



CATHOLIC BLIND INSTITUTE

Founded 1841

Catholic Blind Institute

St Vincent's School
Yew Tree Lane
Liverpool
L12 9HN

Chief Executive: Martin Sandeman
Telephone: 0151 230 5097

St Vincent's School

Yew Tree Lane
Liverpool
L12 9HN

Principal: Dr John Patterson
Telephone: 0151 228 9968

Christopher Grange

Youens Way
Liverpool
L14 2EW

Director of Services: Mrs Lesley Colby
Telephone: 0151 220 2525

Trustees

Mr Terry Bates
Mr Stephen Boyes
Mrs Eileen Byrne
Mr Kevin Callaghan
Mr Mike Clayton (Vice Chair)
Mrs Elizabeth Jones
Sr Kathleen Kennedy
Dr Felicity Knight
Dr Maura Murphy
Mr Martin O'Rourke
Ms Anne Reading (Chair)
Mr Paul Robbins (Hon Treasurer)

Registered Charity number: 1102657
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England number: 5010874

www.catholicblindinstitute.org



CATHOLIC BLIND INSTITUTE

Founded 1841



ANNUAL REVIEW 2012-13

Despite this being only my second year as Chair of Catholic Blind Institute, I still feel that I am getting to understand the intricacies of a complex and evolving organisation. We continue to look for ways to innovate, to look for ways to deliver more efficient and effective support for those we work for and we increasingly look for partners to work with.

Is it really only a year since we were planning our farewell to our Principal Steve Roberts? We now have Dr John Patterson as the new leader for our school. John has brought a wealth of ideas and new thinking that we hope will build on the school's excellent reputation and tradition but take us along a different path. Our children will remain the focus of all that we do at St Vincent's but we hope to further enrich their lives here and ensure that they are provided with additional opportunities to learn and thrive. St Vincent's has long been a hidden gem to some in Liverpool and we hope our new direction will ensure that more people, locally, nationally and internationally will share this new phase of our development.

Christopher Grange remains at the heart of what we do and provides a continually improving standard of care for the people who regard it as their home: some have been with us for a considerable period of time. We are also fortunate to have loyal and hardworking staff who are supported by our small community from the Daughters of Charity. Sister Patricia merits a special thank you for the way she has so quickly become one of us and tirelessly provides pastoral support to all.

Our Visual Rehabilitation Centre provides vital support to people suffering sight-loss but also to others. We know that service is vulnerable to possible funding cuts but we are already tackling that head on with the support of the team that works there. We are looking to build even stronger partnerships with local organisations that provide support to Visually Impaired residents in the northwest. The service will have to adapt and we are confident that it will be better.

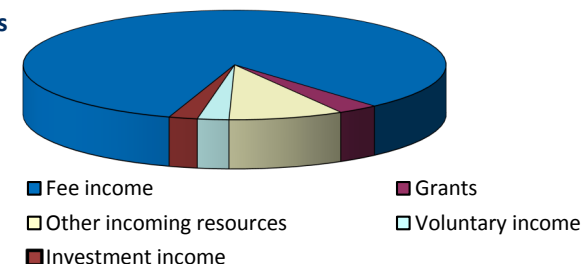
As with many charities, our funding remains challenging but our fundraising team has been expanded. Sophie and Emma bring complementary skills and expertise and we have already seen the benefit of their work with local organisations such as Dobbies, Hill Dickinson, Sainsbury's and Delta Taxis to name just a few. We have a new sensory garden and a refurbished Youth Club as a direct result of those partnerships.

As ever, thanks are due to our Board and to the Governors at St Vincent's. It is too easy to forget those individuals who give their time and commitment far in excess of what we expect of them.

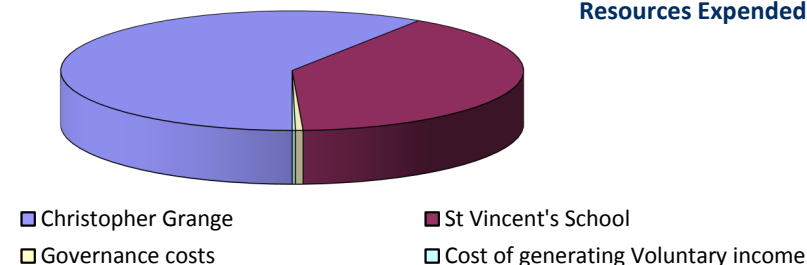
2014 will bring different challenges. We see partnerships as key to success and we are fortunate that there are other organisations in Liverpool that share our ambitions to continue the rich tradition of voluntary service in the City. We are fortunate to work in a City full of people who are creative, resilient and good humoured.

Anne Reading, Honorary Chair

Incoming Resources



Resources Expended



	2013	2012
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Fee income	3,711,443	3,993,150
Grants	138,333	131,428
Other incoming resources	389,686	117,765
Voluntary income	106,512	96,933
Investment income	96,839	87,682
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	4,442,813	4,426,958
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Christopher Grange	2,717,906	2,766,959
St Vincent's School	1,836,674	1,834,007
Governance costs	24,060	23,041
Cost of generating Voluntary income	10,504	10,199
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	4,589,144	4,634,206
OPERATING DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(146,331)	(207,248)
Other Gains (Losses)	295,772	(81,885)
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS	149,441	(289,133)
Funds brought forward	5,612,320	5,901,453
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2013	5,761,761	5,612,320

Christopher Grange Visual Rehabilitation Centre

Christopher Grange Visual Rehabilitation Centre continues to provide a valuable service to Merseyside's visually impaired adults. Our centre enables our service users to receive on-going peer support along with developing their skills and building their confidence. This enables them to achieve outcomes beyond their expectations.

We continue to work closely with other agencies and organisations. A new project between Nugent Care and Bradbury Fields, "Creative Vision" has been formed as an Art project for visually impaired adults.



Our relationship with Delta taxis continues to flourish with excellent feedback received which has encouraged other businesses to request bespoke VIAT courses. This has also led to us winning a National Innovation Award through Visionary 2013. These awards aim to recognise and celebrate excellence in the leadership and management of charities.



As well as training Medical Students from Liverpool University and Community Police Officers our latest VIAT project is with Sainsbury's, we have a pilot scheme planned for October with hopefully, the same outstanding success expected.

Quote

"On arrival at Christopher Grange I didn't have a future but with the training provided and learnt I now have a full future, although it is slow I am progressive in life"

T.P. Service User

Trying to discern the truth of a Charity's wealth by examining its financial statements is equivalent to attempting to gauge a person's faith by his or her attendance at church. True wealth, like true faith, is so often hidden. The true wealth of our charity is found in the people who associate themselves with us, whether as a pupil at the School, a teacher, a cleaner, a resident at the Grange, a person who rides a bike at Sainsbury's to raise money for us (the local Sainsbury's has nominated us as their charity of the year), a care assistant or an administrator, to name just a few. It is they who give the Charity its raison d'être. Without them, the Charity has no meaning or purpose.

Nevertheless, our financial statements provide us with reassurance that we can continue to provide the services that link all these people together in the name of Catholic Blind Institute. Our operating loss of over £145,000 is much reduced from the previous year (£207,000) and all of

our members of staff should be thanked for their efforts in keeping this manageable. Once again we can reap the benefits of the astute management of years ago in recognising that our investments are covering our operating losses. A recovery in the stock markets allows us to report an increase in fund balances of nearly £150,000 (2012: reduction of £289,000) for the year.

I should like to take this opportunity to express a special thanks to those who manage our finances and especially to those who do so much to raise additional funds, all of which helps us to provide services of the highest quality. We are very grateful to you.

May God continue to bless us all and the work that we do in the name of Catholic Blind Institute.

Paul Robbins
General Secretary and
Honorary Treasurer



In June 2013 my first report to the Trustees incorporated and embraced actions from the former Principal Mr S Roberts with regard to exploring the development of a 'free school' and the potential for collaboration with The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool. Here I present my own reflection on the new vision and direction for St Vincent's school.

Taking post in April 2013 my first action has been to engage with essential partners we need to change two challenging National statistics, i.e. 85% of visually impaired pupils will not find

employment and they can have 5-6 less friends. Ultimately, the aim for our school is to develop the strengths of the individual children to seek employment and social inclusion opportunities. I believe this accurately reflects our founding Sisters mission. I have laid out how we shall achieve this in my vision for the 'Education and Enterprise village' using 'reverse inclusion', project-based learning and social capital theory i.e. engaging with networks of neighbourhoods to support our pupils and showcase their employability and self-employability.



Residents have continued to have a good time throughout the year with their busy social lives.

Of particular note was our celebration of 'National Dignity Day' in February. Residents, staff and visitors played a significant part in this celebration, they were asked to describe what Dignity means to them. A tree stands in the 'Market Place' which displays some of what people's thoughts were. We also planted a 'Dignity' tree at the front of the building.

The addition of a computer room has enabled Residents to maintain contact with their families and friends.

The Care Quality Commission carried out random Inspections of both our Residential and Nursing Services during the past year. Both Services were found to be fully compliant. Their Inspectors were very impressed with how we perform and have reflected this in their Reports.



Quotes from a Resident's family

Christopher Grange has and maintains 'Standards'. This is apparent the moment you step inside the building, a clean, well decorated and homely atmosphere has been created by the dedicated staff across the board. Reception, Housekeeping and Carers all give 100%. There is a very apparent pride in the tasks that each member of staff performs, each contributing to the overall well being of the Residents and is reassuring for relatives and friends.

Within my role in the NHS, I always say there needs to be a team working together to achieve our goal, at Christopher Grange you have standards because there is a team effort, Management, Carers, Receptionists and Housekeepers all pulling together for the wellbeing of the residents and their families.



On 17th October 2012 Residents, present and past staff and many visitors joined together to celebrate '40 years of caring' at Christopher Grange.

The day began with a Mass of Celebration and Thanksgiving lead by Monsignor Richard Atherton in our Chapel. He was assisted by Father Cobham and Reverend Jonathon Stott.

People travelled from across the country to share the day with us. Of particular significance was the presence of many Daughters of Charity, this Order of Sisters was responsible for the opening of the Service in 1972 and continues to be involved today providing a valuable and much appreciated pastoral service to our Residents, their families and friends and our staff.

Celebrations continued throughout the day with much enjoyed food and entertainment.

A special mention must be made of 2 well known Residents. Jackie Taylor and Anne Mulford moved into the Grange as

it opened and continue to live here today. They were joined on the day by their old friend Mary Hennessey who moved in with them in October 1972 and continues to be a regular visitor. These ladies are very much part of the history of Christopher Grange.

Big thanks go to everyone who contributed to making the day such a success.



In September 2013 we entered the next stage of developing the vision. Our engaged partners including Liverpool Hope University, Merseyside Police, Merseycare, Bradbury Fields, Sainsbury's, Schools Direct and school networks have gathered within a 'Federation' specifically focused on supporting the vision. Furthermore, the notion of generating a Community Interest Company (CIC) has been discussed with Governors, Trustees and the Federation. In short, the Federation and the CIC provide us with the vehicles through which we can bid to significant local, national and international funding bodies. This funding can support 'value-added' experiences for individual and groups of children highlighting their employability and the generation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

One hundred years ago VI children found themselves making baskets. At that point in history this was a highly lucrative business. What I present is a means by which the new, highly lucrative businesses developing within Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and supportive living can be researched and developed for and by our pupils towards their employment. This means our project-based learning interventions will be both wide and varied to ensure opportunities for each individual pupil's strengths. I believe this will thus impact on pupil numbers, which are rising, nationally and internationally as we practically demonstrate our Specialist status on our website.

As a school we have worked and continue to work, to secure a Post-19 provision. We have been successful in securing a high profile European Mobility course and have had positive results from our efforts to secure the VI Commissioned services evolving within Local Authorities. We are, as a school with gravitas, at the very centre of educational research and development for VI pupils. We now have a voice in those circles. Supported by our Federation partners we should also have a presence in support of our pupils' needs.





The year has seen a positive growth in both activities and achievements through the efforts of Emma Cook and Sophie Saunders, both experienced fundraisers, who joined us in February. This has been helped by the growing numbers of volunteers offering their time and efforts to help our fundraising. We are, of course, so grateful to them for their help but always look to encourage more to get involved. Please do come along and have a chat if you think you could spare some time. We are particularly keen to involve the local student population.

Alongside our on-going bid applications in support of our work, we are also bringing increased community awareness of our charitable work. We have successfully been involved with Hill Dickinson, Dobbies Garden Centre and Santander in encouraging groups of people to come along and get involved with such schemes as the creation of a wonderful sensory garden and the refurbishment of the "Youth Club" area at St Vincent's. The children are delighted with their "new look" areas in the School.

At Christopher Grange, we were successful in an application for Lottery Funds to support the development of Visual Awareness Training (VIAT) with the Visual Rehabilitation Centre and have become involved in the accreditation, marketing and delivery of the course. We see this as a major source of income generation for the charity in the future.

50:50 CLUB

Membership forms are available now.



We were really pleased to be selected as "Charity of the Year" by our local Sainsbury's Superstore. Not only will this bring much needed funds to the charity but they are also involved in piloting the VIAT course above. We continue to look to work alongside schools and, in particular, have developed good relationships with Alsop High School. Not only did the staff and sixth form get involved in the London Marathon and Liverpool Half Marathon but it was a delight to see the sixth form boat come in first place in the recent Dragon Boat Races organised at Crosby Marina in partnership with Jospice and Delta Taxis.

Members of the fundraising team are always available to answer any queries you might have on the tax advantages of charitable giving and bequests. Please don't forget that you can avoid tax by remembering to leave us money in your Will.



The monthly 50:50 Draw continues. We do ask our supporters to help distribute our leaflets which are available in the reception area at both St Vincent's and Christopher Grange. With a first prize approaching £120.00 each month, this continues to provide welcome funds and offers significant prizes. To, once again, utilise the old catch phrase – "You've got to be in it to Win it!"

