





# CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Since last year's meeting, the CBI has experienced a roller coaster ride, mainly due to the national and international financial situation, which everyone has had to face – and will have to face for some considerable time to come. Suffice it to say that the diligence and hard work of the staff at Christopher Grange and at St Vincent's plus the CBI staff means we have had a better year with improvement and consolidation the norm.

Once again, St Vincent's School, under the stewardship of Principal, Stephen Roberts and his dedicated staff, has shown itself to be a centre of excellence and continues to thrive despite difficulties of falling pupil numbers and reductions in funding. The School's diversity and innovation is to be applauded. My sincere thanks also, to Terry Bates and all the School Governors, for their continued effort and dedication. The future of the School is more secure than it has been in recent years. The school's ancient oil fired central heating system has been replaced by a new gas fired installation assisted by a loan from the Carbon Trust. The projected fuel cost savings will cancel out the installation costs. It is also a measure of our confidence in the future of the School that such a financial commitment has been made.

There have been a number of changes in senior staff at Christopher Grange during this year. The Residential Units have a new Registered Manager in *Julie Greene* whilst Rhona House also has a new Registered Manager in *Robert Blakemore*.

Occupancy levels within the Residential and Nursing units are almost 100% and we hope these levels are maintained.

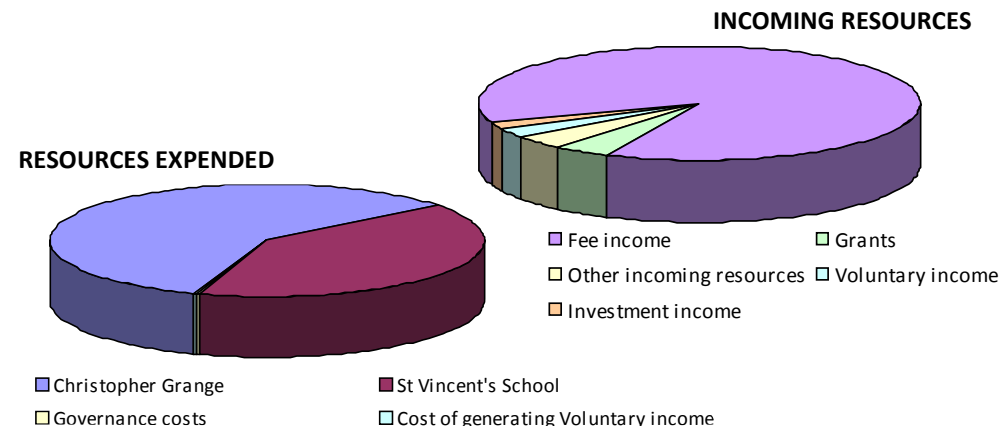
Beneficiaries of the Visual Rehabilitation Centre have increased significantly over the last year thanks to the efforts of Mike Bailey and his staff. The increasing diversity of the Rehabilitation Centre client services means over 25% of service users confront Acquired Brain Injury, Stroke or Memory conditions.

Notwithstanding the hard work, the responsibilities, the stress and at times the inevitable sadness which all the staff at Christopher Grange have to face, the upheavals caused by staff changes, refurbishments, decorating, scheduled and unscheduled visits etc. add to the daily load. I'm pleased therefore to have this opportunity to thank all the Christopher Grange staff for their dedication and hard work over the past year. It is difficult to pick out individual staff members but I would like to pass on the Trustees' sincere thanks to Maree Cullen and Sue Hopkins who last month both celebrated 25 years service with Christopher Grange.

Without a doubt, the greatest assets of the Catholic Blind Institute are its staff and volunteers; as well as those who support us in other ways. We continue to need all the help we can muster to meet the needs of those we serve. Thank you for your continued support.

**Michael Clayton**  
Chairman

## Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2010



	2010	2009
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
Fee income	3,934,752	3,896,628
Grants	187,910	221,859
Other incoming resources	173,772	153,691
Voluntary income	109,500	145,864
Investment income	91,153	134,964
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>4,497,087</b>	<b>4,553,006</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
Christopher Grange	2,817,733	2,965,733
St Vincent's School	1,946,233	1,962,023
Governance costs	20,374	19,695
Cost of generating Voluntary income	9,316	12,957
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>4,793,656</b>	<b>4,960,408</b>
<b>OPERATING DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(296,569)</b>	<b>(407,402)</b>
Other surpluses	719,389	(797,355)
<b>NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS</b>	<b>422,820</b>	<b>(1,204,757)</b>
Funds brought forward	5,451,589	6,656,345
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2010</b>	<b>5,874,409</b>	<b>5,451,588</b>

These abridged financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2010 are a summary of the full audited accounts approved by the Board of Trustees of Catholic Blind Institute for submission to the Charities Commission and Registrar of Companies.

## ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL

Pupils	40
Staff	67

## CHRISTOPHER GRANGE

Residential Care Clients	78
Staff	84
Nursing Clients	28
Staff	44

## VISUAL REHABILITATION CENTRE

Clients Hourly sessions	9,460
Staff	10

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Although the overall picture is a significant improvement over the year, the accounts continue to show a substantial operating loss.

The external factors relating to a reduction in our investment income have contributed to these losses in spite of a partial recovery in value of our investment portfolio.

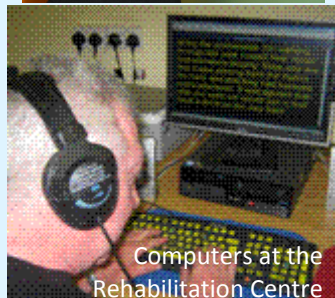
In another challenging and difficult year, the institute has once again made excellent progress in restraining unnecessary costs whilst not reducing the quality of service provided. Our improvements in our financial controls have kept costs under control and expenditure overall has decreased a little. Our Fee income has increased slightly during the year.

Our progress is in line with our five year plan which aims to achieve a breakeven operating position.

## FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENTS



Sensory Panels at St Vincent's School



Computers at the Rehabilitation Centre



Calvert Trust Lake District



Parker Bath at Christopher Grange

Our staff at all levels must be given credit for their tremendous work in responding to the difficult conditions under which our charity continues to operate. The financial statements of our charity do not do justice to this work but they do give some indication, as well as showing that we remain financially strong and viable.

A study of the charity's Statement of Financial Activities reveals an increase in our net funds for the year of £422,820. This Statement includes any gains and losses on our investment portfolio and, as we anticipated when reporting a loss on this of £881,355 last year, recovery in the world's stock markets has resulted in an increase in the value of our portfolio of over £719,389. This portfolio is our 'safety net'. Besides providing us with some useful additional income each year – this year it was £91,153 (2009: £134,964), it is a pool of relatively liquid assets into which we can dip in times of financial hardship to fund our charitable activities.

The charity has in place a business plan extending over several years with the overall intention of ensuring the long term viability of the charity. This plan is being implemented with the necessary and willing support of our team of committed employees, who recognise the good work that the charity does and wish to be associated with it.



As a result of their hard work, our net expenditure for the last financial year has fallen from £407,402 last year to £296,569 in the year now reported. There is much still to be done but we must not lose sight of what has been achieved and give due recognition and praise where it is due.

Government policy has always had an impact on our charity. We do not believe that the forthcoming spending review will have a serious impact on our services and we welcome moves to restrict or, better, reduce the seemingly ever increasing burden that regulations and directives place on organisations such as ours.

The work of this charity was founded on Christian values and principles. It is an ethos we seek to maintain.

May God continue to bless us all and our work!

**Paul Robbins**  
General Secretary and  
Honorary Treasurer

The academic year 2009-2010 has been a successful year for the school. Ofsted Care Inspectors again found us 'outstanding' consolidating upon our 'outstanding' reports in 2008 Ofsted and 2009 Diocesan.

Curriculum links with our neighboring Broughton Hall and Cardinal Heenan High Schools continue to bear fruit, with one of our young people gaining a place at Liverpool John Moores University. This same young man was also selected to go on a 'Journey of a Lifetime', the charity supported by Sir Ranulph Fiennes, to the rain-forests of Borneo, demonstrating the levels of independence that we can achieve with our pupils.

One of our young ladies is attending St Edwards, a Specialist Language College to further build upon her success at GCSE and our primary pupils have very good links with a number of local primaries, in particular St Oswald's Juniors. These links have been established through our active participation in the West Derby Network Learning Community, which places St Vincent's at the heart of the educational community in West Derby with sighted and non sighted youngsters learning and working alongside each other.

In the summer term we had our very own Glastonbury; 'Vincentbury' which proved to be a musical, media and arts extravaganza which all pupils, staff and visitors thoroughly enjoyed.



Our international links continue to grow, particularly with the Pahar Trust and a school in Nepal. We are regularly exchanging information, photographs and equipment and would ideally like to set up an exchange programme, whereby some of their pupils and staff can come and visit us here and we likewise can visit them. We have much fundraising to do if we are to achieve that!



We are now very much involved with a fundraising strategy for the charitable aspects of the organisation which will hopefully, with time, create an income to strongly support our work.

The staff have enthusiastically responded to a call for "wish list" items, which enable us to target potential sources.

During the last few months, we have received over £30,000 towards this end from charitable trusts and foundations and been able to purchase a number of items from these wish lists.

Local corporate groups such as Tesco, Co-op and Vauxhall have also made donations and we have worked with Morgan Sindall on the provision and building of a new sensory room for St Vincent's.

We continue to support and develop new initiatives and are always on hand to encourage and help anyone prepared to fundraise on our behalf. Events such as a Jazz Concert, The London Marathon, Dance events and a proposed sponsored parachute jump raise most welcome funds.



For example, Anne Reading, one of our Trustees, raised over £400 by walking across Morecambe Bay with the Queen's Guide to the Sands, Cedric Robinson.



All donations in support of our work are most welcome. Further information regarding the tax giving advantages of Gift Aid, Just Giving and Charitable Bequests are available on request.

The monthly 50:50 Draw now gives more than £100 a month in prizes and provides a regular unrestricted income to the charity. We would be most grateful if anyone wishing to be involved in such an event would contact us.



Christopher Grange Rehabilitation Centre continues to provide the adult community of Merseyside with a service which is unique.



Over 9,460 hourly sessions are delivered to adult service users from all walks of life.

From Grant aged 19 to Frank aged 89... there are no barriers to what can be achieved.

With an increase in service users throughout the year the staff at the centre strive to deliver positive results.

Staff training and development continues with the promotion of Joanne Brittles to Rehabilitation Officer and the inclusion of a Trainee Rehabilitation Officer from Birmingham University.

Links have been established with local schools to develop the "Community Cohesion" spirit which could set foundations for changes to the views of tomorrow's adults.

We remain confident of delivering the best possible service available to visual impaired adults throughout Merseyside.

We cannot choose our circumstances, but we can always choose how we respond to them.

## Quotes

My time at Christopher Grange helped me in many ways, I've gained confidence and learned things I never thought were possible.

The centre has helped me understand my condition and to progress and learn to live with the problem.

My family are so pleased with my progress

Now I am confident when I am out in public.

On my first day I knew this was the place for me.

Danielle - Update (Last years Report)

Danielle has now left Rehabilitation and has completed her goals at the Grange. She became a volunteer within Administration/Reception at Christopher Grange in September 2010.



We are grateful to the employees of Morgan Sindall who are engaged in a major project at Broughton Hall and Cardinal Heenan Schools. As part of their commitment to work in the community they have provided us with a newly established and refurbished Sensory Room, providing yet another first class facility for our young people.



The St Vincent's Old Pupils Association (SVOPA) again hosted their annual conference at the school in June of this year and are looking to utilise the facility again next year. We share good relations with this organisation and continue to explore other means by which they can act as ambassadors for our school.

'Our daughter has been a pupil at St Vincent's for two years. She attends two days a week. The full National Curriculum is covered with many additional options including important mobility and independent living skills which are paramount to their learning and development.' Parent

'Our daughter is extremely happy in a tactile environment with a VI Peer group which is important for her learning progress and experiences.' Parent

'It is a wonderful school where the staff are warm and very friendly; they also have the knowledge and expertise to allow your child to access and learn about the world around them.' Parent

'St Vincent's School has enabled my daughter to become the beautiful hard-working teenager she is today, teaching her things we were originally told impossible for her!' Parent

'The school has a good communication network between home and school, the Ofsted reports have been outstanding, which goes to show the children are happy and the teachers and caring staff are doing a wonderful job to enable our children to have a bright and independent future'. Parent

'The dedication of the staff shows in the pupil's happiness and energy to strive for more.' Parent

'This weekend our daughter came home with a braille book and for the first time ever read it out loud to us, we never thought we would see that day!!' Parent



All the residents and staff have had a marvelous time and have held a Family Fortunes game night as well as holding an Easter Bonnets Competition. There was also a lot of fun had regarding sporting events this year including the Grand National and the world Cup.

Staff had a wonderful time (*oh yes they did!*) presenting the Christmas Panto "Snow White and the Grange dwarfs"

Tickets were sold to family and friends of residents and staff.

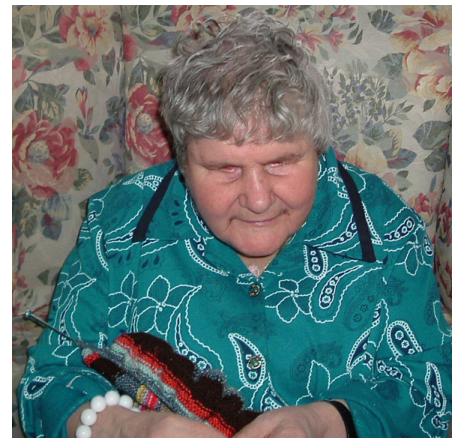
The residents along with at least one of the dwarfs were Happy.



The units on the residency have undergone some renewal and repair. There have been new lounge chairs purchased for two units. The third and Greenside will be completed possibly later in the year. There is an ongoing program of decoration across the units and a lot of the residents rooms are being decorated and carpets replaced as and when required. The grounds are well maintained and a joy to all residents and visitors alike.



Ethel Kinvig, Our oldest resident at Christopher Grange celebrated her 103rd birthday on 23rd May 2010



Mary Murphy, our earliest resident at Christopher Grange

Monthly theme nights held in each house every month include Country & Western, Line dancing, World Cup, Karaoke, Country Day and Italian Night.

Our weekly activities include book stalls, strawberry cake day, table top sales and days out to Albert Dock, Southport, New Brighton, Crosby and our famous fish and chip suppers.

At Easter we had Family Fortunes with the Staff, Managers and Residents taking part. The winner of the trophy was Marillac House

Our earliest residents celebrated important birthdays this year, Mary Murphy was 80 years old in November and Ann Mulford celebrated her 60th Birthday in September.

Jan Thomas won 3rd place in a Horse Riding Event in Crosby; residents and staff went along to support her.

A very big Thank You to all staff who battled through the bad weather (snow/ ice etc) we had earlier this year. This shows the commitment and dedication of the staff at Christopher Grange.

If you would like to help us or want to Volunteer, David Poppitt our Fundraiser is waiting to hear from you by e-mail to [davidpoppitt@catholicblindinstitute.org](mailto:davidpoppitt@catholicblindinstitute.org) or on 0151 230 5097.

## 50:50 CLUB

Membership forms are available now.