



*A world of freedom, peace and justice,
where everyone is empowered to live their lives with dignity,
equality and respect*



Annual Report 2016

Covering the financial year 2015

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Staff

Shane Halpin	CEO
Ann Waldron	Administration and Training
Colette Rooney	Recruitment and Marketing
Susan Lakes	Projects Officer and MDO
Louise T Beirne	Volunteer Support (Intern till Jan 2016)
Laura Blewitt	Projects Assistant (Intern)
Mary Winters	Parish Promotions Coordinator
Rose Salaama Bavuga	VC Uganda Coordinator (p/t)
Colin Brennan	VC Haiti Coordinator (p/t)

Volunteers

Sally Roddy	Volunteer Support
Rita Riordan	Administration Support
Dianne Kavanagh	MCP US Coordinator
Anne O'Driscoll	MCP and VC Draw Coordinator



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Cover picture: Therese McAuliffe, Presentation Sisters Mongu, Zambia

A Message from our President

Dear Members

One of the great joys of parish promotion visits is the opportunity to re-connect with members of long standing whose service abroad may have been many years ago but who maintain their interest in the work of Viatores Christi and continue to support us. Sometimes we meet up with people apparently by chance outside the church. Sometimes we manage to contact a member in the right parish in advance of our visit. This year 2016, as we journey around the diocese of Raphoe, we have been blessed with the sterling support of Máire Ní Bhroin (Zimbabwe, 1990s) whose hospitality we have enjoyed on several occasions. Last year in the archdiocese of Armagh we relied on Mary McEneaney, who never failed us.



The regulated environment we operate in requires a high level of professional work by the staff in recruiting trainees, organising the training and orientation programme, getting to know suitable mission partners, preparing project proposals and evaluating the progress in the field. However, if we wish to retain our character as a membership organisation, the interest and support of the members is vital to several aspects of the work:

- spreading the word about the needs of our projects abroad and about the value of the training programme
- contributing to the training workshops by sharing their experiences abroad, and by accompanying the trainees
- raising funds, as so many members do, by organising local events or contributing to the annual Membership Draw, or by taking part in the Parish Promotion Programme (which is also a great opportunity to spread the word about our work)
- joining in our monthly meeting of prayer and reflection, as a reminder of WHY we want to carry on this work, and as an expression of support to our members in the field.

We hope that a member of the Council in the coming year will take on special responsibility for developing the membership, in line with the guidelines we have now developed for Members and Associate Members.

Thank you all for your interest and support through the year. Please keep praying for the work of Viatores Christi at home and abroad.

Yours sincerely

Paula Stattery, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Paula Stattery'.

A Message from our CEO

The changes that took place as a result of strategic intervention in 2014 continued unabated during 2015 as the organisation continued its journey towards sustainability. New recruitment processes and the new training programme saw our number in the field increase to the highest level in some years peaking at 37 volunteers on assignment. This is an upward trend which goes against the sectors overall trend which indicate a continuing growth in short term volunteering of 1- 2 weeks. Revenues too were up on the previous year with projects supported from Misesan Cara up from €385K in to €423K in 2015 with 14 applications prepared and 14 approved. More importantly the number of marginalised people VC are now helping has also increased.



Key areas where the organisation has seen growth is in the area of research, in particular attempting to get a clear handle on the marginalisation focus of our partner projects. To this end VC carried out baseline surveys with five partners in South Africa resulting in a comprehensive report on the marginalisation status and impact of the work being done in the field. In line with its needs-based approach VC continued its high level engagement in the area of M&E, partnership development and due diligence assessment. During 2015, VC visited eight countries, five in Africa where VC met 11 congregations and 7 diocesan projects and in South America VC held three partner development workshops. The result of all this activity has been a marked increase in project activity and workload at the office.

Our Uganda office continued to grow during the year and the new projects visited in 2015 are now coming on stream. Haiti office too, saw an increase in activity which resulted in one volunteer being posted to the Religious Sisters of Jesus and Mary (RJM) in the North of Haiti as well as one volunteer to the Our Little Brother & Sisters project in neighbouring Dominican Republic.

What is most heartening to report during the year was the great success of the Missionary Cooperation Programme (MCP) in the USA, where VC volunteers kindly offer to promote the work of the organisation in designated parishes in America. This is an important revenue stream for us and is one which we are very grateful for. So too the generosity of the parishes in Archdiocese of Armagh the host for the 2015 Irish parish promotion collection. I would particularly like to mention Archbishop Eamon Martin who welcomed us with open arms and was very supportive of the work.

Thank you one and all the hard working staff, the VC volunteers and in particular, the board of directors on council who give up their time for this very important work,

Shane Halpin CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Halpin".

Who We Are

VC was set up as a Lay Catholic Association in Ireland in 1960. It has a fulltime CEO and is governed by a Council/Board of Directors elected from the membership at the AGM. Council is made up of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary and up to six additional members. It meets monthly and is responsible for policy and other governance issues including approving membership of the association. VC has two full time and four part time staff members and an active intern programme.

VC are signatories to the Comhlámh Code of Good Practice, a set of standards for organisations in Ireland involved in facilitating international volunteer placements in developing countries, to ensure good practice in the sector. VC is a member of IMU, Misean Cara and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin is its patron.

Viatores Christi Limited is incorporated under the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013 as a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital No 68333. It is also a registered charity No. 5526 and CRA 20008444.

Ethos Statement of Viatores Christi (2016)

Challenged by Gospel values and committed to freedom, peace and justice in the creation of a better world, we share life's journey with the poor and marginalised. True to our Catholic tradition we aim to uphold Christian values in everything we do. Our vision is a world of freedom, peace and justice, where everyone is empowered to live their lives with dignity, equality and respect.

VC Offer:

- * An opportunity for trainees of all faiths and none to learn about and explore the context of mission and development today, and reflect on their own motivation and gifts;
- * Accompaniment in making an informed decision about undertaking a suitable overseas placement, which we help source with a mission partner;
- * Practical facilitation of all stages of an assignment, including holistic support while overseas and on return;
- * Awareness of the needs and opportunities for active involvement in social justice and global development activities in Ireland.

Goals: (based on the 2013 strategic review)

- Deliver the vision and mission of VC - *A world of freedom, peace and justice, where everyone is empowered to live their lives with dignity, equality and respect*
- Always strive to serve the poor and marginalised, in a world which is unjustly divided, aiming at equality, capacity building, participation, partnership and sustainability;
- Work to address the basic and immediate issues of our time, such as Poverty Reduction, Food Security, Health, Education and Human Rights and together with other agencies, play our role in the achievement of the *Global Goals for Sustainable Development*;
- Deepen collaborative relationships with mission partners, peer organisations, funders, and all stakeholders;
- Provide high quality training to those who wish to volunteer overseas, and prepare them for overseas assignments;
- Select suitable candidates for overseas assignments and to match them with a specific role identified by a mission partner which meets the needs of the beneficiaries;
- Continue to demonstrate and promote the development impact of our work;
- Provide appropriate support to volunteers throughout the entire volunteer cycle;
- Demonstrate value for money;
- Develop and strengthen the overarching ethos of VC based on Gospel values; ensure effective governance arrangements so that Council can properly guide and control the organisation at a strategic level, and that the organisation has the right mix of skills and necessary resources at both council and staff level to achieve its mission.

Council 2015-16: Board of Directors

President: Paula Slattery

Vice President: Denise Flack

Secretary: Adele O'Reilly (Child Protection Officer)

Treasurer: Charlie Flynn,
Dan Ferguson, Nora Casey, Sally Roddy, Brian Sheridan, Sr Hillary Claffey (co-opted)

Charity Trustees: John O'Loughlin-Kennedy, Mairead Walsh, Stephen Burns, Kevin Goodwin, Brenda Hynes

VC: A faith-based approach to development

Viaiores Christi as an organisation was set up as a lay missionary association in 1960. The founding aims and objectives of the organisation was to dedicate itself to the active involvement of Catholic Laity in the missionary work of the Church overseas. It embraced wholeheartedly the teaching of Vatican II and its understanding of the apostolate of the laity and that through baptism all are called to mission. As such VC is firmly rooted in a faith-based approach to all its work.

Today the line between the secular development approach and our organisation's faith-based approach is not as clear cut as it perhaps may have been in the past. The organisation's understanding of 'mission' has moved in line with the Church's own understanding, from one that set out to win people over to the Catholic Church (an emphasis on the one true faith) to one of journeying in solidarity with the poor and marginalised in the world.

Missionary Congregations and faith-based organisations make up the entire membership of Misesan Cara. Today they number over 89 members, two of whom are lay Christian volunteer sending organisations, VC and VMM and one is now from the Church of Ireland. MC has moved to professionalise the approach to development being undertaken its members so as to ensure ongoing public support for the projects of Irish missionaries and their legacy projects and programmes. Missionary organisations have not always been very good at detailing the impact of their work and many are only beginning to come to terms with the need for greater promotion and indeed results based programmes.

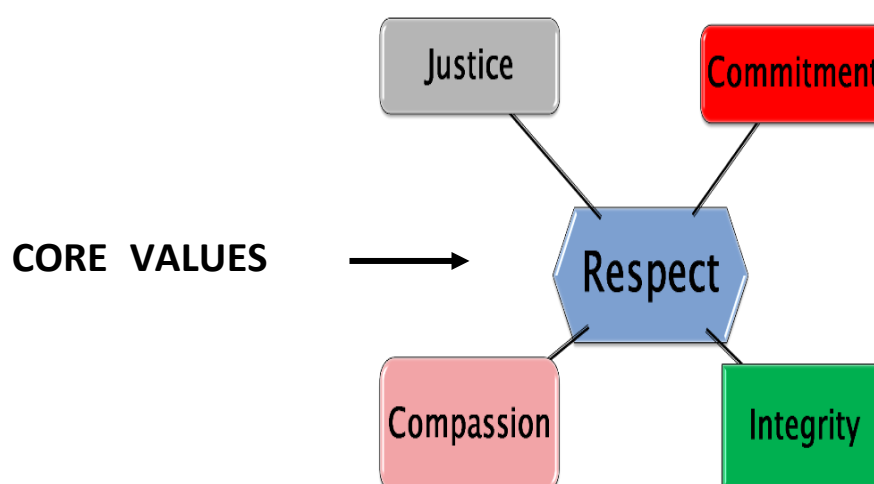
With more and more agencies recognising that religion cannot simply be overlooked, VC continues to walk the line between secular development and faith-based mission. While many are uncomfortable or unfamiliar with the language, structures of faith communities, the impact of the faith-based organisations and missionary congregations continues to be felt around the world. This is increasingly evident from the recent reports of those religious congregations who on the impact of their work.

Joey Ager, a researcher with the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, says in reference to faith communities and conflict that "there is good reason to view the resources of faith for affected populations as not solely physical." He says that "with growing recognition that the psychosocial well-being of people must be considered together with their physical wellness, the place of faith as a source of hope, support and strength to cope has been increasingly explored by academics and practitioners."

VC Approach to Development

As a faith-based organisation, VC works towards embedding the Missionary Approach to Development in all its policies, practice and programmes. This particular approach has been promoted by Miseen Cara to its members.

The core values of the *Missionary Approach to Development* are to operate through justice, compassion, integrity, commitment and respect. In working from these core values, Viatores Christi is informed by gospel values and committed to freedom, peace and justice in the creation of a better world for poor and marginalised peoples.



What makes us different?

Faith Community

VC's faith-based development approach is manifested in a number of unique ways. Firstly, the organisation operates out of a faith community, a group of lay men and women who have joined together to support one another in their understanding that God has called them to be there for the marginalised of this world. This calling is for many above and beyond the need for financial reward but is based on personal and deep motivation for the work.

Longer term intervention

Secondly, the organisation is convinced that longer term intervention is preferable to a short term approach. This is an understanding that change takes time and that volunteers need to give it the time required. That is not to deny there are times when short term consultancy support is valuable, but rather to say solidarity and relationship building takes time. A long-term commitment implies speaking the local language and journeying with communities especially in times of crisis.

Solidarity with the Poor and Marginalised

Thirdly, VC works with missionary partners and faith-based organisations, many of whom work with the poorest and most marginalised in our world. These groups are not widely targeted by secular development organisations as it can be extremely challenging to work with this sector. Many of the faith-based organisations that VC work with are based in areas that are maybe overlooked by mainstream development actors including the slums, favelas and shantytowns of larger cities. Many of these projects have security issues and some are in very remote areas.

What are the Strengths of Faith-Based Volunteering?

In many ways faith-based volunteers are like any other volunteers with the professional skills of community development, finance, capacity building and so on. However, VC is different in that quite often it receives requests from faith-based organisations who have a need for a person who is capable of fitting in to the organisation, be it living with the sisters, priests or brothers and has that faith dimension or understanding as to the mission statement of the host project.

Uniquely placed

VC is well placed within the development sector to assist and grow the legacy of the Irish Mission. In particular to enable them to continue the work initiated by those women and men who left our shores to share their faith, bring their skills, energy and funds to support those less fortunate than themselves.

Shane Halpin

VC: Measuring our impact in 2015



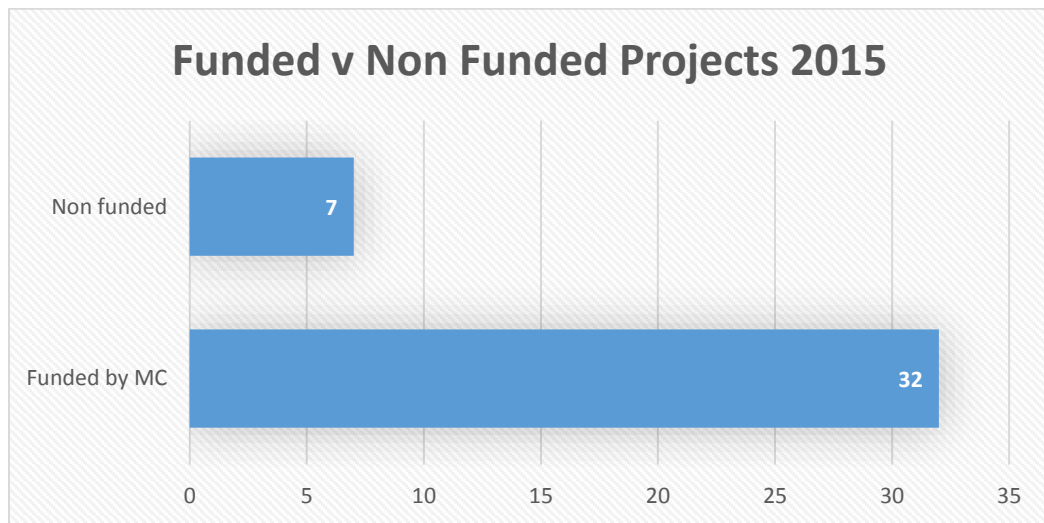
2015				
LOCATION	BENEFICIARIES			VC Volunteers
	Male	Female	Total	
AFRICA				
Kenya	64	49	113	2
South Africa	2887	2303	5190	6
Swaziland	1500	750	2250	2
Tanzania	48	32	80	1
Uganda	4800	6300	11100	3
Zambia	1958	1978	3936	5
AFRICA TOTAL	11257	11412	22669	19
ASIA	Male	Female	Total	Volunteers
Cambodia	1266	2184	3450	2
Thailand	52	63	115	1
ASIA TOTAL	1318	2247	3565	3
AMERICAS	Male	Female	Total	Volunteers
Brazil	170	189	359	2
Guatemala	6	7	13	1
Dominican Republic	150	170	320	1
Haiti	1865	3859	5724	5
Peru	2000	2102	4102	5
USA	750	750	1500	1
AMERICAS TOTAL	4941	7077	12018	15
OVERALL TOTAL	17516	20736	38252	37



38,252 people helped out of poverty

Note – our beneficiary numbers are comprised of direct beneficiaries and front line workers only during the calendar year 2015. There are also significant numbers of people indirectly benefiting from the work of the volunteers (family and community members).

Breakdown of our Work in 2015



AFRICA

KENYA

Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph (FMSJ) - Petra Daly

Main Sector: Health

The FSMJ Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph have been working in Kenya for many years now. Petra went to Kenya in November 2014 and returned to Ireland in December 2015. The overall aim of the project was the development and capacity building of FMSJ primary health care facilities.



VC visited the project in November 2015 and noted a lot of positive work that has been carried out by its various project partners located around the country and is ongoing.

Direct Beneficiaries: 11 males, 49 females.

There are also many thousands of indirect beneficiaries. The community health project in Marigat, for example, works with over 10,000 mothers per year.

www.fmsj.co.uk

SOUTH AFRICA

Home of Hope, Home of Hope Special Needs School (Amathemba), Cape Town - Aisling Foley

Main Sector: Education



Aisling Foley, Home of Hope, Cape Town

Project: Home of Hope is a Designated Child Protection Organization, which provides services for the safety, well-being and care of children in need; with a holistic approach through protection, education and support, with the aim of breaking the cycle of abuse. Home of Hope cares for children in its cluster foster scheme, and provides special needs education for children who have been abused, abandoned, neglected, or have HIV or Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Home of Hope has cared for approximately 300 children, of which 80% suffer from FASD (FASD is permanent brain damage caused by pre-natal exposure to alcohol).

Aisling is Project Manager of Amathemba (A Home of Hope Project), working to develop and expand the special needs school for children suffering from FASD. She is spending the next 12 months phasing out as project manager and handing the project over to a local school principal and management team.

Since last year's update, the Amathemba project now has 42 children. The project has been able to reach out to children who live on the streets with their families in the local community and thus been able to offer a lifeline to these children. In March 2016 Amathemba was registered as an independent

school by the Department of Education. This was a big step for the project and is a recognition of all the hard work put in by the Amathemba team since the project started as an idea in 2010.

Positive change brought about:

The children are acquiring vocational skills and are interested in securing future employment and becoming self-sufficient. The work experience programme is helping them to understand responsibility and giving them practical experience in an area of work where they may secure future employment. The employer education and support program will ensure that there will be less failures in employment placements.



Two of Home of Hope girls in the cooking class in school

Direct Beneficiaries of Amathemba special education project are: 84 male + 234 female = 318 children.

www.homeofhope.co.za

SOUTH AFRICA

Prison Care Support Network (PCSN) Cape Town- Breda Coady

Main Sector: Prison Ministry and Social Reintegration -

PCSN is in its 20th year provides programs responding to the spiritual, emotional and educational needs of the incarcerated and their families. Its objective is to provide care and support during incarceration and after release for the social reintegration of offenders. Sr. Marie Brady, an Irish Loreto, has been involved as Volunteer Leader since PCSN's inception and although retired, continues her volunteer work in the prisons.

Activities:

Restorative Justice is the bedrock of the organisation, providing five programs during 2015, in five different correctional centres in the Western Cape. The program focuses on the restoration of the offender at the individual level, restoration with family members and victim-offender dialogue, if the victim wishes to be involved. 132 offenders participated in the program which lasted 10 days. In 2016 the number of programs has increased to six.



Breda and Sr. Brady receives lettuce from the organic gardeners

Positive change brought about:

- Breda Coady, as Marketing & Capacity Building co-ordinator organised the Art & Writing competition. Marketing positive outcomes and encouraging a change of mind set from crime to creativity was the purpose of this pursuit and proved to be a more acceptable marketing strategy to a public where almost everyone has been touched by crime in one form or another. Breda organised an Art & Writing Competition sponsored by the National Lottery. Approximately 450 inmates took part in this competition, which exposed the wealth of talent and the restorative power of art and writing.



Art competition - 1st prize winner - The Face of Africa

Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP) Cape Town

- Aoife Lyne

Main Sector: Capacity Building and Education

The Salesian Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of South Africa's vulnerable children and youth at risk. For more than a century it has been providing education, shelter and emotional support for at-risk young people; a mission begun in the 19th century by Salesian order founder St. John Bosco, who made it his life's work to support children in need. It's a mission which they still live today, adapted to the unique needs of South Africa's 21st century young people. The Salesian Institute serves vulnerable children and youth at risk, regardless of religion, race, gender or nationality. The Institute gives them the skills they need to stay out of danger, find good jobs and lead happy lives.



Aoife Lyne

Each year the Salesian Institute reaches 1600 young men and women in their programs with a custom-tailored mix of basic education, vocational training, social skills, neighbourhood outreach and residential accommodation.

Activities:

Systems Capacity Building

The main focus of the role has been on building systems capacity in monitoring and evaluation. Aoife have been co-ordinating the introduction of "Salesforce"; a tool to streamline SIYP's M&E processes. It's a cloud-based customer relationship management (CRM) computing system.

The system will enable SIYP to analyse metrics on how the organisation is performing.

Aoife has worked closely with local Salesforce consultants to customise the system to SIYP's unique requirements. The system is currently in use with a small team. Training of additional users will follow on from that.



Waves of Change Participants

Baseline Surveys:

VC development worker Brian Lynch, a research specialist, visited SIYP during March 2016 to facilitate a baseline survey process which will assist SIYP in gaining greater knowledge about their beneficiaries, and targeting of programmes. Aoife assisted Brian with the co-ordination of the process. These baselines are being utilised as valuable tools for evaluation on SIYP.

www.salesianyouth.org.za

Missionary Sisters of Africa–St James RC Secondary School Port Elizabeth – Nuala Cunningham

Main sector: Education

The aim of the project is to strengthen and build up the Strategic Management capability, resource mobilization, and organizational capacity of St. James All Girls Secondary School in Port Elizabeth, South Africa (of which the trustees are the Missionary Sisters of the Assumption) and enable it to function more efficiently and sustainably.

Nuala Cunningham, a retired school principal took up this role in September 2015 and has been working since then on the development of an operational plan following a strategic review of the project in 2014.



Nuala with Sr Mary in Port Elizabeth

The school is owned by the Missionary Sisters of Africa (MSA), who are a long term partner with VC. The school caters for grades 8 – 12, and there are approximately 540 girls at the school. There are 18 teachers (including a principal, deputy principal and one head of department). There is a mix of experience at the school from those with a few years to 40 years teaching experience. There are four non-teaching staff; bursar, admin assistant, groundkeeper and cleaner.

Beneficiaries 540 girls and 18 teachers (568 female/6 male)

Don Bosco Centre Walkersville Johannesburg - Joseph McGovern

Main Sector: Education

Don Bosco Youth centre is a large former boarding school property which is today used as a retreat and centre for pastoral programmes. It is located south of Johannesburg in a country location near Walkerville. Joe volunteered as an office administrator from February till December 2015.

Salesians Planning and Development Office (SPDO) – Johannesburg - Chris Toal

Main sector: Education and income generation

The Salesian PDO is a link between the Salesians and funders of various projects scattered in the Salesian Vice-Province of Southern Africa (AFM). It is charged with monitoring and evaluation, finding funding, writing reports, research and developing communication strategies with benefactors and beneficiaries. The Salesian Project Office was originally established in Cape Town in 2002. Its aim was to assist the Salesians, wherever possible, in their development works and projects for marginalised youth in Southern Africa, particularly in the area of fundraising.



Fr Robert Gore Director

In August of 2006, at its AGM, this Projects Office took on the added responsibility for capacity building and planning, in line with the international character of the organization. To reflect this new role, it is now called the Salesian Planning and Development Office (SPDO).

Beneficiaries: Immediate office 2 Development heads 5

SWAZILAND

Salesians AFM Manzini Youth Care (MYC)
- Noel O'Meara and Mick O'Shea

Main Sector: Urban Community Development, Income Generation

Project:

MYC provides accommodation, support, care and education for marginalised and previously homeless young people at risk through poverty. MYC

operates 6 residential homes for 94 marginalised orphaned and street children (boys and girls). MYC has a staff of 65 and also includes a skills centre, a large youth recreation centre, a free primary school for marginalised local children, a health clinic and a farm. MYC operates under the auspices of the Salesians of Don Bosco, and the Director is Fr. Larry McDonnell, SDB.

Noel worked as Development Manager with MYC from February 2014 until July 2015 and was replaced in this role by retired Garda Mick Shea. His role is to strengthen and build capacity of the development office at MYC, with a view to laying the foundations of a professional and efficient locally run development office.

Activities:

- Staff Training: Project proposal writing, report writing, facilitation and presentation skills, and communication with donors.
- Project managing the construction of a new youth agriculture training centre; the centre is nearing completion and will provide practical vocational training in pig rearing, honey production and permaculture.
- IT infrastructure upgrade.



Mick Shea has new mattress covers made for the Zakhele Girls Residence in Manzini

Positive change brought about:

Agriculture Training Centre (main donor German Federal Ministry of Agriculture). The completion of the final phase of construction was reached in early August 2015 when the roofing, tiling, wiring and plumbing were completed. The building has a significant but unobtrusive aspect on the surrounding landscape as curious eyes contemplate its vast 800 sqm size. Up to 30 local people were directly employed in the construction for the past 18 months, while indirectly the local Manzini economy benefited extensively by supplying the various building materials.

During the year the project undertook the refurbishment of the Zakhele Girls Home. Each girl now has her own cubicle with a bed and a locker, which allows them to have some privacy and extra space.



VC MDO Susan Lakes with Fr Larry Fr McDonnell at the newly built BYAC

VC Volunteer Eoin Hickey, arrived in February of this year, 2016. He has a master's degree in sustainable agriculture and rural development and will be sharing his knowledge and farming experience at Bosco Youth Agricultural Centre (BYAC). Furthermore he is giving a helping hand to extend the curriculum, which will be taught at BYAC. Eoin's main tasks will be planning, designing and implementation (or teaching/lecturing) of practical/vocational agriculture-based training courses. He will be assisting with the design, planning and implementation of certified practical modules in pig rearing/management, permaculture and apiary related courses.

MYC Direct Beneficiaries: 1,500 Male + 750 Female. Total 2,250.

<http://manziniyouthcare.com>

TANZANIA

-Jim Kavanagh (Spiritan Mission Services)

Main sector: Education

Jim Kavanagh, a water engineer, travelled out to Endulen Tanzania. Endulen is a small trading centre, some thirty kilometers from the Ngorongoro crater. There are small shops and twice a month an outdoors market serves Maasai coming from great distances throughout the Ngorongoro area and beyond. They come to buy sugar, tea, salt, corn meal and clothes; like the red or blue shuka, which they wear draped over their shoulders toga fashion. They shop for these things with cash they receive from the sale of their milk and butter also sometimes animals. The highlight of the market is always the cattle auction, which gives the Maasai access to the money needed for major expenses.

Jim was attached to the Catholic Mission there and completed several water surveys - with the view of sorting out funds to upgrade existing sources and install new ones from scratch. He was lucky enough to be on hand to lend aid in installing a water supply to a nearby orphanage of 80 kids and it turned out fantastic in the benefits and dignity it gave to the quality of life for the kids. He also developed a water management system for the local village water supply to make it sustainable for long-term use and recommended the installation of a water metering control system in a secure lockable metal compartment.

In the middle of the year he transferred to Monduli Juu, 1.5 hrs outside Arusha and stayed with Fr Tomislav of Croatia, sorting out village water supply systems.

UGANDA

Caritas Kampala - Rita Formolo (*and Rose Salaama Bavuga*)

Main Sector: Poverty Reduction through Financial and Social Inclusion

Project: Strengthening and Capacity of Caritas Kampala Cooperatives in the Archdiocese of Kampala

Cooperatives are enterprises owned and democratically controlled by their members organized under the principles and values of cooperation.

They are attractive and a significant alternative to the traditional business model as they can generate opportunities to empower men and women economically and socially to improve their living conditions.

Fr Peter, Rose and Rita at meeting in Kampala



Initially, an assessment was conducted to review the extent of outreach of these existing cooperatives, where it identified the existence of 30 societies actively operating within the parish structure, totalling 17,165 members in September 2015, 53% female and 47% male.

Subsequently, the project engaged in the organization of a long-term Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020 through a participatory approach to provide direction and perspective to guide the work to be delivered by the Cooperatives Office. This will be complemented by the formulation of an operational plan. Rita also set up was the Caritas Cooperatives Council, a governing body that holds the Caritas Cooperative Office to account.

Capacity Building Initiatives

During this period, two capacity building workshops were realized. The first one with the participation of 70 people, focused on collecting the cooperative leaders' views and perspectives for the organisation of the strategic plan. The second, counted with 150 members, and included an introduction to child protection framework, presentation of the successful experience by 3 Caritas cooperatives, a debate on sustainability of societies and the installation of the council. This enabled the office to further strengthen the relationship with the cooperative leaders and other relevant stakeholders - including government officials and actors in the sector.



Group discussion on strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for Caritas cooperatives in the first workshop.



The Archbishop of Kampala- next to the UN Ambassador for Uganda- delivering his speech at the end of the second workshop.

<http://caritaskampala.org>

BMCTI Bishop Magambo Counsellor Training Institute – Mary T. Finnegan

Main Sector: Human Rights, Mental Health

BMCTI seeks to address the psychological distress of the Ugandan people by providing counselling services to the community, and running counselling courses at Masters, Diploma, and Certificate level. The institute provides quality counselling education to students of multiple religious orientations. BMCTI's vision is to be a model institute for Uganda which will spearhead the integration of counselling into the National HealthCare System and the Ministry of Education.



Outreach vehicle for domestic violence workshops sponsored by the VC project

Retired Garda, Mary Finnegan spent one year in BMCTI and returned in December 2015. She replaced Nora Casey who had spent two years there. Mary taught Research Methods and Writing Skills to BA and MA students and supervised the research projects. She was involved in the outreach training programmes delivered by BMCTI and conducted major baseline surveys into 'Domestic Violence' and 'Teenage Mothers' and she also completed the evaluations of both programmes. A significant study was conducted on Housemaids in the Fort Portal area and she designed the study, managed the process of administration, analysed the data and wrote up the research. This was the first time such a study had been conducted in Uganda. She was involved in some of the daily administrative tasks of the Institute. She thoroughly enjoyed the one year experience.

Direct Beneficiaries: 4,000 male + 5,400 female. Total 9,400.

www.BMCTI.org

UGANDA

Franciscan Brothers, Nebbi - Sarah Oates

Main Sector: Education

Following a visit home to Ireland to work on her Masters in Kimmage Development Studies Centre, Sarah returned to Nebbi, Uganda, to continue her work as Deputy Principal with the Franciscan Brothers in their

agricultural college project. The overall aim of the Agricultural College is to contribute to the quality of life of rural people in Northern Uganda, Sudan, and DRC, and the focus is on promoting sustainable agriculture through education, training and research. (Sarah's nearest internet connection is 25km away in Nebbi).

<http://adraauganda.org>
<http://www.franciscanbrothers.ie>

ZAMBIA

Presentation Sisters – Cheshire Home, Mongu - Therese McAuliffe

Main Sector: Special Education and Health

Project:

Therese Mc Auliffe has been in Mongu since May 2015. She is working as an early childhood specialist.

Cheshire home Mongu is in Western Zambia on the edge of the Zambezi flood plain with the white sand from the Kalahari desert dominating the scenery, the mango and cashew trees creating colour for most of the year until the rains arrive, however, they are coming later and later every year. The Western Province is one of the poorest provinces in Zambia and it is almost twice the size of Ireland. Poverty is everywhere with most people living on subsistent farming. Most of that being fish from the Zambezi and rice grown at the edge of the flood plain and scattered maize where there is suitable soil. Medical care is free but poor. The hospital lacks staff and supplies, sometimes not even having the basics such as cotton wool and iodine. Rural health clinics are the first port of call for everybody as you cannot get into the hospital without a referral. The clinic can be busy and under staffed. Many of them are miles into the bush, hours' drive on a bad dirt road to the nearest hospital. Often these clinics will only have one nurse on duty.



Therese McAuliffe

As result of poor maternity care, conditions such as cerebral palsy are common in the Western Province. Cheshire home, Mongu, is the only facility in the Western Province to care for these children. They have a full-time nurse on site and a physiotherapist that comes 3 mornings a week. Plastic and Orthopaedic surgeons come 3 times a year. Orthopaedic technicians come a number of times throughout the year when the materials are available. People come from all over the province to avail of these facilities,

including the refugees who come to get fitted for prosthetic legs. Therese says, "One nurse told me stories of working in these clinics with no electricity or running water and only a security guard and the light on her phone to help her delivering babies. Women are spending long hours in labour and making rough, painful journeys to the nearest hospital."

Positive change brought about:

Therese's first experience of Cheshire home was one of feeling a little overwhelmed and shocked as she had not been with so many children with such severe physical disabilities before. Working in a crèche in Dublin most



Namakau walking for the first time after being fitted with callipers.

of her children were able-bodied and although she had a few special needs children, including children with cerebral palsy, it is much different when there is only one or two in the class. She soon realized that although these children may face huge physical challenges, they are incredibly intelligent. Some have intellectual disability but most have no problem at all performing to the best standard in school. "What continues to amaze me, even though I have been here a year now, is their emotional intelligence. All of these children are incredibly caring of each other, reading each other's needs quickly and accurately. Those that are more mobile are constantly assisting their friends".

These children are incredibly resilient and work so hard to reach their potential. There are 3 that will sit their grade 7 exam this year. They are extremely dedicated to their study and will hopefully do very well in their exams. Therese's favourite story from the last year has to be when the orthopaedic technicians were at the project. In fact, there are a number of stories from that week. The first one is of a little girl, 3 years old, who was unable to walk due to cerebral palsy. She was in the physio room one day and asked one of the staff to pray with her. She began to pray 'Dear God, I



Given walking for the first time after getting his first pair of prosthetic legs.

want to walk. I have not killed anyone; you can't be mad at me. So let me walk.' When the technicians came they fitted her legs with callipers and she started to walk with the aid of a walker. Her mother started to cry as Therese put her first pair of shoes on over the callipers.

<http://www.pbvm.org>

Congregation of the Immaculate Conception (CIC)

- Future in my Hands Training and Sunflowers Family Centre - Helen Flaherty

Main sector: Income generation

Last year VC featured Helen's work with Future in my Hands Training and Innovation Project as Programme Co-ordinator. Helen's work with CIC and project advisor Donald Bilham continued until April 2015. VC CEO and MDO visited the project again in November 2015 to finalise the report.



VC MDO Susan Lakes with
Project Advisor Donald Bilham

Helen then moved to Sunflowers Family Centre, 35 miles into the bush from Kabwe, Central Zambia. The centre cares for the wellbeing of 80 boys and 18 girls. The centre is run by a Belgian Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary CICM. Helen returned to Ireland in September 2015 after many years in Zambia. We thank her for all her work and wish her well in her new endeavours in Dublin.

Direct Beneficiaries: 20 Males, 40 Females CIC Sunflowers Family Centre
80 males and 18 females

www.cicmadurai.org and www.missionhurst.org

Jesuit Mission, Kasisi, Zambia

- Brian Sheridan

Main Sector: Agriculture and Income Generation

As part of a social enterprise initiative, the Jesuits in Kasisi Zambia developed Jesuit land to further contribute to the transformation of Zambian Society. The project involved transforming an area of quality land into a productive social enterprise. This will be used to sustain the work of

the Jesuit projects in Kasisi and throughout Zambia. Kasisi farm will ensure farm produce, despite drought, by implementing modern farming methods and technologies, which can be replicated by the local trainees, agricultural staff and the community, to ensure greater stability and food supply. The farm will also help to keep food prices at an affordable level in the markets around Lusaka and surrounds. Brian Sheridan went to Kasisi in October 2014, shared his commercial farm management skills to ensure the efficiency and sustainability of the proposed farm, ensuring that the farm effectively meets the needs of its beneficiaries, and is training and upskilling Zambian agriculturists and labourers. He returned to Ireland in September 2015 and the prepared land has now been leased to a local farmer for income generation for the Society's many mission projects.



Discussing the work

Direct Beneficiaries: 18 Males, 12 Females

www.jesuitmissions.ie

Capuchin Fathers Zambia

Serenity Harm Reduction Programme Zambia - SHARPZ

- **Sheila Devereux**
- **Clara Brasier**

Main sector: Health

Project:

The goal of SHARPZ is to be a collaborative agency, offering a comprehensive alcohol and other drug service, as well as focused psychological assistance that can contribute to the promotion of mental health, and to the prevention and reduction of harmful substance use. SHARPZ initiatives, collaboration, and outreach, seeks to reach as many beneficiaries as possible, and to especially target those on the margins of society.

VC sent two volunteers to SHARPZ, one in the area of administration and finance and the other in the delivery of psychological services with a view to increasing efficiency, accountability and capacity to deliver evidence-

based psychological services to clients, thereby promoting its sustainability.

Both Sheila and Clara added considerable value to the programme with Sheila returning in June 2015 and Clara in February of this year. As a result of Sheila's intervention the project is now undergoing a complete external review to feed into the organisation's strategic plan.



SHARPZ Serenity Harm Reduction Programme

Beneficiaries: 1870 Males and 1715 Females

<http://sharpzambia.blogspot.ie/>

ASIA

CAMBODIA - Partners in Compassion – Pat Mooney

Main Sector: Human Rights

Project:

To ensure:

- Smooth, effective & sustainable transition to local ownership of project management.
- Smooth, effective and sustainable handover.
- Staff are capable, experienced & confident in all areas of project management.
- That the organisation is strong to respond to the needs of the poor & marginalized.
- Sustainability of networks & collaborations with other organisations.
- Sustainability of previous project activities such as Protection and Safety of Children & Vulnerable Adults, Public Relations.



Debriefing Workshop for Child Safeguarding Training Team

Activities:

- Counterpart Training & Child Protection & Safeguarding issues.
- On-going monitoring & follow up with counterpart.
- Coordination of Child Protection activities including revision of CPP, Child Protection Training Team Workshops & ensuring the implementation of the CPP at all field locations including training at four communities.

Beneficiaries:

	Male	Female	Total
Direct Beneficiaries – Children	289	307	596
Frontline Workers	28	41	69
Household Members (Adults)	949	1836	2785
Community Members	6538	7919	14457
Total	7804	10103	17907

www.partnersincompassioncambodia.com

CAMBODIA**Jesuit Education Project, Sisophon Cambodia - Deirdre Ryan****Project:**

The Jesuit Education Project at Sisophon in the North West of Cambodia aims to improve the quality of education in Cambodia through an integrated and multi-faceted education program for the many poor children and youth outside the town. The program has four components; a Community Learning Centre to provide informal education and skills training to the youth who are dropping out of school or preparing to leave for work in Thailand; a Teacher Resource Centre to provide in-service training courses for teachers of Banteay Meanchey Province; a small primary school to model effective pedagogy and a secondary school.



Deirdre Ryan

“Living here alongside our international community, I work in the community building with them and with the Khmer staff that includes teachers, office staff, our cook, our cleaner and our guards. Early on, I spent a few days working from my room planning, evaluating and studying Khmer. It was possibly the most challenging time I’ve had since I arrived.” She says.

“When I think about how relationships have developed and how colleagues are becoming friends, I am grateful for the advice given during our VC training—in development work, there is little you can achieve sitting on your own, at your computer. These days I tend to do most of these things in the teachers’ room, in the company of others.”

Deirdre Ryan departed for Cambodia in December 2015 to work as a teacher training officer in the Jesuit primary school and to assist in the English language courses running at the school.

Direct Beneficiaries: 15 staff plus many students

www.jesuitschoolcam.org

THAILAND

Good Shepherd Sisters - Centre for Women and Children’s Rehabilitation and Development (GSCWCRD) Phuket

- **Carol Goodison**

Main Sector: Education and Health

The Good Shepherd Centre for Women and Children’s Rehabilitation and Development (GSCWCRD) is located in Phuket, Thailand. The centre provides non-formal education and vocational training to detainees, street children, women sex workers, young ethnic girls and people living with HIV/AIDS. Priority is given to the problem of human trafficking in Phuket, which is ever worsening due to recent economic problems in Thailand and neighbouring countries. The situation leads to migration, which enables human traffickers to attract more labour into human trafficking.

Activities:

- Teaching English to migrant Burmese children.
- Recreational activities with the children.
- Assisting local staff with administration work.

Direct Beneficiaries: 115 Children (52 males, 63 females)

AMERICAS

BRAZIL

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) - Integrated Community Project – Marie Fitzpatrick and Máire Concannon.

Main Sector: Education and Health

Project Brazil was set up in 1997, in Joao Pessoa, Brazil by Marie Fitzpatrick and Máire Concannon; two VC Volunteers working in partnership with the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary and the local community. Since 2011 they have been in the field on and off, coordinating and managing the project and supporting from afar when in Ireland.

Aim of the Integrated Community project:

To improve the quality of life of a vulnerable community living on the periphery of Joao Pessoa, who are faced with the problems of poverty, drugs, violence and social exclusion.

Direct Beneficiaries: (170 males, 189 females, includes staff)

www.rshm-nep.org

GUATEMALA

Kano'j – David Deegan

Main Sector: Education

Kano'j is a Civil Association set up by David Deegan and some parents of Guatemalan children to support the education of Mayan teenagers. David has been in Guatemala since 1995 and is one of VC's longest serving members. Currently the students are studying to graduate as bilingual teachers, computer programmers, electricians, secretaries, and business administrators. The president of Kano'j is a former student, as are the Secretary and Treasurer. Kano'j believe that the association should be run by the people themselves.

Activities:

- Full scholarship - room, board and fees – provided to one student and partial scholarships to 22 students not living at the centre/house, all enrolled in school at various levels - 23 students attending school daily.
- Tri-monthly workshops are ongoing on cultural, political and social issues and attended by all 23 students – speakers brought in to facilitate the workshops.

Positive change brought about:

- Increased level of education both formal and informal for Indigenous youth, leading to professional qualifications and greater employment opportunities for graduates.
- Greater self-confidence and dignity and a greater pride in their ethnic heritage. This can lead to the development of community leaders.
- Greater understanding of politics and capitalism and how they are impacted.

Direct Beneficiaries: Scholarships to 13 indigenous teenagers, 7 girls and 6 boys. Kano'j has to date helped over 50 indigenous young people to graduate as professionals

HAITI

Nos Petits Frères et Soeurs (NPFS)



VC Council members Denise Flack and Sally Roddy with Annette, Shane and Colin in Tabarre Haiti.

Over the course of 2015 there were 5 VC volunteers with NPFS in Haiti: **Gena Heraty** (long term VC, over 20 years in Haiti), **Annette Johansson** joined the team in Oct 2014 (until Oct 2015 and later returned in January 2016), and **Colin Brennan** in November 2014 until June 2016, **Michael Nolan** in April 2015 (until Sept 2015), **Shane Lynch** in June 2015 (until Sept 2015 but continues to work remotely from Dublin),

Main Sector: Special Education and Health

Operating in Haiti since 1987, the organisation has been addressing the social needs of the poorest of the poor, raising children in a loving environment and creating future leaders. Following the twin disasters of 2010, the earthquake and cholera outbreak, NPFS programmes launched into high gear serving over 1 million people. The programmes are vast and include multiple homes for children, healthcare campuses and various educational facilities in Port-au-Prince and Kenscoff. VC member **Gena Heraty** is the Director of the Special Needs Programs in Haiti and has been working with NPFS since 1993.

Positive change brought about:

- Our partner organisation in Port-de-Paix will now have three extra trained therapists increasing their capacity by 40%, allowing them to treat more patients with special needs.
- During the course of four outreach visits to Fond Dwa, their teachers have received specific training and direction on teaching children with behavioural and learning difficulties. Two classrooms have now been remodelled to create a better learning environment and certain teaching practices have been changed.
- Due to the lack of social services and supports, parents of children with special needs generally receive little or no guidance in how best to care for their child. Over the course of 21 formation, 108 parents attend classes in relation to Feeding, Dressing and Undressing, Communication and positioning
- Basic information on the causes, warning signs and steps to take when having a stroke, is now, for the first time available to the general public in Creole. Follow up education was also carried out by our partner through four workshops.

St Damien Hospital

Shane Lynch spent three months from June 2015 to September 2015 working as a biomedical engineer in St Damien's Paediatric Hospital in Tabarre, Port Au Prince. In September 2015 he returned to Ireland for family reasons but undertook to assist his engineering colleagues in ongoing support, training and equipment procurement from Dublin. He had already visited the project twice as part of this continuing contract and has secured training for the maintenance team at the hospital. This is the first time VC has engaged in a remote volunteering role and VC is very proud of the work that Shane has achieved.



Shane Lynch

Kenscoff

Long term VC supporter Michael Nolan visited Haiti in 2015 and supported the project at Kenscoff. Michael benefitted enormously from the experience and is now even more active in supporting Gena's projects and in VC work.

Program Beneficiaries: 750 People benefit directly from the program (Children in school, outpatient's children/adults and parents workshops)



Michael Nolan in Kenscoff

Front Line Staff: 15 Male; 52 Women

Other people benefiting: 759 Patients from partner programs, Est. 1172 Carers and Parents

www.nph.org/haiti

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Nos Petits Frères et Soeurs (NPFS) – Sarah McEvoy

Main Sector: Special Education and Health

Physiotherapist Sarah McEvoy was the first VC member to take up an assignment at NPH DR. Sarah's role was to provide physio and hydrotherapy to the children of NPH with severe physical and cognitive disabilities. During 2015 a key part of her work was to make full use of the existing hydrotherapy rehabilitation pool at Casa San Marcos and to train local individuals in hydrotherapy and pool maintenance.



Sarah McEvoy

Casa San Marcos provides 24 hour care for 11 children with severe physical and cognitive disabilities. The children come from marginalised communities, where the inability to access to appropriate health and rehabilitation facilities have compounded already severe disabilities. San Marcos is a new facility, and continues to grow. Improvement of both quality and quantity of life is the core mission of the house.

Direct Beneficiaries: 150 male 170 female total 320

<https://www.nph.org/dominican>

USA

Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network – Miriam Bannon

Main Sector: Community Development

Since December 2014 Miriam has been National Co-ordinator with the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network (CMFN), a national membership organisation. CMFN's Mission is to promote the formation of welcoming Church communities by advocating social justice, dignity, and respect for all in order that they may be a missionary Church. The seasonal farmworkers who CMFN serves are highly mobile immigrants, residing in isolated rural areas, and are nearly invisible in society and in Church. Miriam has made a decision to explore religious life with the Sisters of Charity of Incarnate Word and VC wish her the very best in 2016.

Direct Beneficiaries: 300 male + 300 female

<http://cmfwn.org>

PERU

V.I.D.A. – Brigid MacCarthy

Main Sector: Environment

Project:

V.I.D.A. is the Assoc. Vecinos Integrados para el Desarrollo Ambiental (Neighbours Together for Environmental Development)



VIDA End of Year Concert

Brigid MacCarthy was central to the founding of VIDA and is Coordinator of the project. The aim of the project is to create a safe and healthy environment, and improve the quality of life for 2,000 pupils in Fe y Alegria (Faith and Joy) Parochial School and Santa Rosa School. The project includes the development of a botanic garden for the Santa Rosa National School; it also helps organise environmental events in collaboration with schools, church, and community groups.

VC featured Brigid's work last year, and we're happy to report that the good work continues. Over the past 12 months VIDA has continued the work of environmental education through workshops, talks, classes and the celebration of key events such as World Environment Day.

Brigid says, "For me, 2015 was work as usual but knowing it would be my final year in Peru after over 14 years in Lima I was aware that it was time

to look to the future sustainability of the work already completed and assess the possibility of a continuation of the work into the future. That meant gradually having less input on a day-to-day basis and more time to reflect on results and possibilities.”

Brigid was based in Santa Rosa, a ‘pueblo’ in the district of Puente Piedra in North Lima.

Activities:

In 2015 work mostly took the form of regular workshops in the community. Music and drama were used as a tool to engage children with environmental themes such as recycling, trees, animals, biodiversity etc.

Workshops were organized for schools also to celebrate important environmental dates/events, and the group liked to collaborate with other organizations active in fighting for the healthy environment. Another aspect of the work was the more physical fieldwork of the on-site expansion of green spaces, which begun in 2010.



Children at environmental workshop

Brigid was particularly impressed when she visited Fe y Alegria School prior to her return to Ireland to find that the small botanic garden she had planted had been expanded by at least 100% and also had a watering system in place.

Brigid says, “I was pleased to be able to redirect the music students whom I taught to a new music school organized and founded by one of VIDA’s very enthusiastic and energetic members, Lis Perez. Lis is a teacher herself and also runs a community children’s library where local children can participate in out of school activities and learn in a less formal environment. It was also a great honour to have this school named after me!”

Realistically not everyone sees the importance of environmental care, conservation and sustainability but Brigid is satisfied that the seeds are being sown both physically and metaphorically that will continue in the generations to come. Brigid returned to Ireland in December 2015 after 14 years in Peru. We thank her on behalf of VC and wish her well in her new life in Ireland!,

Direct Beneficiaries: 2,000

www.facebook.com/asoc.vida

PERU

Incarnate Word Missionaries – Yvonne Moynihan and Tessa Cornally (who came home in September 2015)

Main Sector: Education

Yvonne has been working with Women's Global Connection as an Incarnate Word Missionary in Chimbote, Peru since September 2015. She is based in Nuevo Chimbote at the Pedro Pablo Atusparia Institute of Education which is currently under the directorship of Sister Hirayda, a Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word. Yvonne's role is providing educational support to primary school children who have learning difficulties or developmental issues.



Yvonne Moynihan

Activities:

Promoting inclusion in the classroom and providing learning support to children with learning difficulties and/or developmental issues. Yvonne assists primary school students who are struggling to keep up with the school curriculum or have fallen behind in their studies due to developmental issues or external events, by tutoring them in mathematics and communication.

Yvonne assisted with the organisation of Environmental Awareness Week in Atusparia, 2015. This event aimed to raise awareness among the students about environmental issues. She was part of the organising committee and helped teachers and students with environmental projects around various environmental themes such as; pollution, green energy and recycling etc. Yvonne also assists the school psychologist with the organisation of information sessions on mental health and the general wellbeing of students. These monthly sessions are provided by the school psychologist to the teachers and parents of children in the school.

The majority of children who are receiving learning support have made great progress over the year.

Positive Change brought about

Carlos, who is in 4th grade (9 years old) was struggling with some letter and basic word recognition when we began working together in September, 2015. Carlos' father died when he was 6 and naturally this



Carlos practising his writing

had a profound impact on him and on his learning and development. Over the course of the past year Carlos has worked very hard and has made remarkable progress and is now able to read and write simple texts with ease. This has helped to restore his confidence in himself and his capabilities and as a result his classroom participation and performance have also improved.

Direct Beneficiaries: 50 students receiving learning support.

Other Beneficiaries: All 1455 Atusparia students and their parents and 52 teachers in the school.

PERU

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SNDdeN), San Clemente

- Anne Reilly

Anne spent much of the year in Peru staying in Las Delicias, a community of Notre Dame Sisters in San Clemente. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SNDdeN) were founded in Belgium by Saint Julie Billart, for the education in all forms, especially for poor women and children.

Anne's job role was broad and ultimately Anne didn't want to be tied down to a funder determined role and rather be free to utilise her skills as a pastoral worker and facilitator to work with the people of San Clemente and to assist in their soup/dinner kitchen 'cottage industry' where foods are prepared to sell and raise much needed funds for their community.

She began her assignment brushing up on her Spanish spending 3 hrs each day becoming more comfortable hearing and picking up phrases and words.

Anne returned to Ireland in December 2015 and unfortunately became ill. However at the time of writing is well recovered and looking forward to returning overseas in 2016.

Projects receiving funding during the course of 2015

Completed Assignments during the year

In last year's report we featured the work of the following Volunteers. They have successfully completed their assignments and we congratulate them and thank them for their amazing work in 2015.

KENYA

Michael Harrington – Holy Ghost (Spiritan) Schools Makueni County.
Beneficiaries: 53 boys. Michael returned home in May 2015.

PERU

Judith Lenehan – Caith. Beneficiaries: 100 male, 122 female. Judith came home in March 2015.

2016 ASSIGNMENTS

At time of writing, the following volunteers have also travelled to their new assignments in 2016 and we wish them all the very best in their endeavours and hope to feature their work in future updates:

Shane Lynch – Dublin/Haiti – Feb 2016 (remote volunteering)

Eoin Hickey – Swaziland – Feb 2016

Carmel Bradwell – South Africa – Feb 2016

Daniel Ferguson – El Salvador – Feb 2016

Annette Johansson – Haiti – Apr 2016

Anne Heffernan – Haiti – Apr 2016

Aoife Bulman – Uganda – May 2016

Laura Conry – Dominican Republic – May 2016

Frank Murray – Rwanda – May 2016

Impact Report compiled by Laura Blewitt

Thanks to Our Supporters in 2015!

Grants
Received
Trócaire
Society of St Patricks Kiltegan
Kilmore Diocesan Mission Committee
Misean Cara

D J	Ahearne	Una	Markey
Carmel	Byrne	A F	McCarthy
Orla	Camacho	Bishop Liam	McDaid
Sinead	Collins	Mary	McEvoy
Liam	Convery	Mrs	Mcgleenan
Rev Seamus	Conway	Patricia	McGuirk
Fr D	Corrigan	Patricia	McNally
Fintan	Coyle	Pat	Mollaghan
Kathleen	Crowley	Fr J	Murray
Sheila	Cullen	Archbishop Ml	Neary
Eileen	Cunningham	Aisling	Ni Bhriain
Carmel	Dennehy	JA & T	O'Byrne
Sheila	Devereux	MI & CI	O'Connell
Bishop Kevin	Doran	Margaret	O'Connor
Bishop Martin	Drennan	Brendan	O'Donohue
Donald	Farrell	Peggy	O'Driscoll
Mary	Farrell	A & R	O'Gorman
Bishop Raymond	Field	K	O'Kane
Bishop John	Fleming	Yolande	O'Leary
Charlie	Flynn	Ber	O'Reilly
Simeon	Fuller	Patricia	Quinlivan
Ronan	Halpin	C M	Ring
Anthony	Hannon	Maura	Roche
Michael	Harrington	Breda	Ryan
Olive	Holohan	Paula	Slattery
Brenda	Hynes	Angela	Temple
Audrey	Johnston	Oonagh	Twomey
Des	Kelly	Mairead	Ui Cilin
Wm & A	Leahy	John	Walsh
Don	Lucey	Seamus	Ware
Philip	Maloney		

DRAFT

VIATORES CHRISTI
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on Saturday 5 September 2015

The Meeting took place at 8 New Cabra Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7, and commenced at 2.35 p.m. Paula Slattery, President, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Secretary Adele O'Reilly noted the minutes.

Minute 1/2015

President Paula Slattery led the opening prayer. The Notice Convening the Meeting was taken as read. Apologies were received from Brendan Beirne, Denise Flack, Oonagh Twomey, Rita McGuigan, Stephen Burns and Thérèse Osborne. There was no other business added to the agenda.

Minute 2/2015

The latest draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2014 including the revision to minute 7, had been circulated to the membership 10 days prior to the AGM. The minutes as revised were adopted as a true and fair account of the Annual General Meeting 2014.

Minute 3/2015

It was agreed that the Final version of the 2014 AGM minutes should be circulated alongside the draft 2015 minutes.

Minute 4/2015

Presentation: Progress on Three-Year Plan by CEO – Shane Halpin

The CEO presented to the membership a comprehensive review of the progress on the Three-Year Strategic Plan adopted in 2013. There followed a question and answer session. The CEO clarified that volunteers who for whatever reason do not wish to become formal members of Viatores Christi are encouraged to become involved with the association. We pray for all of our volunteers whether members or not.

Report as presented in the AGM booklet was taken as read.

Minute 5/2015

Financial Report by the Treasurer.

Treasurer Stephen Burke, presenting his report, noted that this was RBK's second year auditing the accounts of Viatores Christi. It had not been considered necessary to have a representative of the firm present at the AGM on this occasion. Questions and Answers session followed.

Noted that last year there was a commitment to include all notes to the Financial Statements to be included with the notice of the AGM. On review it was decided that the extra detail should

only be printed and mailed to those who request this detail, and this was stated within the notice of AGM. Stephen Burke apologised to those who had expected to receive the accompanying Financial Notes to the Financial Statements, and a full set of notes for the Viatores Christi Limited account and the Viatores Christi (Property) Limited account were distributed at the meeting. Stephen made himself available to the membership after the AGM meeting for further discussion, and offered his email details to allow the membership time to reflect and to follow up. Pat Mooney suggested an Income & Expenditure Account to be included in the booklet in future. This was agreed.

The accounts were approved on the proposal of Mary Solan, seconded by Angela Temple.

Minute 6/2015

No further correspondence was read, with the exception of Apologies included within Minute 1/2015

Minute 7/2015

The proposed Statement of Ethos of the Association was read by President Paula Slattery to the membership. All members in attendance received a hard copy of the proposed statement. Following a lengthy discussion, Mary Kiernan proposed an amendment, which was adopted. The text was then adopted unanimously.

Minute 8/2015

Election of Officers of the Association

Only one nomination was received for the following positions of officer;

President: Paula Slattery, proposed by Charlie Flynn, seconded by Mary Winters.

Vice-President: Denise Flack, proposed by Patrick Mooney, seconded by Sally Roddy.

Treasurer: Charlie Flynn, proposed by Sally Roddy, seconded by Mary Winters.

Secretary: Adele O'Reilly, proposed by Sally Roddy, seconded by Charlie Flynn

The above nominated Members were elected as Officers of Council for the coming year.

Minute 9/2015

Elections of Members of Council

There were six nominees for five Council positions. Two nominees, Stephen Burke and Brendan Beirne, both retiring Council members, declined to go forward. The remaining four were elected as members of the Council for the coming year:

Daniel Ferguson, proposed by Paula Slattery and seconded by Sally Roddy.

Brian Sheridan, proposed by Charlie Flynn and seconded by Paula Slattery.

Sally Roddy, proposed by Patrick Mooney, and seconded by Mary Winters.

Nora Casey, proposed by Paula Slattery, and seconded by Charlie Flynn.

Minute 10/2015

Election of five Trustees of the Association

On the proposal of the President, the five Trustees were re-elected for a further period: Mairéad Walsh, John O'Loughlin Kennedy, Kevin Goodwin, Brenda Hynes, Stephen Burns.

Minute 11/2015

Appointment and Remuneration of Auditors

Charlie Flynn proposed that we reappoint RBK as Auditors on the same terms (€3,500 excluding VAT), and this was accepted.

Minute 12/2015

Louise Talbot Beirne asked for returned volunteers to join the pastoral network.

Minute 13/2015

The President, before closing the meeting, thanked Shane Halpin, CEO, for the positive changes brought about in the association by his hard work, and expressed appreciation of the whole-hearted commitment of all the staff of Viatores Christi. Paula appealed for participation in fundraising activities, in developing our liturgy and in extending the Members' Evening. She suggested that consideration be given to the election of Council members for two years, rather than one year as at present, a proposal that the incoming Council will consider in advance of 2016 AGM. She thanked all present for their attendance and their continued interest and spiritual and financial support. All were invited to join in mass celebrated by Father Brendan Carr, CSSp, Spiritual Director, followed by a dinner in honour of Sally Roddy's retirement from the staff of Viatores Christi.

The meeting concluded with a prayer at 4.55 p.m.

President: _____

Date: _____

Attendance:

Maeve Bracken Stephen Burke Rose Salaama Bavuga Nora Casey Mairéad Uí Chillín Sheila Devereux Nuala Dillon Gabrielle Farren Anne Feeley Daniel Ferguson Charles Flynn Bernadette Galvin Shane Halpin Michael Harrington Mary Kiernan Susan Lakes	Tina McCarthy Mary McEneaney Patrick Mooney Michael Nolan Marian O'Raw Adele O'Reilly Wm Ivo O'Sullivan Sally Roddy Paula Ni Shlatarra Brian Sheridan Mary Solan Avison Louise Talbot Beirne Angela Temple Ann Waldron Mairéad Walsh Mary Winters
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Financial Statements

The auditor's report and the financial information on the following pages have been extracted from the 2015 Directors Report and Financial Statements of Viatores Christi Limited (Charity) and Viatores Christi Limited (Property). The original have been signed and emailed to members and will be filed with the Registrar of Companies. This information will be made available on the website of VC following the Annual General Meeting.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VIATORES CHRISTI LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of Viatores Christi Limited for the year ended 31 December 2015 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Cash flow statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

This report is made solely to the members in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Council Members (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Council Members; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and nonfinancial information in the Council Members' report to identify material inconsistencies with

the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2015 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the 2014 Companies Act.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the provisions in the Companies Act 2014 , which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of Directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

Conor O'Brien

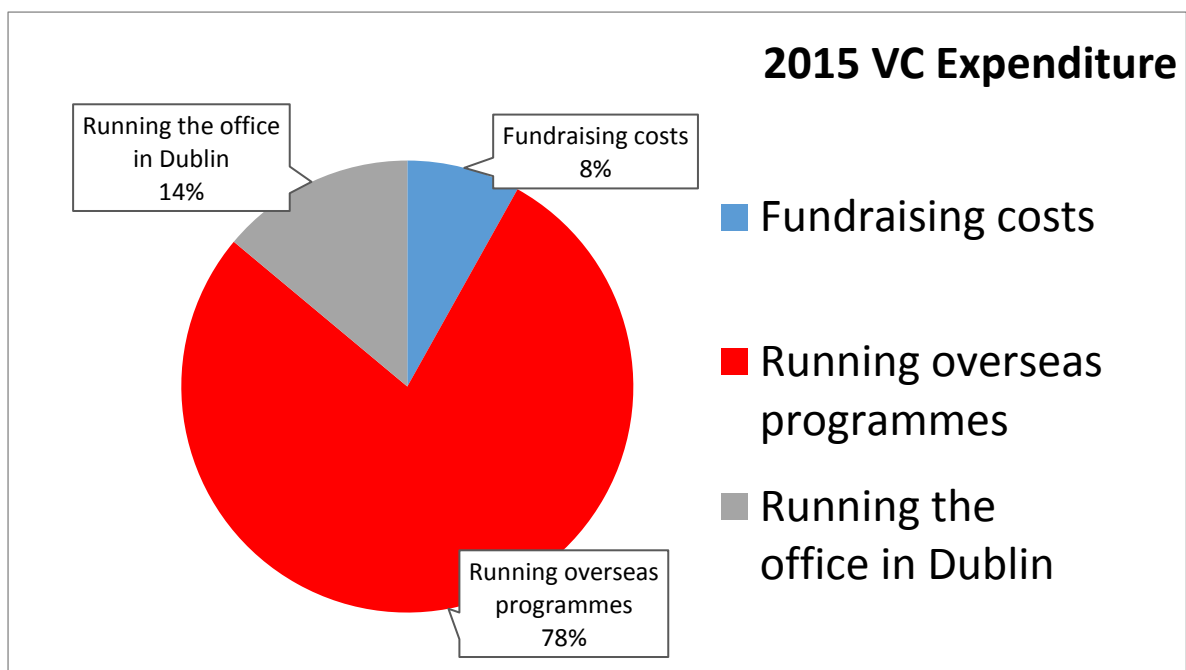
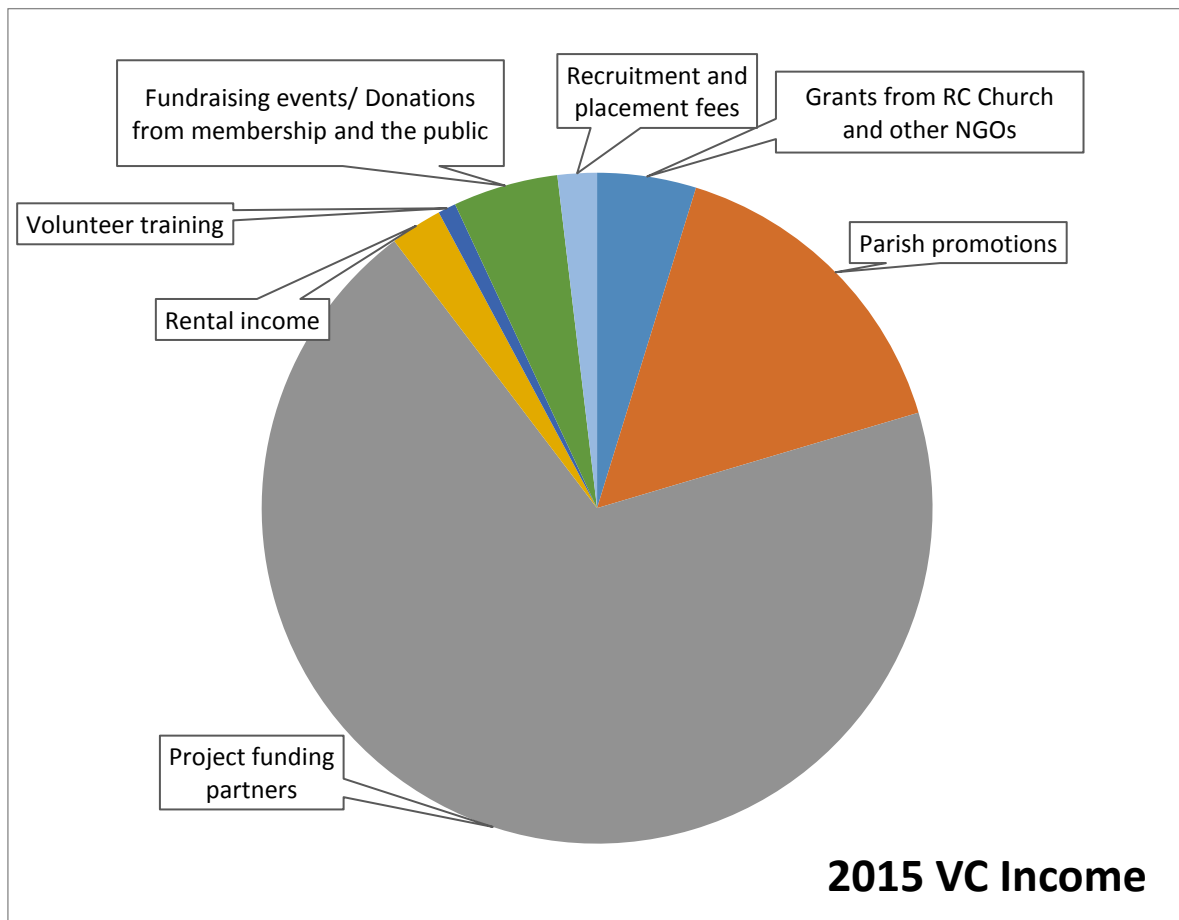
Russell Brennan Keane Business Advisers

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditor

96 Lower Baggot Street

Dublin 2

Date: July 2016



VIATORES CHRISTI LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2015 €	Restricted funds 2015 €	Total funds 2015 €	Total funds 2014 €
INCOME FROM:					
Charitable activities	2	177,843	397,508	575,351	512,925
Other activities	3	23,106	-	23,106	26,876
TOTAL INCOME		200,949	397,508	598,457	539,801
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	4	53,768	-	53,768	44,801
Charitable activities	5	112,675	395,454	508,129	490,622
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		166,443	395,454	561,897	535,423
NET INCOME		34,506	2,054	36,560	4,378
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		34,506	2,054	36,560	4,378
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds at 1 January 2015		89,555	51,661	141,216	136,838
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015		124,061	53,715	177,776	141,216

All activities relate to continuing operations.

VIATORES CHRISTI LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	€	2015 €	€	2014 €
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		1,583		2,763
Investments	11		15,130		15,130
			<u>16,713</u>		<u>17,893</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	111,053		94,126	
Cash at bank and in hand		268,913		149,041	
		<u>379,966</u>		<u>243,167</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	(218,903)		(119,844)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>161,063</u>		<u>123,323</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>177,776</u>		<u>141,216</u>
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	14		53,715		51,661
Unrestricted funds	14		124,061		89,555
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>177,776</u>		<u>141,216</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Council Members on behalf, by:

and signed on their

Paula Ni Shlatarra

Charles Flynn

VIATORES CHRISTI LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	2015 €	2014 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	16	119,872	65,288
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	(2,943)
Net cash used in investing activities		-	(2,943)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	17	119,872	62,345
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		149,041	86,696
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		268,913	149,041

Note:

The average monthly number of employees was: 4 (2014: 4) and the average monthly number of employees during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows (including casual and part-time staff):

2015 No.	2014 No.
4	4

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than €60,000 in either year.

VIATORES CHRISTI (PROPERTY) LIMITED

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

	Note	2015 €	2014 €
Turnover	4	15,424	14,945
GROSS PROFIT		<u>15,424</u>	<u>14,945</u>
Administrative expenses		(15,444)	(12,848)
OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT	5	<u>(20)</u>	<u>2,097</u>
Interest receivable and similar income	7	170	388
PROFIT BEFORE TAX		<u>150</u>	<u>2,485</u>
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		<u>150</u>	<u>2,485</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>150</u>	<u>2,485</u>

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

VIATORES CHRISTI (PROPERTY) LIMITED

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

	Share capital €	Retained earnings €	Total equity €
At 1 January 2015	96,647	388,602	485,249
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR			
Profit for the year	-	150	150
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	-	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	-	150	150
AT 31 DECEMBER 2015	<u>96,647</u>	<u>388,752</u>	<u>485,399</u>

VIATORES CHRISTI (PROPERTY) LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	2015 €	2014 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	480,000	490,000
Investments	9	25,000	-
		<u>505,000</u>	<u>490,000</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	10	5,000	5,028
Cash at bank and in hand	11	26,505	51,375
		<u>31,505</u>	<u>56,403</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>536,505</u>	<u>546,403</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12	(51,106)	(61,154)
NET ASSETS		<u>485,399</u>	<u>485,249</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Called up share capital presented as equity	14	96,647	96,647
Profit and loss account	15	388,752	388,602
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		<u>485,399</u>	<u>485,249</u>

The financial statements were authorised for issue, approved by the board and signed on its behalf by:

Paula Ni Shlatarra
Director

Charles Flynn
Director

Date:

