

# CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE KATINA WOODRUFF CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION, INC

2nd October, 2019

## SUMMARY STATEMENTS:

This past year has, once again, yielded very positive results from the services rendered to children, their families, teachers and other professionals in capacity building and the entire school community. Most of the work has centred, this year, on children and families associated with the Beaconsfield Intensive Language Centre (Beaconsfield Primary School). Further, some parents brought their children to us directly for the work that Katina accomplishes with those who are traumatised and, as a result, immobilised by their lack of adjustment into the wider community. The importance of liaising with other practitioners from non-anthropological backgrounds cannot be overstated as it is part of the mentoring activity that the Foundation accomplishes through the work of Katina Woodruff-Roberts and it is noted by those who are thus mentored and developed: For instance, staff observe her sessions in order to gain new tools and approaches that they themselves might employ in their work with children.

Our partnership with both Beaconsfield Primary school and the community has centred our emphasis now on people within the Fremantle catchment area. However, we also receive requests from families who have heard of Katina's success from other refugee and migrant families, which we treasure. We have valued every partnership in the financial area as well. Three times we have now received the **Bankwest "Easy Grant"** of \$1,000 per year. These income sources, along with proceeds for Run for a Reason (through EveryDay Hero's portal), the partial proceeds from **comedian Joe White's** events and **faithful donors** who regularly support the work have produced a positive cash flow which provides a buffer for assuring sustainability in the coming year. We have also benefited from our networking with **Leadership WA**. In the past we have gained networks which produced Board Members for our organization, our pro-bono auditor, and our Think Tank.

Indeed, we celebrate several significant milestones in Foundation development including, but not restricted to, the following:

- The ongoing development of our website and usage of our Facebook page.
- Our ongoing funding portals through both the **GiveNow site and the EveryDay Hero portal** for people to make direct donations to the cause:
- Continued approval of our **Charitable Collections License**. Our license has had the maximum three year extension this year;

- Ending the year in the black with **fundraising exceeding our expenditure**. For the third year in a row no reserves have been used which provides evidence of our sustainability;
- **Katina Woodruff-Roberts** who works for far below a salary level professional because of her passion for the cause. This is an area we need to monitor closely as \$350 a week is far below the amount we should be paying her. I recommend that the committee review this level given the current state of the reserves in the Foundation account.
- Our dedicated **donor base** who have regularly and consistently given to this important cause;
- The **careful audit by Cheryl Ashboth**. Her work has not only given us the feedback toward credibility, but also the ability to approach other bodies such as the Commerce Department, with confidence and authenticity. Cheryl is meticulous in her work and checking of detail and compliance, yet provides this service without charge.
- The **grant writing efforts** of several of our members;
- The contemporary design for our **web page, facebook page and email newsletter** using the latest in design;
- The Generous donation from the **Bankwest “Easy Grant” program** of \$1,000;
- The support of **Bankwest volunteers** to improve our social media pages;
- The work that this board did, led by Donna, in writing and submitting a proposal to the **Fremantle Foundation** which led to us being shortlisted among the top 7 contenders for the major prize of \$100,000. While we were not chosen for the final round, having our submission on the table and having members review our organization and interview Katina led to numerous positive results, not the least being:
  - **The Young Professionals** subgroup at **Fremantle Rotary** discovered KWCF from reading the submission and interviewing Katina leading to their adopting KWCF as their project of the year. They organized a wonderful **Movie Night** in November 2018 with ticket presales and raffle tickets netting **\$4305.00** for the foundation. Many thanks to the **Fremantle Arts Centre** for donating the venue and the staffing to facilitate this great event in which the profile of the Foundation was greatly enhanced. The **Bendigo Bank** in Fremantle covered all costs for the movie and projection and equipment allowing all funds to be given to the foundation rather than expended in overheads.
  - A by-product our current submission to the Fremantle Foundation was an **anonymous donation** from a person who read our submission and became aware of our outcomes. She was able to gain more information from a member of the Young Professionals and donated through the Fremantle Foundation. Thus, the total gains from the Fremantle Foundation submission was **\$9055**.
- We were invited for a third year to participate in the **Local Matters program at Grill’d Fremantle**. Local Matters is the Grill’d community donation program that sees each Grill’d restaurant donate \$500 back into the community every month. The donation is split between 3 local community groups \$300 / \$100 / \$100 depending on customer votes. For the third consecutive year we were

chosen as the customers' charity of choice and received the \$300.00. In this last round the Manager reported he only wished that policy allowed us to be featured more than once a year as he has observed enthusiastic response to our "donation jar" in the month we are featured and Grill'd was delighted to be a part of a local charity that truly makes an impact on the ground. Further, I have just received word from Grill'd in Claremont that they would also like to sponsor a jar – I reported we were already sponsored in Fremantle, but the head office has granted approval for us to be featured in both stores though this is not standard practice.

- For the third consecutive year our **beloved ambassador, Perth comedian Joe White**, performed a number of shows in February for Fringe World and in events in other cities, with part proceeds being donated to the Foundation. His successful 'Ethiopian and Still Not Hungry' shows have led the way to other major involvements in comedy at which events he is always happy to tell our story.
- The Foundation's participation in the **2019 HBF Run for a Reason** was successful to the extent that it raised \$2435 after fees. Our most heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated. These essential funds will help to further our work in serving refugee and migrant children, their families, and the community;
- Our "Rules of the Association" were re-written and approved to meet new legislation;
- And the **list goes on** – I realize I may be leaving some very important things unsaid, but the boost in board and member activity has been both heartening and phenomenal. Thank you.

But the key work we do is not with structures and procedures, but rather with children, their family and their environs. The infrastructure is absolutely valuable and essential, but our main mission is equipping children and their families as well as those who interact with them.

Some of the trauma evident in refugee families prior to their arrival is beyond our comprehension in the developed world – while the issues are confidential to the clients, to know that families have endured the traumas of having children abducted for military purposes, the abuse and rape of mothers and daughters and other unimaginable atrocities emphasises the sheer importance of this work. It also serves to highlight the level of trauma in adjustments necessary for new arrivals such as these. Naturally, distrust of authorities is rampant among the newly arrived – so they afford us a high privilege by so readily accepting the Foundation's work into their homes. Entrance into their lives is not taken for granted, and we do thank the families for trusting us. Because of this trust, often we are not able to use interesting case stories for promotional purposes but, to us, the trust factor is an even higher priority than fund raising (as necessary as this is).

As previously mentioned, we have covered our expenses for this year. However, we are cognisant of the need to pay our practitioner a wage rather than a small stipend. Growth in regular income is still needed. Our financial viability is possible in a large part to the Board's voluntary service and the staff's willingness to continue to serve for minimal remuneration, which we, as a board,

would like to correct when funding increases to the next level. Sincere thanks to each one.

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Our membership has remained stable with the exception of the passing of our respected member Kenneth Posney. We miss his wise counsel. The entire committee and general membership has served with distinction. Their donation of time and expertise to our endeavour is vital. Few associations and their boards of management would be able to match the expertise or commitment of this organisation, even in much larger charities. They are indeed an impressive group. The quality of our membership has helped us in this tremendous outreach to children who are traumatised and suffering.

#### **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:**

Our relationships with other organisations enrich us and give us a sense of connectedness to those who also serve Western Australia so caringly. This past year has seen connectivity with:

- The Administration, teachers and other professionals working with students in the Intensive Language Centres where Katina serves;
- WA Leadership through whom we have made valuable connections and networking;
- Gavin Bunning as mentor to myself and in giving counsel on budgeting, planning and the operation of charities such as our own;
- The Fremantle Foundation with their referral of funding parties to us:

#### **Finances:**

In the past financial year (2018-2019) our **total income was \$32,647.74** and our total **expenditure totalled 27,684.17** which yields a **Net Income of \$4,963.57**. This does not recognize a separate ledger account of the **Other Grant which holds \$4750.00**. Recognizing this grant brings the **Net Income for the year of \$9,713.57**. Please see the auditor's report attached to this document. Our reports for the Charities Collection License and the ACNC (The Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission) are current. All relevant insurances are also current. When we first registered for both the ACNC and the Western Australian Department of Consumer Protection (Charities Collection license) we were challenged to strive to raise more funding each year than we expended to demonstrate viability. We have done this both years since this challenge.

#### **Impact:**

While these are still days of early development in fundraising, we none-the-less see major contributions to the children and their families being served, the school and wider neighbourhood where they live, and staff development among others who are also observing and being informed by the methodologies

developed for and on behalf of our foundation by the director, Ms Katina Woodruff-Roberts. As chair, I am incredibly thankful for opportunities for the foundation to make major contributions to our society and the success that the anthropological approach is making. These are good days, and we now will move from strength to strength. Our 15 years of service to the community has impacted numerous children and their families who are now empowered to contribute to and to enjoy Australian society.

In summary, our success continues to build over the years. We value those who give to support the work that the Foundation does, and we also thank Katina Woodruff-Roberts for her vision, tireless efforts and passionate success with the children and the families she encounters through this work.

It has been a joy to work alongside the association's membership, and to serve this important cause as chair.

I do have **recommendations** to make for our Committee of Management for their consideration:

1. We review the salary level for Katina Woodruff-Roberts;
2. We review the payed membership of Everyday Hero which consumed nearly 37% of amounts raised through Run for a Reason. Let's consider if we want to continue this relationship;
3. We explore group membership in the Funding Centre site for Our Communities with its crow funding and grant possibility ideas along with available training;
4. We explore other runs or crowd funding events to replace our Run for a Reason which is tied to the Everyday Hero funding; andS
5. We subscribe to the Philanthropy Australia site for interested committee members.

Sincerely,

Robert L Woodruff BSc MDiv DMin PhD  
Chair