recession has been implemented during the year and reflects the need to support families and organisations in this time of financial instability in Russia and Georgia.

***Mr N. Kolarz, Chairman of the Board of Directors***

*Annual report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016*  
*St Gregory's Foundation*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

### Dinamika training centre for teenagers with special needs



After several years of planning and renovation works the training centre for Disabled Teenagers in St Petersburg was opened in September 2015. Renovated to modern standards and with adapted facilities for the disabled young people, the Centre has the capacity to serve teenagers from five special schools in St. Petersburg. The needs of visually impaired students have also been taken into account, notably in the use of colour and contrast in the decor. This work was funded by a substantial grant from SGF, made possible by two legacies received in 2011 and 2014. This grant was later matched by a local grant from Metrostroi.

The Centre has special facilities including a gym, an adaptive flat, distance learning classes and other rooms where young people receive practical skills and domestic skills training. The gym is equipped with specific physio apparatus to serve the needs of disabled teenagers and the premises are equipped to offer training in various job-related and other life skills.

The remaining rooms are basically furnished at the moment and still need to be fully equipped. We plan to bring in assistive technology and train specialists and parents on how to use technical





devices, and computers to help young people communicate independently. In September 2015 the Russian Classical Music concert organised by St Gregory's and The British Grand Priory raised over £6000 to cover the costs of additional equipment for Dinamika's gym.

The project is a partnership with Dinamika Special School and the local NGO "Physical Rehabilitation". The project leaders of "Physical Rehabilitation" and Dinamika's staff visited the UK to observe best practice at Treloars School for Physically Disabled Children to learn about the latest in assistive technology to aid communication. They now plan to introduce best assistive technology practice, as adapted for Russian conditions.

### **Club for children with impaired hearing**

The specialists at the Early Intervention Institute in St. Petersburg have organised a pilot group for deaf children and deaf parents as there was a considerable demand for this particular category of families which were not being served in the city. Because of the high demand for the service the parents help to subsidise the cost of weekly group meetings thereby doubling the number of families and toddlers receiving support without increasing reliance on outside funding.

Another important achievement at the Club is the formation of a group of parent-leaders. They are encouraged to be self-reliant and they are already working independently of the Club specialists. They decide on many issues important for the support of parents with hearing-impaired children.



## **Mkurnali – assistance to formerly homeless teenagers in Tbilisi, Georgia**

We continue to fund Mkurnali's legal service for homeless teenagers, the only such service for this group. 30 teenagers were professionally defended in court with the result that 14 were either acquitted or given a conditional discharge. The others were given reduced prison terms.

The last year saw stable fundraising specifically for Mkurnali. This enabled us to cover the repair costs of leaking pipes (£800) and contribute about £1170 towards food for residents at the shelter.

We continue to pay a modest salary to a former beneficiary of the charity, who provides night cover at the shelter as well as performing domestic tasks such as shopping, and outreach to homeless teenagers. This reduces the director's load to a manageable level.

In September 2015 we organised the visit of Nino Chubabria, Director of Mkurnali charity, to the UK to learn from the UK's foremost charities and organisations which work with street children and young offenders.



## Sunflower Centre - supporting orphanage leavers

186 professionals who work with children in institutions and support orphanage-leavers from 18 city districts attended training provided by the Sunflower Centre. In 2015 we saw long-term results from the launch year (2014) – many specialists wanted to repeat the course and brought in new participants. These professionals working in the state system have no specialist training for working with this group and struggle to establish a good working relationship with their clients. They tend to regard their task of supporting young people as merely the provision of benefits rather than counselling and helping them to find a job. This was the main focus of the training. At the



close the participants had a greater understanding of the reasons why their clients were unmotivated, and were better equipped to support them.

Thanks to generous donations and legacies received in previous years we were able to fully support 30 families with 35 children to help them improve their essential parenting skills. The Centre has also strengthened ties with the local authorities, which has made it possible for them to work with parents with young babies.

We continue to fund the Centre's work with young people who are about to leave, or who have just left institutional care. 45 young people received individual counselling at graduation, our specialists pay regular home visits to 10 teenagers. In 2015 we were pleased to see greater co-operation from the staff of one of the institutions in particular. Rather than undermining their

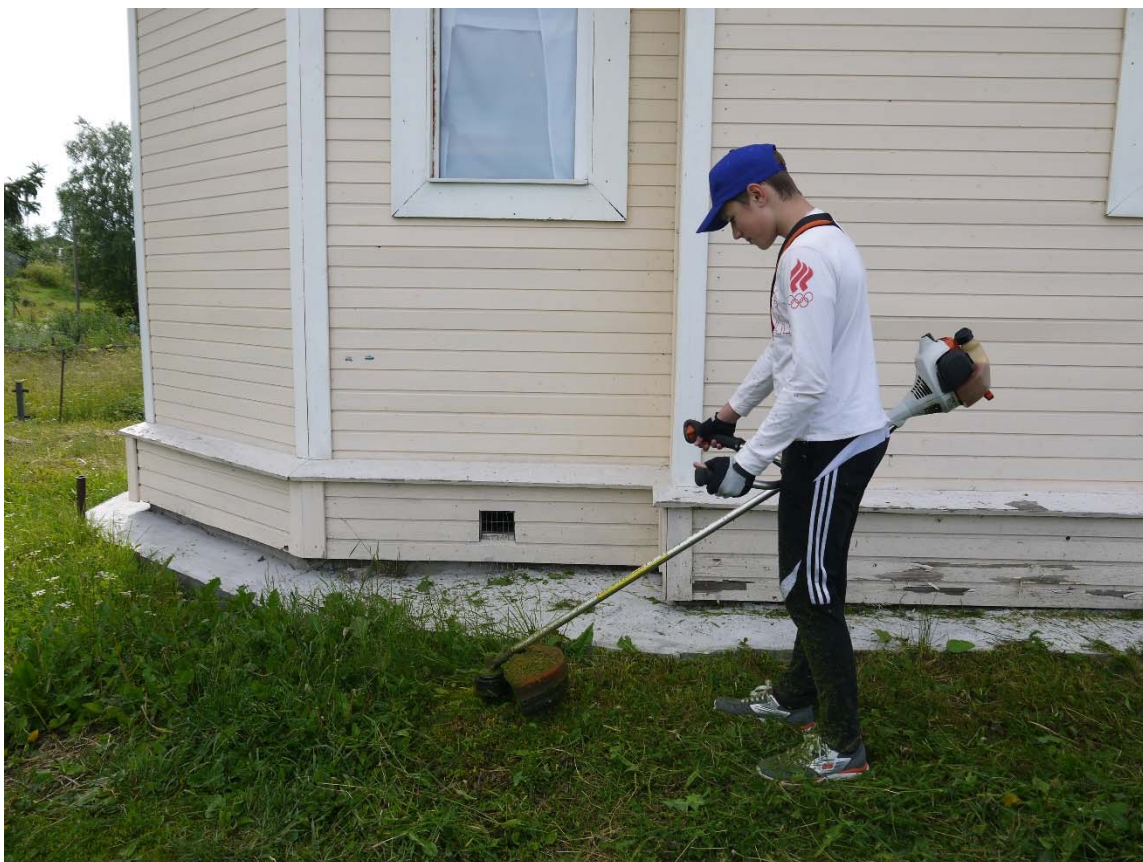
residents' attempts to find summer jobs, the staff are now working with the Sunflower Centre to support this step towards independence and permanent employment.

In 2014-2015 we launched a new project "Territory of joy"- supporting 20 foster families with teenagers, aged 9-16. We ran a series of counselling sessions for parents and teenagers to help them communicate and integrate young people into the family.

## Summer camps

This year about 80 children and teenagers plus nineteen families took part in summer activities funded by SGF. The aim was to provide high quality, active leisure activities, and also to address social deprivation by providing nutritious food, and teaching skills in sewing (for girls) and construction (for boys).

In the small village of Novinka, thanks to a generous donation of the British Grand Priory Order of St. John of Jerusalem and Skincode AG from Switzerland, teenagers recommended by social services undertook volunteer work on behalf of villagers. They helped local villagers to renovate and paint the fence around the church, make a sandbox playground, mowed down the grass, etc. In Kondopoga, Karelia, 35 children recommended by social services were given lunch each day during the three-month summer holiday. A programme of games and outings was organised for them.







The Sunflower Centre organised two camps – for parents from eight families who grew up in orphanages and their children and a hike on the Ladoga river for 11 families with 9 teenagers. The summer camps continue to work on improving parenting skills in a more intensive way in a lovely rural setting.

In 2015 with the help of volunteers the Sunflower Centre was able to start reconstruction works of their traditional bath-house on the site of the camp in the village in Novgorod region. It needs total rebuilding and we plan to continue these works in 2016 to get ready for a new camp season.

## Future plans

### *Working with disabled children*

We look forward to bringing new assistive technology to disabled teenagers who benefit from the work of the Training Centre in St. Petersburg. We will be helping the Centre to run a series of training programmes for specialists and parents on assistive technology. To achieve this, we'll contact professionals and organisations in the UK and organise a visit for our colleagues from Russia to learn from the best practice here in the UK.

*We continue developing new partnerships and projects.*

We also help a new organisation of parents with deaf and impaired hearing children. This organisation “I hear you” aims to lobby and advocate for these families whose needs are not currently met in the city or who have received poor service from municipal bodies.

#### *Helping the most disadvantaged families*

In this time of economic instability in Russia, our programme of food parcels continues to help poor families in St Petersburg. Our Russian colleague Irina Lyalina has found a new premises to use as a food parcel storage and distribution point – we shall continue the food programme for 180 of the most disadvantaged families.

## **Investment and reserves policy**

### **Reserves**

SGF aims to ensure that there are sufficient funds available to maintain the operations of the Charity and to meet regular charitable giving for a minimum of two years for which we will currently hold £300,000.00 as long term reserves. Some of SGF’s past project have been and some future ones will probably be of a large financial nature that reserves need to be built prior to funding the charitable projects. As those large projects are currently under assessment and some of them are funded, reserves will probably fall faster than donations come to replenish reserves.

### **Investments**

SGF seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk. The investment objective for the long term reserves is to generate a return to at least maintain the real value of the capital over the long term whilst generating an income to support the ongoing activities of the charity.

The investment objective for the short term reserves is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Some assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements. SGF’s assets can be invested widely and should be diversified by asset class. Asset classes could include cash, bonds, equities, property, hedge funds, structured products, private equity, commodities and any other asset that is deemed suitable for the Charity.

## **Risk management policy**

The board have identified potential risks to the charity and have put measures in place, where possible, to minimise the potential impact.

SGF is not subject to the restrictions on foreign funding to Russian NGOs, since our work is resolutely unpolitical and is purely concerned with providing assistance and services to people in need. We continue to monitor the changing regulatory environment in the Russian Federation.

Because of the instability of the rouble it is advisable to send money immediately before the start of a given project. The board agreed on 1/02/16 to transfer grants in roubles due to strengthening of rouble towards sterling rate.

SGF continues to monitor the impact of the political situation on voluntary income and to seek to recruit new donors to compensate for any reductions.

## Our finances



We have been fortunate to receive two legacies within the last four years and these, together with donations from individuals and trusts, fundraising events and regular standing orders enable us to keep going. Legacies are a significant source of funding for charities.

Patterns of giving are changing too: more donations are made online but it is still true to say that our staple support comes from those who give regularly by standing

order or direct debit. St Gregory's is also changing and you will read about how our projects are developing in St Petersburg, Karelia and Tbilisi.

Donations for 2015/16 have been higher than in the preceding year. The legacy capital is invested with a company called Schrodgers and is working for us until it is spent.

Vivian Wright,  
Treasurer

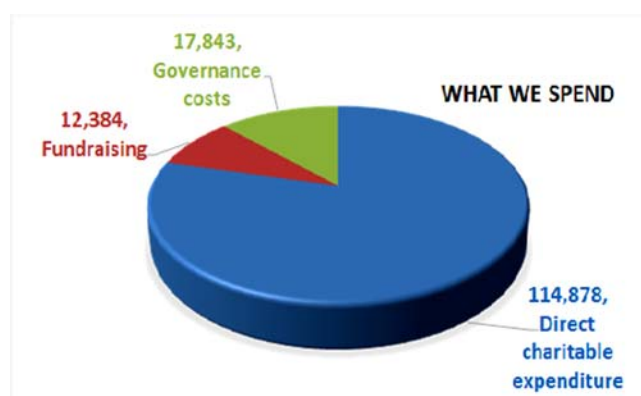
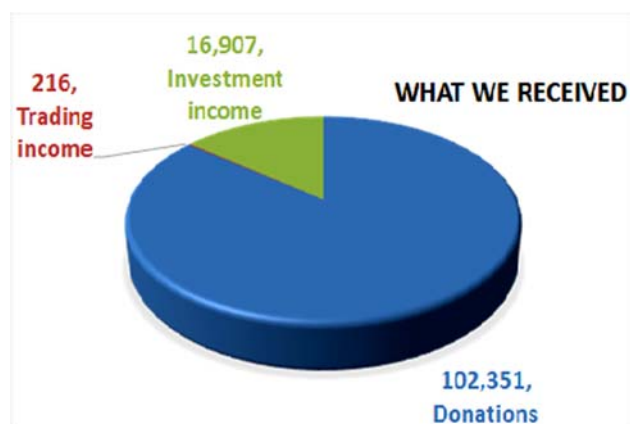
You will find our statement of financial activities for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 on the next page. A full version of our accounts can be found online at [www.strgergorysfoundation.org.uk/WP/annual-accounts/](http://www.strgergorysfoundation.org.uk/WP/annual-accounts/).

## Gifts in kind

In addition to financial contributions, we have also benefited from gifts in kind. We are very grateful to the Virgin trains for discounted charity train tickets, to Falkner House School for hosting our AGM and to Olivia Koerfer and Nicholas Tuckett for artwork for our Christmas cards.



Income and expenditure for 2015-16		
What we received	Year to 31.1.16	Year to 31.1.15
Donations	102,351 (legacy 4,000)	201,423 (legacy 120,000)
Trading income	216	700
Investment income	16,907	12,063
Total income	119,474	214,186
What we spent	Year to 31.1.16	Year to 31.1.15
Fundraising	12,384	12,366
Direct charitable expenditure	114,878	233,034
Governance costs	17,843	11,930
Cost of goods sold	0	550
Total spent	145,105	257,880
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	-35,989	5,653
Net movement in funds	-61,620	-38,041
Surplus		
Deficit	-25,631	-43,694
Fund balances at		
As originally reported	518,239	552,322
Prior year adjustment	0	3,958
As restated	518,239	556,280
Fund balances at 31/1/16	456,619	518,239



## Summary income and expenditure account

For the year ended 31 January 2016

	2016 £	2015 £
Total income	119,474	214,186
Total expenditure from income funds	145,105	257,880
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(25,631)	(43,694)

## Statement of recognised gains and losses

Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(25,631)	(43,694)
Unrealised gains on investment assets held by income funds	(35,989)	5,653
	(61,620)	(38,041)

## Balance sheet as at 31 January 2016

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Investments		351,484		398,564
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	7,018		8,206	
Cash at bank and in hand	95,237		112,861	
	<u>102,255</u>		<u>121,067</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(2,880)		(1,392)	
Net current assets		105,135		119,675
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>456,619</u>		<u>518,239</u>
<b>Income funds</b>				
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted income funds	464,044		489,675	
Revaluation reserve	(7,425)		28,564	
		<u>456,619</u>		<u>518,239</u>
		<u>456,619</u>		<u>518,239</u>

Annual report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016

St Gregory's Foundation



The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 January 2016. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

## Legal and administrative details

Charity registration no. 1002469

Company registration no. 02589926 (England and Wales)

Registered office: 8 Biddulph Road, London, W91JB

## Charity objects

The relief of poverty and the prevention of distress and deprivation in the countries of the former Soviet Union amongst persons of all nationalities and religions.

To do so through the furtherance of local initiatives and exchanges with both state institutions and non-governmental organisations which undertake long-term social and medical programmes.

The trustees always ensure that the projects undertaken are in line with our charitable aims and objectives and the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and prevention and relief of poverty for the public benefit.

## **Governing documents**

St Gregory's Foundation is a charitable company, regulated by its Memorandum and Articles of Association (last altered October 2005).

## **Directors**

St Gregory's Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors, all of whom are volunteers and who meet regularly through the year. The directors who served during the year were:

Mr Nicholas Kolarz (Chair)

Mr Sebastian Coventry

Dr Tamara Dragadze

Mrs Tania Illingworth

Mr Hamish McArthur

Mrs Kitty Stidworthy

Miss Vivian Wright

## **UK Staff Member**

Julia Ashmore, our Executive Secretary since March 2015, is our only member of staff in the UK. Sarah Gale, our former Secretary has now retired from this role. Julia's responsibilities include liaising with our partners, fundraising, and administration.

## **Russian sister charity**

*Pomozhem Drug Drugu, or Let's Help Each Other*, was founded in St Petersburg in 2007. This charity is independent, but core funding is provided by St Gregory's Foundation. Its existence ensures the legality of our continued work in Russia according to new charity legislation. The charity has a paid part-time Executive Director and accountant, which is a legal necessity. The rest of the board are volunteers.

## **Patrons**

HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO

Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and GB

## Find out more

Please contact Julia Ashmore if you have any comments or questions about our work

[julia-sgf@outlook.com](mailto:julia-sgf@outlook.com)

Tel. 020 3372 4992

Our website will tell you more about our work

[www.stgregorysfoundation.org.uk](http://www.stgregorysfoundation.org.uk)

Follow our Facebook page for the most up to date news

[www.facebook.com/SaintGregs](http://www.facebook.com/SaintGregs)

or

Sign up to our mailing list on our website or by contacting Julia Ashmore.

## How you can help

Visit our website for ideas of how you can help St Gregory's Foundation or contact Julia Ashmore

[www.stgregorysfoundation.org.uk](http://www.stgregorysfoundation.org.uk)

[julia-sgf@outlook.com](mailto:julia-sgf@outlook.com)

Tel. 020 3372 4992

## Make a donation

Visit our website or our Facebook page if you would like to give online.

Otherwise, please send cheques payable to *St Gregory's Foundation* to:

Vivian Wright, Treasurer

St Gregory's Foundation

62 Butler Road

Harrow HA1 4DR