

# community albums



## ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2020

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES  
THROUGH MUSIC AND MEDIA



"I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH MY DAUGHTER HAS GOT FROM THIS AT A TIME WHEN SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TO FEEL POSITIVE ABOUT. IT'S GIVEN HER SOMETHING ELSE TO FOCUS ON SO I AM SO GRATEFUL TO YOU. IT'S BEEN SO GOOD FOR HER MENTAL HEALTH. SHE'S ACTUALLY MOTIVATED TO DO SOMETHING WHICH IS SUCH A BIG DEAL AT THE MOMENT."

**Mum of a CAMHS referral**

"WE HAVE LOVED WORKING WITH COMMUNITY ALBUMS THIS YEAR. THE YOUNG PEOPLE CAME TO LIFE IN THE SESSIONS – IT WAS FANTASTIC TO SEE THEM GROWING IN CONFIDENCE, AND IN THEIR ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER WELL. OFTEN WITH CREATIVE PROJECTS I FIND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NERVOUS TO SHOWCASE THEIR WORK AT THE END – BUT WITH THE HIGH QUALITY VIDEOS FROM COMMUNITY ALBUMS THEY WANT TO SHARE THEM FAR AND WIDE. SO LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT WE'RE ABLE TO ACHIEVE TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE!"

**Helen Fernandez  
West Silvertown Foundation**

"THANK YOU SO MUCH...THE 'DARKNESS TO LIGHT' FILM PREMIERE WAS A TRULY WONDERFUL EVENING. IT'S BEEN AN ABSOLUTE PRIVILEGE TO DO IT TOGETHER... IT'S GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE EVENTS WE WILL REMEMBER FOR A VERY LONG TIME TO COME!"

**Sarah Laing  
Bonny Downs Community Association**

"YOUR TEAM WERE PROFESSIONAL AND VERY ACCOMMODATING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR SCHOOL. MANY OF OUR SCHOOL TEAM HAVE COMMENTED ON HOW LOVELY IT WAS TO WORK WITH YOU. YOU HAVE SHOWN OUR CHILDREN THAT IN THESE TIMES, WE CAN STILL BE CREATIVE AND THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX."

**Allison Venn  
St Helen's Catholic Primary School**

"YOU ARE AMAZING AND DOING WONDERS FOR MY SON'S CONFIDENCE. THANK YOU SO MUCH."

**Mum of a CAMHS referral**

"THE CHOIR BUILDS YOU UP SO IF YOU'VE HAD A BAD WEEK YOU CAN FINISH THE WEEK ON A HIGH."

**Vocal Band participant**



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# FROM THE CHAIR

“GIVING PEOPLE A VOICE AND CELEBRATING THE POSITIVES IN EVERY SITUATION BRINGS A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE FUTURE”



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As a journalist I was taught that the facts are all that mattered. But the facts are just the skeleton of truth. Life is so much more than bare bones. The facts need embodying with heart and soul, breath and beat, faith, hope and love.

For many of those we work with, the facts are that life is getting tougher, trust has been shattered, hope has waned and experiencing love is a thing that only happens in fairy tales.

We seek to restore a sense of hope using music and media to tell a different story. Giving people a voice and celebrating the positives in every situation brings a new perspective on the future. Bringing diverse groups together creates understanding and leads to peace. Involving participants in writing, performing and recording their own songs, empowers them with skills and confidence to tackle much greater challenges. Technology means we can bridge continents and bring people together, even in lockdown.

I'm immensely proud to be part of the Community Albums team and of the life-changing work outlined in this report. Thank you for your on-going support and encouragement.

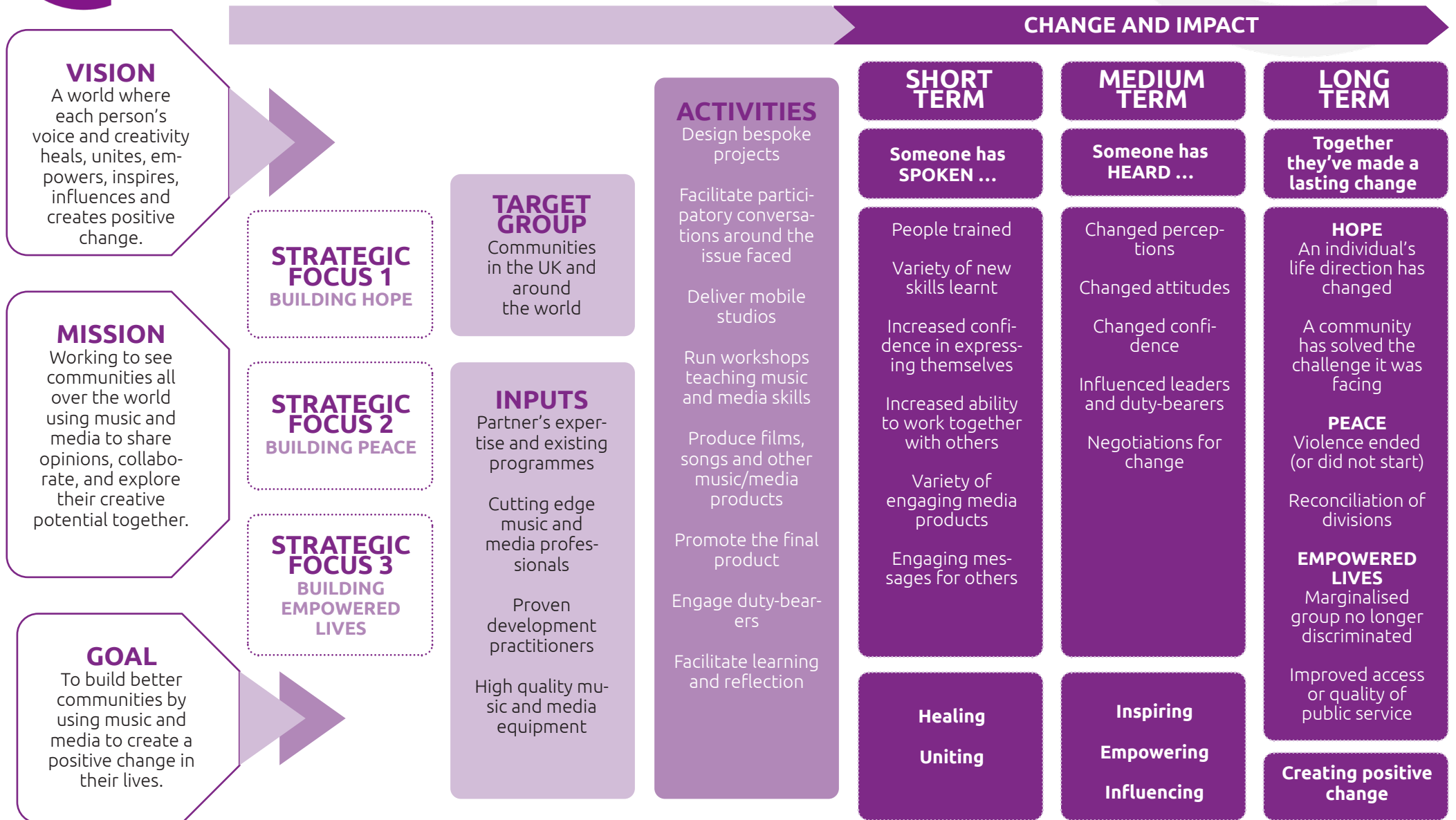


DAVE MANN



# community albums

## THEORY OF CHANGE



# IN THE LAST YEAR ...

“SOMEONE HAS SPOKEN, SOMEONE HAS HEARD”

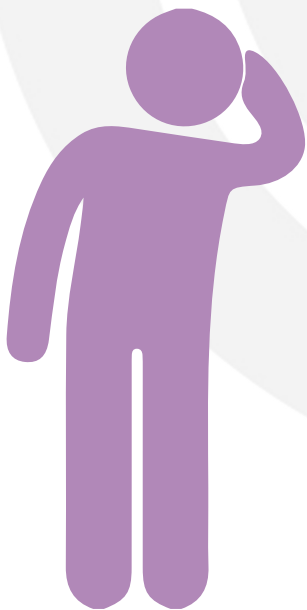


## SOMEONE HAS SPOKEN

- We have delivered **217 MUSIC AND MEDIA SESSIONS** to build confidence and skills in all those who took part in them
- We have worked with **4895 PARTICIPANTS** to heal, unite, inspire and empower through music and media

## SOMEONE HAS HEARD

- More than **29,500 PEOPLE** have been directly engaged in watching or listening to the messages created in film or in song through targeted engagement in the UK
- An estimated **11 MILLION PEOPLE** were reached through efforts to build peace in Burundi



**TOGETHER THEY WILL MAKE LASTING CHANGE**

# BUILDING HOPE HOPE



## Vocal Band

**Vocal Band** is one of our existing projects that connects different generations through singing. This has been such a positive group for so many of the members that we were really keen to explore other ways of keeping it going when lockdown happened. Thankfully, the group embraced Zoom and we were able to carry on via this platform.

Clare, who leads these sessions, says:

*"We've had lots of fun, working on breathing techniques and singing a variety of songs. Every time we have come together it has given everyone a lift. The main focus has been singing together to help us feel great, having an outlet and a good time!"*

One of the participants said:

*"I would have literally gone crazy without being able to see everyone from the choir during lockdown."*

It's wonderful to be able to bring people together and to see the power of music working in people's lives!



## Upbeat CAMHS, North Oxfordshire Academy

The Mental Health Foundation's recent study consistently found that young people were more likely to report stress arising from the coronavirus pandemic than the population as a whole, and more likely than any other age group to report hopelessness, loneliness, not coping well, and suicidal thoughts/ feelings.

With this in mind, it's been so good to be able to offer young people the chance to get involved with music through our new 'Upbeat' project in Banbury, Oxfordshire, and online via Zoom too.

Guy, who leads the face to face sessions, explains how it works:

*"Since September, we've been working with students from North Oxfordshire Academy. So far we've worked on creating music tracks and I've been finding out more about Grime and Trap artists (education goes both ways!)"*

We have also just come to the end of a sound design project. Everyone chose between various video clips to add sound effects and background music. A clip from the Simpsons was a popular choice as well as a video game promotion sequence. We headed off to the skate park to create a short video sequence, and then used our recently acquired tech skills to add music and sound effects.

*"It's also been great to get to know each other a bit over numerous cups of tea and a kick about in the gym."*

# BUILDING HOPE HOPE

Our National Director, Simon adds:

*"Life has been very difficult for many young people in recent months. Upbeat aims to boost confidence by giving them access to try new things and express how they are feeling through music. This project will hopefully help them to remain positive in the future too."*

*"We also hope to create podcasts with the young people involved so we can bring to life the story of the impact the project has had on their lives."*

It's a challenging project but an incredibly rewarding one. It follows the same premise as our previous 'Upbeat' project - its success being acknowledged by 'Children In Need' who have, along with Sanctuary Housing, given funding for this new initiative.



## Oxfordshire Hospital School

Some of our most special memories here at Community Albums have been at the Oxfordshire Hospital School. The teachers do an amazing job ensuring those who are unwell are not educationally disadvantaged, and we love being able to offer the children the chance to connect with music.

It was lovely to have the prince drop in on us at work, too!



*"These sessions help my daughter to forget about her treatment for a while. They take her somewhere else, where she can be free to express herself, which is really important. I really do appreciate these sessions."*

Since lockdown started, the hospital school celebrated their centenary and we were delighted to be asked to help with a song and film for their celebrations.

“ WE LOVE BEING ABLE TO OFFER THE CHILDREN THE CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH MUSIC.”



Take a look at the link to see what some of the students got up to during lockdown.

# BUILDING HOPE HOPE



## Britannia Village

One of our first virtual projects during lockdown was with Britannia Village Primary School in Newham. They wanted to create a video and song with their Year 6s, showing not only their time during lockdown but also their support for the NHS. Later on when the kids returned to school, we were able to go in and work with them there. It was great to meet some of the students we had only met virtually before!

This was such a lovely project to be involved in, and amazing of the school to organise for their leavers - something they can all look back on and remember their crazy year!



[Click to view video](#)

Created entirely online whilst we were in full lockdown. Not gonna lie... some of us may have shed a tear or two watching it!

“ IT WAS GREAT TO MEET SOME OF THE STUDENTS WE HAD ONLY MET VIRTUALLY BEFORE!”

# BUILDING HOPE HOPE

## West Silvertown Foundation

Another of our London projects saw us head over to the docks where we've had not 1, not 2 but 3 projects with the fabulous West Silvertown Foundation team!

We first worked with the older youth on a song about the effects of lockdown, and then on a song about Black Lives Matter, and then lastly with the younger youth on a song called "Sandy Shoes and Sunsets" about summer and the feelings generated from this season.

We've known some of the older youth for several years from working with them at their secondary school. They've now left school and it's been amazing to have them mentoring the younger children and helping them through the music production process. It's been so good to be able to pass on skills and knowledge to this fabulous bunch!

Courtney, one of the mentors, says:

*"It's so interesting to see how groups create their songs and give ideas. It's a different experience now we're mentoring the students and I'm really enjoying it!"*



[Click to view video](#)

For the song about lockdown, the young people produced an Afrobeat version of 'Lovely Day'.



[Click to view video](#)

The song & video representing the young people's views on the Black Lives Matter movement is here:



[Click to view video](#)

Sandy Shoes and Sunsets is here:

# BUILDING PEACE

## Burundi

Following on from successful Kenya and Zimbabwe 'Song for Peace' projects, we were invited by the Salvation Army to deliver a similar project for Burundi, ahead of their national elections.

Against a backdrop of civil war, Burundi has seen much conflict over the past few years. It's somewhere that peace is very much needed. It's also somewhere we have worked before, and it was so good to be back working with our old friends Paci, Desire and Andy. Andy, a Burundian, made the trip specially from Rwanda where he fled with his family due to the violence during the Burundian elections in 2015. It was Andy's first time back in his hometown since then. These amazing musicians were joined by music producer Cofix, who runs the studio in Kamuli, Uganda, that we helped set up back in September last year.

Rob, our International Director, headed up our team out there and said:

*"It was a real honour to work with the talented people of Burundi. In 8 days they wrote and recorded a song which captures the energy and vibrancy of their culture, and their desire to live together in peace. My hope and prayer is that the video and song will contribute to this peace over the coming weeks and months."*



Take a look at the song and video here:



# EMPOWERED LIVES

## St Joseph's, Kamuli

We continue to support this exciting journey of empowering young people from St Joseph's Vocational Training Centre in Kamuli, Uganda. Using the studio we built in the autumn of 2019, in-house producer, Cofix continues to work with students and local musicians to maximise creative talent and strengthen innovation and wellbeing. This year the studio closed for a while under Ugandan lockdown rules, but opened again towards the end of the year. The project is an exciting and positive step forward for this community and a privilege to be a part of.

Brother John Ngigi Njuguna says:

*"Through the studio, we want to create employment opportunities for young people; develop socio cultural values through music and media and drama etc. so that an increased internet use does not lead to our culture breaking down; and develop information to be shared with the community and those that need to hear it. We can help young people if they are well trained. It exposes them to employment opportunities in other studios. It can give them a livelihood, and develop their musical talents."*



“ THROUGH THE STUDIO, WE WANT TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.”



# EMPOWERED LIVES

## Upbeat and Music United

For a while now we've been working towards having a studio in Banbury where people can come and learn musical skills that have a huge positive impact in their lives.

This year, the Hill Sport and Community Facility in Banbury, Oxfordshire, was rebuilt and we were given a space to build a small studio.

We're so excited to be able to offer music access to many young, often underprivileged, people in the area. There are opportunities to learn instruments, sing, and create music using digital music software. When the pandemic eases, the young people will be encouraged to form bands together and perform to the wider community. It's not just technical skills like editing and production techniques - the young people are learning about teamwork, self discipline and all kinds of things that bring value and positivity to a young person's life.



## Bonny Downs Community Association

Following last year's successful 'Anti-Knife Crime' project, we were invited back by Bonny Downs Community Association to work with their young people who were dealing with the restrictions of the pandemic.

We headed online via Zoom for many of the sessions. The song about lockdown began to take shape with the kids writing lyrics and learning about the song writing process. Later on, our sessions coincided with scorching hot days which were perfect for meeting outside to continue producing the song and shooting a video.

Despite a summer none of us would ever have wished for, a lot of positives came from this project.

One of the young people said:

*"It made me more energetic. When I was stuck at home, I didn't want to do anything. When I was doing it, I thought lock down wasn't boring after all."*

Another child's parent said:

*"It has changed my daughter as a person. Before she was very, very, shy. Now she's more 'I can do this' and more confident."*

A great project to be a part of and we look forward to working with BDCA's young people again next year.



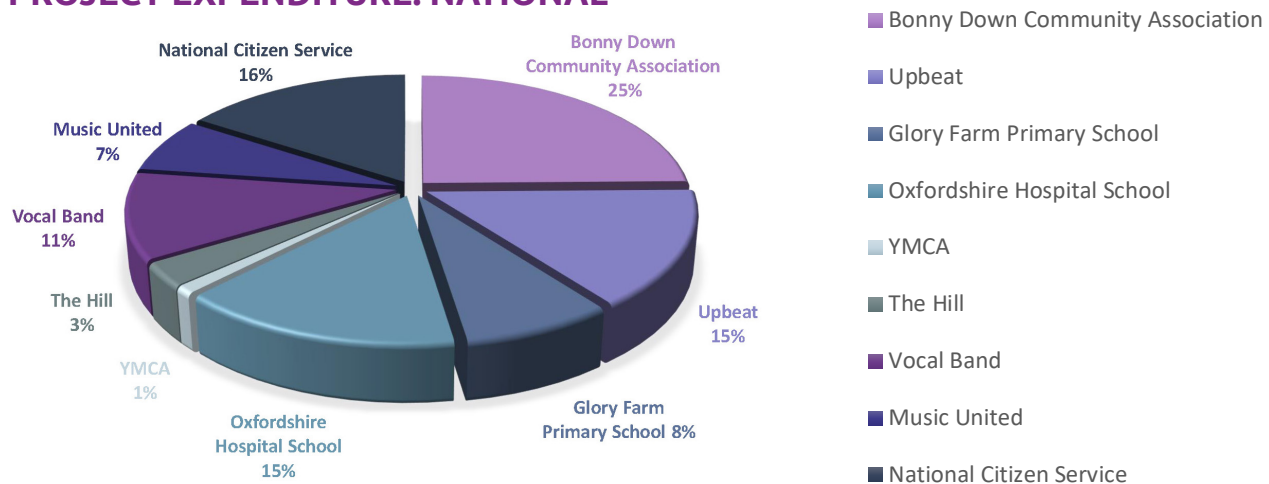


# FINANCIAL REPORT

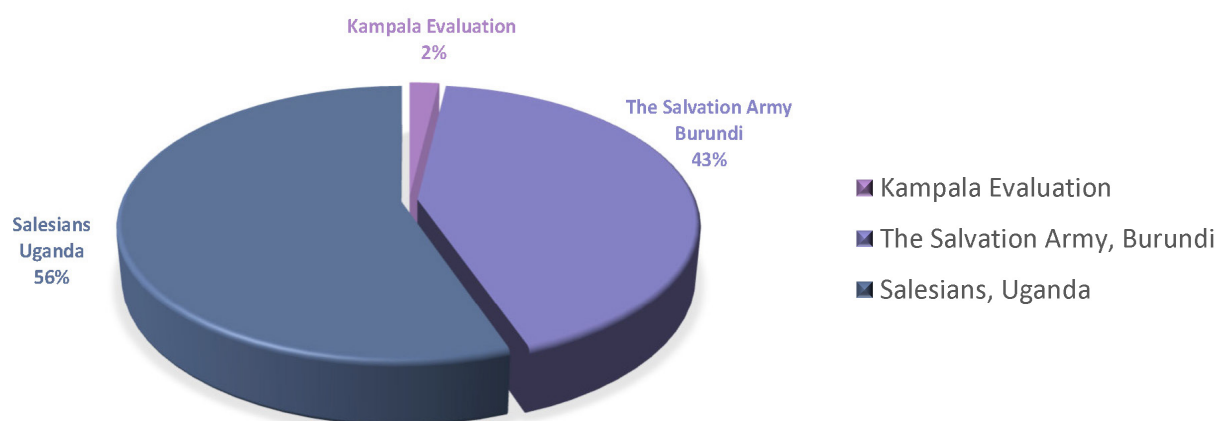


	Predicted in 2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Income	137,201	<b>97,702</b>	55,430	68,009	73,094
Expenditure	89,818	<b>73,292</b>	50,697	58,645	69,070
Reserves Held	11,088	<b>4,917</b>	4,733	9,364	4,020
Funds brought forward from previous years	54,572	<b>30,162</b>	25,429	16,065	12,040
Funds carried forward to next year		<b>54,572</b>	30,162	25,429	16,064

## PROJECT EXPENDITURE: NATIONAL



## PROJECT EXPENDITURE: INTERNATIONAL



We currently have 1 member of staff and 2 volunteers who work towards core operational activities, and a group of 14 incredibly gifted musicians, filmmakers and producers who help us deliver activities with participants. Paid hours of work equate to approximately 48% of the time required to deliver projects successfully. 52% of the total time required to deliver projects is completed on a voluntary basis.

We are grateful to those who give up their time to support our ambition and achievements as a charity, and are working hard to ensure that funds are raised for more staff to support project delivery.

**\*If you would like full details of our charity finances please feel free to download our organisation's audited accounts from the Charity Commission website.**

# TRUSTEES AND STAFF

Many thanks to our trustees who have guided our work throughout the year.

**David Mann, Chair**

**Dave Pilkington, Vice-Chair**

**Dave Newman, Safeguarding Officer**

**Irini Pantelidou, Secretary**

**Andrew Yates, Treasurer**

Many thanks to our staff and freelance project practitioners - professional musicians, filmmakers and producers, who have implemented the work throughout the year.

**Simon Hill, National Director and Co-Founder**

**Rob May, International Director and Co-Founder**

**Jan Sheldon, Operations Manager**

**Lesley Lane, Bookkeeper**

## **FREELANCE AND PROJECT CONSULTANTS:**

**Dave Healey (Music)**

**Corma Holmes (Film)**

**Guy Houchen (Music)**

**Jasmine Hill (Music)**

**Jamie Hyatt (Music)**

**Clare Lancaster (Music)**

**Finn O'Conner (Music)**

**Ollie Thomas (Music and Film)**

**Taku Munonyara (Music)**

**Lucy Randell (Music)**

**Glyn Rowlands (Music)**

**Toby Sheldon (Graphic Design)**

**Psyona Williams (Film)**

## THE COMMUNITY ALBUMS DISTINCTIVE

We understand that music and media has a far greater value than just entertainment or commercial return. We believe that music and media has the power to empower, inspire, heal, unite and bring about positive change.

Each project we deliver is unique. They are all:

**LIFE CHANGING** - designed to empower individuals

**VITAL** - excellent in quality

**FORWARD LOOKING** - designed to produce a positive outcome in communities

We are passionate about changing communities through music and media.

## WHY NOT GET INVOLVED AND BUILD BETTER COMMUNITIES WITH US?




### CONTACT US

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### FIND OUT MORE

-  [Community Albums](#)
-  [@communityalbums](#)
-  [@communityalbums](#)
-  [vimeo.com/user11315378](https://vimeo.com/user11315378)

Registered UK Charity: 1140485

# A BIG THANK YOU TO:

**Individual supporters**, who have given their encouragement, time and financial support

**Partner Organisations**, who are delivering amazing programmes. We are fortunate to work with them and play a small role in all they do:

Bonny Downs Community Association  
Britannia Village Primary School  
Glory Farm Primary School  
North Oxfordshire Academy  
Oxfordshire Hospital School  
Salesians of East Africa  
Sanctuary Housing Association  
St Helen's Catholic Primary School  
St Joseph's Vocational Training Centre  
The Salvation Army, Burundi  
The Salvation Army International  
The Children at Risk Action Network  
The Hill Youth and Community Centre  
West Silvertown Foundation

**Grantmakers and Other Organisations**, who have supported us with time, and financial support.

The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust  
The Alabaster Trust  
The Bartle Family Charitable Trust  
Children in Need  
Cherwell District Council  
Easyfundraising  
Jordan & Company  
The Funding Network  
The Make a Difference Trust  
The National Foundation for Youth Music  
Oxfordshire County Council  
The Woodward Charitable Trust

**"Together we are building better communities through music and media"**



## FIND OUT MORE

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