

Charity number: 1139678
Company number: 07371168

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014
for
Home-Start Worldwide
(a company Limited by Guarantee)**

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Home-Start Worldwide

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2014

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General Information
for the year ended 31 December 2014

STATUS: Home-Start Worldwide is a charity registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales and a company limited by guarantee.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1139678

COMPANY NUMBER: 7371168

TRUSTEES AT 31 DECEMBER 2014 Madusha Dissanayake
Anne Hart
Evi Hatzivarnava Kazasi (Chair)
Eric Laporte
Prof. Margaret Lynch (Deputy Chair)
Magne Raundalen
Ivan Seery (Treasurer)
Sheena Stewart
Angela Verghese

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Report of the Trustees
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The Trustees present their report and Financial Statements for the period from the 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 on pages 22 and 23 and comply with the Trust Deed, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in April 2005.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Home-Start Worldwide (HSW) is a charity registered with the Charities Commission in England and Wales, charity number 1139678. It is also a company limited by guarantee, incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 as a private company in England & Wales, company number 7371168.

The company was incorporated on 9 September 2010 and registered with the Charities Commission on 4 January 2011. At that time the assets of Home-Start International (HSI) (charity number 1076991) were transferred to Home-Start Worldwide.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which set the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

The Board of Trustees

The Trustees of the charity who are also directors of the company holding office in 2014 were as follows:

Madusha Dissanayake	Re-appointed June 2012
Anne Hart	Appointed June 2014
Evi Hatzivarnava Kazasi (Chair)	Re-appointed June 2012
Eric Laporte	Appointed June 2014
Prof. Margaret Lynch	Re-appointed first time November 2014
Magne Raundalen	Appointed June 2014
Clare Roskill (Deputy Chair)	To November 2014
Ivan Seery (Treasurer)	Re-appointed June 2014
Sheena Stewart	Appointed June 2014
Angela Vergese	Appointed March 2014

Governance

The trustees aim to have between nine and twelve Trustees, although flexibility may be required during recruitment and handover periods. Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees and serve for three years, after which period they may put themselves forward for reappointment for a second and in exceptional circumstances a third and final term.

The Trustees meet currently at least three times a year. Trustees currently attend meetings by conference call, in order to minimise travel expenses and maximise participation.

Trustees are responsible for formulating the strategic direction of the charity and the monitoring of budgets and finances. Since the restructuring of Home-Start Worldwide during 2011, the Trustees run Home-Start Worldwide directly without a paid Director and in this way they have a good knowledge of the charity's work. However, part of the charity's work is allocated, through Memoranda of Understanding, to a number of national Home-Start associations.

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During 2014, six of the Trustees were also staff or Board members of National Home-Start Associations around the world: Madusha Dissanayake from Home-Start Lanka (Sri Lanka); Anne Hart from Home-Start Africa; Evi Hatzivarnava Kazasi from Home-Start Hellas (Greece); Eric Laporte from Premiers Pas (Canada-Quebec); Magne Randalen from Home-Start Familiekontakten Norge (Norway) and Clare Roskill from Home-Start UK.

Trustee appointments in 2014 were based on two priorities: First, to replace trustees from Home-Start countries that had left Home-Start Worldwide in 2013 and second to recruit trustees who with their strategic and fundraising skills would help the development of Home-Start Worldwide.

Procedures for trustee recruitment differ depending if the recruitment concerns candidates proposed by Home-Start associations or experts. In the first case, invitations are sent to all Home-Start national associations in order to propose candidates (usually members of the national Board or national directors). In the second case, various methods are used in order to reach interested and appropriate candidates (announcements in recruitment or professional websites, personal and professional networks etc).

During 2014, five new trustees were appointed, out of whom three (Eric Laporte, Anne Hart and Magne Raundalen) were proposed by Home-Start national associations and two (Angela Vergese and Sheena Stewart) were appointed as experts. All appointed trustees underwent an induction session organized by the Chair and the Deputy Chair. The induction covered the obligations of trustees, the main documents which set out the operational framework for the charity including the Memorandum and Articles, resourcing and the current financial position as set out in the latest published accounts, present activities and future objectives and plans.

Trustee Expenses

During 2014, all trustee meetings were held by conference call. The cost of these was modest and only involved telephone conferences charges and modest administrative costs (i.e. minute taking). Home-Start Worldwide covered the travel expenses of two trustees and advisor to attend one professional meeting in Leicester UK in November 2014. Home-Start Worldwide also covered the travel and accommodation expenses of eight trustees in order to attend the triennial Home-Start Worldwide Conference and General Meeting at Oslo. We must note, however, that the cost of the Oslo Conference (participant travel and accommodation expenses, meals, hotel facilities etc) was fully covered through successful fund-raising.

Travel and accommodation is paid for in line with the Home-Start Worldwide Travel Policy. Among other things, this means that travel is almost always by public transport and in the cheapest travel class and accommodation is typically single rooms in basic business hotels.

When other expenses are claimed, trustees are paid only out-of-pocket expenses and must provide receipts.

How our activities deliver public benefit

The trustees confirm that in exercising their powers, they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit. All our charitable activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit. Though as a charity we do not provide direct services to people, we set minimum standards of practice (presently under revision) for our member organisations worldwide. Such standards require that the services provided are free of charge and follow policies of non-discrimination, equal opportunities, confidentiality and child protection.

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Risk Management

Trustees assess the risk to which Home-Start Worldwide is exposed on a continuous basis and undertake a formal risk assessment every two to three years. After, admittedly a long delay, a formal risk assessment took place in 2014 and a Risk Assessment Registry was developed. The Registry identified the risks (governance, operational, financial, reputational, environmental and law compliance ones) and assessed their likelihood and impact. Following that, mitigating actions were decided in order to minimise the risks and build a stronger base for the charity's development. It was decided that there would be a yearly assessment of risks as well as a review of the progress regarding the implementation of the mitigating actions.

Serious Incident Reporting

The Trustees are satisfied that there are no serious incidents or other matters which they should have brought to the attention of the Commission and have not done so already.

General Meeting

According to the Home-Start Worldwide Articles, a General Meeting of all members should take place at least once every three years. Membership of the Charity consists of the trustees and any Home-Start affiliated organisation meeting the criteria for membership set by the trustees from time to time ("HS Member Organisation"). The latest General Meeting was held in Oslo on the 26th of September 2014 and was attended by 9 trustees and 19 representatives of Home-Start organisations. One trustee and four Home-Start organisations apologised for not being able to attend.

The Meeting unanimously approved the Board of Trustees' activity report and financial statements since the previous General Meeting. It also accepted unanimously the Home-Start Worldwide membership policy and decided to proceed to a revision to Home-Start Worldwide Quality Assurance system. It finally adopted the Home-Start Worldwide 3-Year Strategy Plan while it gave to Home-Start organisations more time to comment on the proposed Child Protection policy. Two Home-Start organisations, Home-Start Japan and Home-Start Malta expressed an interest in holding the next Global Conference in their respective countries. The two organisations were thanked for their invitations and it was decided that the Trustees review the two options after further information and discussion.

Relationship with other Home-Start Organisations

Home-Start Worldwide provides support, encouragement, training and information to Home-Start associations around the world. The associations, which share the same objectives and ethos and implement a similar core practice, often work together and with Home-Start Worldwide in a spirit of solidarity and mutual support.

The Trustees would like to record their appreciation of Home-Start associations around the world which have provided assistance during 2014, including:

- Home-Start Familiekontakten (Norway) for hosting and generously financially supporting the 2014 Home-Start Worldwide Global Conference
- Home-Start UK for offering advice to the Board of Home-Start Worldwide on the development of its strategic plan and its funding strategy, for the hosting of the Home-Start Worldwide website and extranet within agreed budget parameters and for providing in house legal advice to Home-Start Worldwide
- Humanitas (which auspices the Netherlands Home-Start national office) for implementing the quality assurance process in Home-Start countries (collection of information through questionnaires and writing of reports for each country and the network as a whole)
- Home-Start Denmark for successfully fund-raising for the 2014 Home-Start Worldwide Global Conference

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- PASEO (Home-Start France) for offering help to the development of Home-Start in Belgium
- All Home-Starts which participate in the monitoring and evaluation survey and the quality assurance process and expressed views on various questions and issues of discussion

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trustees hold the trust fund and its income upon trust to apply them for the following objects ("the objects") worldwide, as specified in Home-Start Worldwide Articles of Association:

- To safeguard and preserve the good health, mental and physical, of children, young persons, parents and primary carers
- To relieve sickness, poverty and need among children, their families and/or primary carers
- To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children
- To advance the education of parents and the public in better standards of childcare
- To manage the activities of HSW to achieve the above

Home-Start Worldwide is committed to promoting the welfare of children and parents by providing effective models of family support, training, information and guidance to new Home-Start schemes and Home-Start associations in other countries.

Vision

Home-Start Worldwide wants to see a world where vulnerable families receive the help they need to give their children a safe and healthy start in life.

Mission

To help families and children worldwide by facilitating the growth, development and sustainability of the Home-Start family support service worldwide.

Working through partnerships

As agreed by the Trustees in 2010 and confirmed at the triennial World Conference in Greece in 2011, Home-Start Trustees have been working between 2012-2013 through partnerships with a number of Home-Start national associations and without the support of a Secretariat. Three national associations (HS UK, HS Australia, HS Netherlands) committed themselves in undertaking certain responsibilities run in the past by HSW Secretariat for at least three years (2012-14) which were ratified by a Memorandum of Understanding with Home-Start Worldwide.

Among other things, the Memorandum (which for HSUK was revised in late 2013) foresaw that:

- Home-Start UK would take on responsibility for a number of key roles, namely:
 - Provide advice to the Board of Home-Start Worldwide on the development of its strategic plan as well as its funding strategy
 - Share research that it publishes with Home-Start Worldwide
 - Pay for the hosting of the Home-Start Worldwide website and extranet within agreed budget parameters
 - Host visits to HSUK from other national Home-Starts, acting as the point of contact and organizer of the visit
 - Provide in house legal advice to Home-Start Worldwide, where appropriate and subject to resources.
 - Answer policy-level email queries from and offer director-to-director advice to the Board of Home-Start Worldwide.
 - Lead the work of the Home-Start Worldwide Quality Assurance Standards Committee (QASC).

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- Home-Start Netherlands would manage and facilitate the Quality Assurance process and collect annual statistics
- Home-Start Australia would provide an email help desk, sourcing training, information and guidance from within the network and delivering information to external audiences.
- Home-Start Worldwide, on the other hand, through mainly the volunteer effort of its trustees, would:
 - Carry out the governance responsibilities of the charity
 - Sustain the bonds amongst the network members and keep up communication between the Home-Start Worldwide Board and its international network
 - Establish a Quality Assurance Steering Committee (QASC), with delegated powers reporting to the Home-Start Worldwide Board of Trustees.
 - Determine HSW membership criteria and link membership with Standards.

During 2014, the Home-Start Worldwide Board, in view of the completion of the 2012-14 Memorandum of Understanding, made an assessment of its implementation. The assessment showed positive and negative sides:

On the positive side, the Memorandum increased the involvement and responsibility of some network countries as well as Home-Start Worldwide trustees themselves with the work and improved their awareness of the diverse environments in which HS practice is implemented.

On the negative side, there had been risks and gaps in the collaborations that had affected the way the work was implemented and in certain cases the overall performance. On the one hand, not all work was covered by the Memorandum. Since the Home-Start Worldwide is by law responsible for delivering the work, additional tasks were also undertaken by HSW trustees through their voluntary contribution. Such tasks were, for example, the organization of the Home-Start Worldwide Global conference as well as its fund-raising, the development of a framework for the monitoring and evaluation of Home-Start activities, the development of policies such as the child protection policy and other. All this work was implemented through the voluntary contribution of trustees. However, voluntary work has its limits and often takes more time to deliver due to other work or personal obligations. On the other hand, the human resources of Home-Start associations that partnered with Home-Start Worldwide proved to be not so safe. HSUK and HS Netherlands had serious cuts in the budget of their national offices that led to restructuring. Though this, fortunately, did not affect their commitment to deliver the work, it did cause delays in its delivery. HS Australia lost its CEO last year and this affected its capacity to deliver the HSW tasks at least temporarily.

In spite of difficulties, however, there is a consensus about the value of working in partnerships. To minimize risks and maximize positive results, it was decided that more clear criteria should be set as to type and quantity of work that partners can take on their shoulders while the development of a small, staffed Resource and Development Unit that would support and further develop the Home-Start Worldwide work was set as a priority.

In the context of the above, in autumn 2014 Home-Start Worldwide trustees started collaborating with Home-Start national associations in order to discuss possible partnerships. In November 2014, an agreement was reached with Home-Start UK. Home-Start Netherlands, due to financial and human resources shortages, is unable to offer any help at this stage. Discussions with other national associations were still in development by the end of the 2014.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During 2014, Home-Start Worldwide ran in a smooth way, fulfilling its obligations and achieving most of its set goals. One of its most important achievements during the year was the organisation of a successful Global Conference in September.

What is remarkable is that Home-Start Worldwide's achievements were mainly the result of the voluntary effort of its trustees, the willingness of the stronger Home-Start associations to financially support Home-Start Worldwide and carry out tasks on its behalf and the commitment of all Home-Start associations around the world to sustain the network.

Growth – reaching more families

In 2013, Home-Start schemes supported around 40,000 of families and 83,000 children through the friendship, encouragement and guidance of more than 22,000 volunteers (overall statistics were not available for 2014 at the time that this report was produced). Significant growth was recorded in Japan (from 13 schemes in 2009 to 70 in 2014). Most countries performed well in terms of numbers of volunteers and families/children served. Some countries, had difficulties in raising the necessary funds to run their schemes so there were some losses, fortunately few. During 2014, Home-Start in France obtained a national office (previously there was only one scheme), a development that we hope would help Home-Start growth in France.

During 2014, we continued our programme of one-to-one support either through Home-Start Worldwide trustees or through peer support (i.e. country to country support). This support aims at helping the growth of Home-Start schemes in country where Home-Start services are already in existence or helping the development of Home-Start in a new country.

The partnership project run by Home-Start South Africa under the auspices of Home-Start Worldwide and funded by the Medicor Foundation was completed this year. There was an underspend at the end of the year and the two organisations managed to negotiate with Medicor Foundations which agreed that Home-Start South Africa keeps the rest of the money and uses it for its bereavement work.

Collaborations were also carried on between Home-Start Worldwide and Home-Start Uganda on issues of fundraising and how Home-Start Worldwide could help Home-Start Uganda in its fund-raising efforts.

Our info-desk also responded to information requests from individuals and agencies that expressed an interest in introducing Home-Start schemes in their own countries. During 2014 such interest was expressed by a lady, a social entrepreneur, in United Arab Emirates, the Adina Foundation-Romania at Craiova and a volunteer of Russia origin in the Netherlands that wished to start Home-Start in her home-town Kazan in Russia.

Out of the three, the most promising case was that of the United Arab Emirates. Preparations started in 2014 and are still carried out for the setting up of Home-Start in this region. Home-Start Worldwide has been helping this effort with information and advice, while the lady that expressed the interest was invited to attend the Home-Start Worldwide Global Conference in Oslo where further discussions took place.

In Romania, the interest was raised by Adina Foundation Norway which set up the Romanian Adina Foundation some years back and still supports it financially. Again here, information was sent to Adina Foundation Norway organisation in Norway while in November 2014 a meeting took place in Bucharest between the manager of Adina Foundation Romania and Home-Start Worldwide Chair. During the meeting it was decided that Adina

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Foundation Romania would be connected to Home-Start Poland for exchange of experience since the context of Home-Start development was similar.

Regarding the Russian origin lady, after the initial provision of information by Home-Start Worldwide, no follow up took place.

Belgium was another country where a professor of Economics had expressed an interest in developing Home-Start in 2013. The info-desk connected her to Home-Start Netherlands and later to Home-Start France. During 2014 some contacts and discussions took place between the professor and Home-Start France but these did not proceed into a more substantial stage of Home-Start development.

Quality

Quality assurance

The Quality Assurance standards are a vital tool in ensuring that the families we support receive the best possible support from Home-Start. In 2010 we began to implement the new Quality Assurance programme and since 2011 all National Associations and local schemes were evaluated against the Quality Assurance standards.

Since 2012, Home-Start Netherlands, on behalf of Home-Start Worldwide and under the Memorandum of Understanding, has been implementing the annual Quality Assurance process. This means that using Quality Assurance Questionnaires, it tried to ascertain the extent to which Home-Start associations fulfil the Quality Assurance standards. The latest report from Home-Start Netherlands was produced in April 2014.

In 2014, having identified difficulties with regard to the implementation of the Quality Assurance process, Home-Start Worldwide, with the input of all those involved, made an assessment of the existing process and decided to revise it in order to make it more focused, user-friendly, relevant and effective. A working group consisting of two trustees and three network members, was set up in November 2014 to work on the revision of the process. Work has started in December and is expected to be completed in the first four months of 2015.

Licensing of Home-Start name

An important issue that was clarified during 2014 concerns the licensing of Home-Start name. During 2012 Home-Start UK registered Home-Start as an EU trademark. This means that Home-Start UK, as the registered proprietor, can serve notice on any organization using the name without consent of its registration. Home-Start Worldwide has worked with Home-Start UK over the year in order to reach an agreement on how the license can be extended to other European countries. Such an agreement was in fact reached in November 2014. The agreement allows Home-Start Worldwide to sublicense the Home-Start name to other Home-Start associations outside UK subject to compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement. The Home-Start UK legal Department started preparing the legal framework of this agreement.

Training

Training and exchanges are important mechanisms of ensuring quality worldwide. Home-Start Worldwide does not have the resources to run transnational training sessions on a frequent bases. However, during 2014 it organized its triennial Global Training Conference (see a special section below). Three key issues were the focus of attention around which workshops were organized: monitoring and evaluation, the role of men/fathers in the Home-Start work and fund- raising.

As Home-Start Worldwide we also encourage and facilitate peer support and training, including twinning arrangements between Home-Starts within the network.

An ethical policy for fundraising

An ethical policy for fundraising was prepared and adopted in 2014 by Home-Start Worldwide. The policy sets the ethical rules for fund-raising for Home-Start Worldwide Board. During 2015 it will be discussed whether this policy could be shared more widely with the international Home-Start network.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact

Home-Start practice has become the focus of research in the last few years and this very much relates to the ever-increasing need to provide funders and other supporters with the scientific evidence of the impact of the Home-Start service. In 2014, Home-Start Netherlands and Home-Start Japan carried out impact evaluation work on Home-Start.

In the Netherlands, the University of Amsterdam has been involved in Home-Start research in the last decade. Using the same research tool but different samples and perspectives each time, it looked into the impact of Home-Start work which in every case produced positive for Home-Start results. The latest two pieces of research work by the University compare Home-Start care to other forms of more conventional care and the impact of introducing the Triple P method in Home-Start families. Both pieces of research have been completed and their results would be published soon.

In Japan, since 2012 the University of Taisho, Tokyo Future and Shizuoka Welfare with research funds of the Japanese Government have been running a survey on Home-Start families. The research findings during 2012 - 2014 concluded that "active listening" and "collaboration" by volunteers brought a great "feeling of satisfaction" to the parents. The current research study focuses on the feeling of satisfaction and its impact on the family. The researchers found that as the parents' feeling of satisfaction improves through the Home-Start visits, the psychological health and development of the parent also improve.

Home-Start Worldwide considers monitoring and evaluation an indispensable part of the Home-Start work, promotes knowledge and skills amongst Home-Start people worldwide on these issues and facilitates dissemination of information. In 2014, it implemented, with the help of an external expert, an exploratory study on the perceptions and practices on monitoring and evaluation amongst Home-Start national and scheme directors. The study involved the completion of 25 questionnaires and 11 person to person interviews. Following the study, a workshop on monitoring and evaluation took place in Oslo in September 2014 with the participation of 29 national and scheme directors. All results from both the exploratory study and the workshop, as well as recommendations for the development of an internationally shared monitoring and evaluation system, are compiled in a special report that was produced by the expert. Home-Start Worldwide will review the results and recommendations and decide on the follow-up actions it can take.

The triennial Global Training Conference

Every three years, Home-Start Worldwide network organises a conference where Home-Start representatives from all over the world, discuss key issues in Home-Start policy and practice and exchange good practice and experiences.

The latest Home-Start Worldwide Global Training Conference with the title "Maintaining High Quality Family Support in Difficult Times" took place in Oslo, Norway in September 2014. Forty four people participated in the Conference including twenty nine participants from 21 out of the 23 Home-Start countries. Of the others, eight

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were trustees of Home-Start Worldwide, five were experts and researchers and two were guests. One of the two guests was Margaret Harrison, the Home-Start founder who back in 1973 set up the first Home-Start scheme in Leicester, UK.

The Conference was co-organised by Home-Start Worldwide and Home-Start Norway which also generously financed part of the Conference expenses. Financial support for the Conference was also received from the OAK Foundation, the Tedworth Charitable Trust and the Det Obelske Familiefond-Denmark. The Home-Start Worldwide Board warmly thanks these organisations for their generous support.

The Conference set five major objectives:

- To review the role of Home-Start Worldwide's quality assurance programme as a tool for maintaining a high standard of service throughout the network (Key issue 1)
- To address the skills needed to tell others about our work as clearly as possible and to fund-raise for it more effectively (Key issue 2)
- To consider how Home-Start can involve men as workers, volunteers and beneficiaries (Key issue 3)
- To discuss the importance of monitoring the way we operate and of evaluating the impact of Home-Start activities (Key issue 4)
- To learn from our positive experiences and good practice, but also from what has not worked so well

The Conference was undoubtedly a successful event. All the Conference objectives were covered, speakers and group coordinators were overall very good, the organisation was excellent and there was a very high degree of involvement and interest by the participants all of whom expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the Conference. At the same time, Conference expenses remained within budget.

More information on the Conference and its results can be found in the Conference report as well as the participants' feedback report.

Membership policy

The development of a membership policy is a requirement of Home-Start Worldwide's Articles. During 2013 and 2014, a Members' Charter was drawn up providing the information needed to become members of the Home-Start Worldwide network to those associations already providing Home-Start services or wishing to provide in the future.

The Members' Charter specifies membership criteria and eligibility, obligations and rights of members, level of fees, licensing of name and logo, procedures for approving/disqualifying members and appeals and complaints procedures. It is important to note that the fulfilment of criteria regarding the quality of the service is a condition of membership.

The Members' Charter has been adopted at the Home-Start Worldwide General Meeting in September 2014.

Building network cohesion and solidarity

Maintaining network cohesion and solidarity is a primary goal of Home-Start Worldwide. To reach this goal, Home-Start Worldwide facilitates the exchange of information and knowledge, creates opportunities for working together and encourages bilateral communication and support. Examples of activities that took place in order to fulfil these objectives were the electronic all-country bulletin that is circulated to all Home-Start associations twice a year; the Global Conference that brought together Home-Start representatives from all over the world; the exchange of information and experience on many issues; and bilateral collaborations between Home-Start

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Worldwide and Home-Start associations or between Home-Start associations on issues such as training and fund-raising. Examples of such bilateral collaborations are the specific support that was offered by Home-Start Worldwide to Home-Start Uganda on fundraising; the all-african meeting held in Oslo on the same issue; the collaboration of Home-Start Worldwide with Home-Start UK on a new partnership agreement, on issues of trademark licence and training and material and other; the collaboration with Home-Start Norway on the organisation of the Global Conference; the on-going collaboration between Home-Start Norway and Home-Start Sweden, between Home-Start Czech Republic and Home-Start Tanzania and between Home-Start Aberdeen in UK and Home-Start Gomel in Belarus and many other exchanges that take place between countries. In fact, the Home-Start Worldwide is an excellent example of international collaboration and mutual support.

Influence

In 2014, Home-Start Worldwide continued its participation in Eurochild, a European association of non-governmental organisations whose aim is to promote children's rights at the European level. In November 2014, the Home-Start Worldwide Chair participated in the Eurochild Conference in Bucharest, a high profile event with a big audience (around 230 participants from 36 countries) and representatives from the EU, the Council of Europe, UNICEF, UNESCO as well as a number of experts and academics. The central theme of the conference was "Children First: Better Public Spending for Better Outcomes for Children and Families". The key conference themes were: Evaluation methodologies, social return on investment and public-private partnerships while working groups were organized on the family and parenting support, children and alternative care, early years of education and care and child and youth participation.

The Home-Start Worldwide representative joined the Eurochild thematic group on parenting and family support that carries on work in this area and which has just produced a Policy Position on Evidence and Evaluation Methodologies for Family and Parenting Support Policies and Practices.

Through these activities Home-Start Worldwide aims to increase awareness of Home-Start work internationally, to learn about emerging trends and practices in the international field and to influence decision-makers at an international level. Though human resources at present may not allow it, we believe that this is an area to which Home-Start Worldwide needs to be more active in the future.

A mechanism of information provision, image promotion and influence is the organisation's website. Updating regularly the website continued in 2014. However, Home-Start Worldwide acknowledging the need of a serious "uplifting" of its website and extranet, made a decision to devote resources for this purpose. Preparation work on defining the needs and objectives of this "uplifting" took place in 2014 and it is expected that during 2015, with the support of external collaborators, the work will start.

Resources

Home-Start Worldwide resources in 2014 were based mainly on membership fees, special fees for attending the Global Conference and grants from Foundations while a rather unexpected return of money from the UK Pension Fund increased the Home-Start resources by £14,941. With careful spending and much voluntary effort, the organisation finished the year with reserves of £40,049, which allows it to carry on its basic activities comfortably in 2015.

We must note that besides the above, Home-Start Worldwide is assisted in reaching its goals through additional financial and human resources that it receives from Home-Start national associations. In 2014, Home-Start

