



CROSSROADS GLOBAL VILLAGE (UK) LIMITED

Company Registration No. 06003594 (England and Wales)
Charities Registration No. 1153488 (England and Wales)

The vision for 2013 was to embed, establish and enable the new charity, Crossroads Global Village (UK), to become known as a "bridge", facilitating, inspiring and illustrating connections between global needs and solutions, to provide volunteers with a great place to work and to build a sustainable operation.

Crossroads Global Village (UK) is based in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. It has a global reach but its strongest links are with businesses, charities and NGOs based in the UK. It is entirely governed, managed and staffed by volunteers who receive no financial remuneration from the charity.

Core Activities

The core activities of Crossroads Global Village during the year were to facilitate, illustrate and inspire connections between global needs and solutions through Global Hand, Global Handicrafts and Global Experience respectively.

Global Hand (Facilitating)

Global Hand is a match-making service, facilitating connections between global needs and solutions, by linking for-profit and non-profit organisations that want to partner to help meet global challenges. Organisations with resources that could be used to provide solutions can post offers, and those with needs can post requests on the Global Hand website (www.globalhand.org).

In 2013, 63 offers of resources were published on the Global Hand Website. Of these, 38 originated in the UK. There were 679 logged enquiries, with a notable spike in enquiries occurring as Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines in November 2013.

A total of 40 matches were made between organisations offering resources and those seeking to satisfy needs. The following examples indicate the range of partnerships established.

Mechanical Clinical Beds to Kosovo

A number of mechanical clinical beds became available from Clatterbridge Cancer Centre in the Wirral, United Kingdom due to the upgrade of various wards. Smile International collected 12 beds and waste bags and

sent them on a lorry to Kosovo at the beginning of December 2013. They will be used in their palliative care work there, lent to patients' families and then returned to Smile when no longer needed.

Clive Doubleday of Smile said, "We received a donation of mattresses, not through Global Hand, which were delivered to our warehouse just 5 days before our lorry was due to leave at the end of November 2013. We contacted Global Hand on the Tuesday who referred us to the Clatterbridge Hospice in Liverpool who gave us 12 beds to go with the mattresses. The challenge was to get them from Liverpool to Kent. They arrived in true cavalry style just as we were loading the lorry. They are proving to be a great help to Smile International's palliative care work



in Kosovo and we are gradually getting feedback from our team there and photos as they are distributed to our palliative care patients. Thank you to Global Hand for the wonderful work you do and the thousands of people you bless through your ministry."

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Children's Books to Scotland and Kosovo

500 boxes containing some 9000 brand new books suitable for pre-schoolers and Key Stage 1 children were donated by an organisation in High Wycombe after they had been referred to Global Hand by Christian Aid. Half of the books went to the charity Glasgow the Caring City (GtCC) and the rest to the Blythwood Care charity.

Neil Galbraith of GtCC said Scotland, like many other parts of the UK, is, "devastated by the numbers of cases of poverty that are coming to light. Two children in every five, live in child poverty. The number of young people who reach secondary education with a decent standard of English is dropping daily, and more and more schools are having their budgets cut, and unable to purchase the most basic of needs, such as reading books. IT is fantastic

but the tactile feel of a book is what encourages children to own their education and insight. If they do not have access to all this, if they do not have the opportunity to learn and enjoy the

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written word, then deeper and deeper will they fall into the pit of poverty. The only way out is through education."

Ray Avenell of Blythwood Care said the books, 'would go to Roma communities and schools in Kosovo which are desperate for resources. The books are of an extremely high quality and should be a very welcome treat for young children living in these deprived areas. All children in school learn English - but a few never start school and very many never finish'.

Dental Equipment and School Uniforms to Cameroon

An X-ray machine and many other pieces of equipment from a dental practice in Watford have been sent to Africa after being seen on the Global Hand website by the Research Institute for Development Communication and School Partnership (RIDCSP), a Cameroon based charity. The Cone Beam Dental CT Scanner is a particularly rare piece of equipment and will be invaluable to the hospitals in Cameroon that otherwise struggle to get hold of that kind of technology.

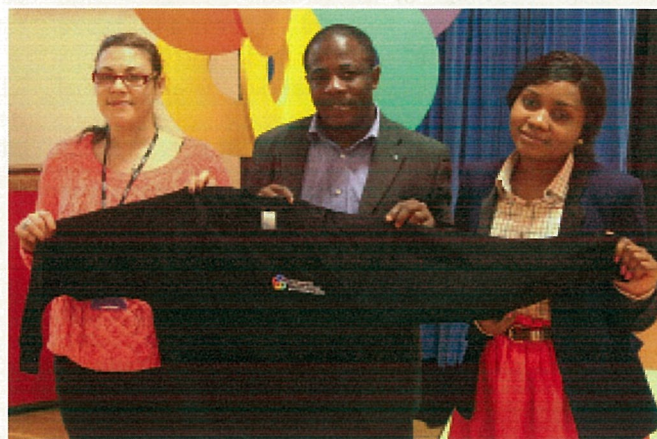
Lawrence Ngog of RIDCSP acknowledged that it would be important to find a home for the equipment where the staff have adequate training to use it. Dr. Colin Cook who donated the items on retiring from dentistry said, "it is great that the scanner will be put to good use in an area of need. We are absolutely thrilled, it is a dream come true."

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RIDCSP was also the beneficiary of hundreds of items of school uniform when the New North Academy in Islington, North London, underwent a redesign of their uniforms. They found themselves with a very large surplus stock of unwanted clothes in the previous school design.



One member of the staff there was so keen that the uniforms should not end up in landfill, that she spent over a year trying to find someone who would be able to use them. Eventually UNICEF referred her to Global Hand who were able to connect her with Lawrence Mukete from Cameroon-based charity RIDCSP. Lawrence was able to go to the Academy, meet some of the students there and talk to them about what life is like for the schoolchildren in Africa to whom he will be delivering the uniforms. The school had arranged a special assembly where they played the national anthem of Cameroon, and Matt Gurney also spoke briefly about Global Hand.



Finance Officer, Emma Chivers, who donated the items on behalf of the school said, "it was so rewarding to offer them... people are so underprivileged in Cameroon." She also mentioned her desire for the children at the different schools to start writing letters to each other. At Global Hand we love to see exchanges between our partners evolve into ongoing, mutually beneficial relationships.

Generators to the Philippines

In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, 63 power generators were offered on the Global Hand website by HSS Hire Service Group Ltd. They were matched with a charity called Hope and Aid Direct which was sending containers of aid to the Philippines. Charles Storer of Hope and Aid Direct commented, "since November, we've managed to raise funds and send 6, full to the brim

40ft, high capacity containers, to Cebu, in the Philippines. From there, the goods are all being distributed to 8 or 9 different locations which include Northern Cebu, and the badly hit island of Leyte, Tacloban, Palo, Barugo, Dulag, as well as locations on the island of Samar. Everything is being shared out working through local village (Barangay) leaders, and to say that everyone is pleased with what we've managed to send is a major understatement."

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Along with this generous offer, scores of other donations came into Global Hand following the disaster in early November. The donations included not just gifts-in-kind but time, expertise and financial aid. Many people volunteered to go out to the Philippines to get involved in hands-on relief work. Others volunteered time in the UK, like a business team from a bank in Manchester who took a day off work to help relief efforts. They spent their day in the warehouses of International Aid Trust, packing clothes to be loaded onto a shipping container destined for the Philippines.



Although most of the matches made involve charities and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) working in developing countries, some matches are with such organisations working within the UK, such as Glasgow the Caring City. Another example from last year was the offer of some beds which went to a London-based NGO called 'Colour a Child's Life' that works with less-privileged children in the area.

Global Handicrafts (Illustrating)

As well as giving aid to people, we also love to generate income for them so they can have an ongoing solution to poverty. Aid helps them today; an income helps them tomorrow. So Global Handicrafts sells goods from people all over the world on a fair trade basis. In 2013 sales continued to be made at craft and Christmas fairs and to visitors to the office.

A major development this year was our partnership with the organisers of Aidex 2013, the global humanitarian and development aid event in Brussels in November. In addition to running a Global Handicrafts stall, manned by volunteers

from the UK and Belgium, we also sourced the official conference bags from an organisation employing former street children in India, with generous sponsorship from Toyota Gibraltar Stockholdings Ltd. Having escaped a desperate existence on the streets, they established an organisation in 2004 to provide the street children in Delhi with the same opportunities they once received. The income generated

from making newspaper bags allows them to rescue other children in dire need; children who would otherwise be pulling rickshaws, polishing shoes, picking rags, or much worse. As a result these children now have homes, are cared for, can go to school and can even play. As well as being a source of income for the charity in India and a more eco-friendly alternative to plastic, the bags were a conversation point and provided us with an opportunity to talk about our work.



GX (Inspiring)

In Global X-perience, participants don't just hear about global problems, they actually 'step into the shoes' of people who face them. For a few hours, they 'become' refugees, slum dwellers, disaster victims, HIV-vulnerable and so on. Poverty-based simulations have been an increasingly useful tool in helping us raise awareness of the problems that many around the world face. They have three main aims: empathy, education and empowerment.



By stepping into the proverbial shoes of slum-dwellers, participants are given a taste of what it is like to live with the pressure of poverty. After the simulation, the participants are encouraged to think about solutions to poverty and about how they can connect with other groups to share the resources at their disposal. In all, 42 simulations were conducted in 2013, with over 1250 people participating. In January the Global Hand team joined forces with its counterparts from Hong Kong to deliver the *Struggle*

for *Survival* simulation at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The simulation throws participants into the complexity and desperation of the poverty web through an Indian slum-themed survival activity. The aim is to raise awareness of the problems and provide a space to think creatively about possible solutions to the poverty trap. We hope that those who attend these simulations will leave feeling inspired to use their resources to engage in the fight against poverty and we encourage them to join our network of businesses and charities. [Click here to see a BBC report on this year's simulation.](#)

In the summer we ran our *Struggle for Survival* simulation at Sevenoaks School for 141 students and 20 teachers. It was the largest number of people we had ever had in one session and the room was incredibly hot and noisy! The experience proved to be a positive one for both students and teachers alike with a great deal of encouraging feedback. One student described the experience as, "very thought provoking and motivating to continue investigating what solutions we as individuals can actually help to instigate practically." Similarly, after a simulation at Headington School in Oxford for 118 students, one parent reported that her daughter, "...gave us a blow by blow account of the event when she arrived home and was hugely impressed by the way the exercise was run, managing to deliver a serious message but in a way which encouraged her to empathise with the issues and reflect on how 'lucky' she is." Another pupil of Headington School commented after participating, "I found the experience stressful and hard work but I learnt a lot from it and I found when I was put in that position all I cared about was the struggle for survival and found I could very easily grow a hatred for the rich. It taught me how people feel when they only live on very small amounts of money a day and the things people will say or do just to have a little amount of money. It made me want to change the way things are and help people who live in poverty."

In September *Struggle for Survival* was run for the Said Business School, Oxford University. One participant commented, "it was a really eye opening experience. Although I have visited slums before and was very impressed with the entrepreneurial 'hustle' of the people there, I never thought about the disrespect and lack of dignity these hardworking people feel." Another participant commented, "deeply Insightful, opened a window into the hard realities of poverty. Gave me an opportunity to understand the difficult trade off that the poor have to make every day. Threw us into that world and I came away with a deeper appreciation of the resources and facilities accessible to me."

Other recent simulations have included students from Guildford High School for Girls and postgraduates from Oxford University.

We love to see people of any age being engaged to consider how they can get involved in sharing the available resources they have.



Organisational Development

The most significant organisational development in 2013 was the achievement of charitable status. The Charity Commission registered Crossroads Global Village (UK) as a charity on August 20, 2013. (Registration No. 1153488). The Trustees are deeply grateful to Bates, Wells and Braithwaite, London, LLP for their generous pro bono donation of time and expertise in satisfying the requirements of the Commission. This milestone heralds a new phase of development of the organisation, which can now utilise the benefits of charity status to expand the work undertaken.

The year also saw the consolidation of the team with a compliment of 5 full time volunteers, and a considerable expansion in the number of part time and temporary volunteers and interns.

Early in the year each of the team volunteers met with the UK Director to review their voluntary service and how it fits into the GHUK business plan. The meetings allowed volunteers to air any problems they were facing and helped them focus on the main objectives in the business plan.

Three members of the team, Ben Solanky, Matt Gurney and Dave Watson, spent a fortnight in Hong Kong at the Crossroads Foundation Ltd in July on a simulations training course.

Pret a Manger, a café chain which opened an outlet in Tunbridge Wells, generously started to donate their unsold sandwiches and wraps to our volunteers on a Monday and Wednesday evening.



This is a service they provide to charities, particularly those working with the homeless, as they are keen not to

waste leftover food. We are extremely grateful to Pret for their generosity.

The office received a number of in-kind donations of office furniture and equipment, including a 42 inch Phillips screen which has been a bonus for video conferencing and training sessions.

Communications

An internal newsletter was distributed 17 times during the year to some 50 volunteers and ex-volunteers during the year. An external newsletter was distributed to a wider group of some 500 supporters twice during the year. The use of social media increased significantly during the year and by the end of the year over 500 likes of our Facebook page and some 400 Twitter followers had been achieved. An online photocomic, *The Power of Partnerships*, was produced in December.

Three videos of Crossroads Global Village UK's work were produced during the year: The first documented the work of Samusocial, a charity that cares for the homeless of Bucharest in Romania, visited by the CGV team. *Struggle for Survival* documents the work of CGV, alongside Crossroads Foundation Ltd, running

interactive simulations at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in 2013 about the realities of those facing a daily struggle to survive in the slums of India. *What is Global Hand?* was produced to illustrate the work CGV is engaged in for Aidex in November.



Field Visits

Matt Gurney and Ben Solanky went to Delhi in June to see Goonj, a charity working with street children, who produce bags made of recycled paper with the aim of securing a commercial contract for them. The charity make the paper bags we give out at the end of our slum simulations.



