



YOUNG ROOTS

Helping young refugees to realise their potential



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

“ You meet different people from different backgrounds. I’ve met people and my English has improved. I find it hard on my own but I meet new people here and go to new places. They also helped me enroll in college and get a solicitor to apply for status. ”

CONTENTS

Page	
4	A note from the Chair
6	Introduction
6	History and background
7	Our core values
7	Our objectives
9	Bridging London Project
16	Lebanon Project
22	Coming Together Project Nepal
24	Financial, Structure, Management and Governance
26	Thank you to our supporters
27	Charity Information

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Supporters,

Our small charity continues to make a big impact on the lives of the young people we work with. In 2015 our mission to improve the life chances and wellbeing of young refugees and asylum seekers was evident across all of our projects; providing year-round support to over 700 young people in London, weekly activities to over 100 Bhutanese refugee children in Nepal and a daily summer holiday programme with 100 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

We work with young people and children that have been forced to leave their homes due to circumstances beyond their control in search for safety, shelter and a better life. The journey from their homeland can be fraught with danger and unimaginably frightening, often made without family members or caregivers, and without any idea of what they might find at the other end. Those who complete the journey go on to comprise one of the most vulnerable groups in their new communities. Traumatized by war and separation, they often struggle with mental health problems, social isolation, language difficulties and complex housing, social care and legal status issues.

Amidst a climate of global instability there were over 65 million forcibly displaced people in 2015, more than at any point since the aftermath of World War 2. In the words of UN

Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, 'this is not just a crisis of numbers; it is also a crisis of solidarity'. A lack of coordinated response in Europe and the increasingly toxic overtones used to describe refugees by politicians and the press are cause for great concern.

Young refugees and asylum seekers often come to the UK citing its heritage of tolerance, multiculturalism and humanity. This is the society we want them to discover. We have invested this year to become more active in the media and online. By sharing the stories of our young refugees, we hope to contribute to a more humane and kind narrative. With the imminent appointment of a paid Director we will grow our public voice and advocacy work further still in 2016.

Of course there is nothing as powerful as young people expressing their own views and hopes for the future. Our amazing new trustee and former participant, Seada, began her role on the board with a splash. Seada won the Young Woman on the Move Award and bravely shared her experience of fleeing Eritrea and arriving in the UK feeling lost and alone. Young Roots, she said, brought her warmth, stability and care. Now Seada wants to help and inspire other young refugees. She is currently training to become a doctor.

One of our young people in Croydon recently told us that coming to our activities ‘was the first time that anyone had listened to me and believed what I had to say’. Our staff and volunteers are in a privileged position, building trusted relationships with young people that attend our activities on a regular basis. This year we supported 94 young people to seek help from solicitors, housing support officers, counsellors and caseworkers. We have received funding to develop our own casework service over the next three years in London so that our resource now matches the need.

We look forward to 2016 and beyond with renewed optimism having secured the immediate future of our work in London and overseas. The dedication and professionalism of our staff and volunteers continues to astound and I am delighted that we have been able to retain our core staff and grow our London team, and with it the knowledge and relationships that make our work so effective.

Young Roots has a proud record of supporting young refugees and asylum seekers through an engaging and participatory approach that recognises their individual potential and abilities to determine their own needs. Through relationships developed with our staff and other young people, they are able to build skills and

confidence, and gain access to the services and support that they need. While the outlook for young refugees and asylum seekers can appear bleak, the young people we work with are often determined, energetic, talented, compassionate, optimistic and ambitious about their futures.

Thank you all for your continued support.



Jonathan Mawby

Chair of trustees

June, 2016



INTRODUCTION

Young Roots is a charity founded in 2004 (initially under the name Refugee Youth Project) that provides support and activities for young refugees and asylum seekers. Since then, Young Roots has run projects internationally in Lebanon, Egypt and Nepal, and in the UK in London and Manchester. During 2015 we worked with over a thousand young refugees and asylum seekers in Lebanon, Nepal and the UK.

Our projects enable access to educational and social development opportunities for young refugees and asylum seekers and build sustainable community-based networks of support. We develop and share innovative, participatory methodologies to address issues facing young refugees and asylum seekers in the UK and internationally.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Young Roots was founded in 2004 as Refugee Youth Project by Roz Evans, Rachel Yarrow and Kathy Brook. They established the charity with the aim of supporting refugee children and other young refugees in the UK and internationally.

Young Roots became a UK registered charity in April 2005 and has been run as a company limited by guarantee since early 2011.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to improve the wellbeing and life chances of young refugees and asylum seekers in the UK and overseas.

OUR VISION

Our vision is of a world in which all young refugees and asylum seekers can realise their rights and fulfil their potential.

OUR AIMS

Young Roots aims to be respected and known for its innovative and participatory approach to young refugees and asylum seekers self-advocacy and learning.

OUR VALUES

WE BELIEVE that young refugees and asylum seekers are capable of, and should be supported to advocate for, their own and others' rights.

WE BELIEVE that young refugees and asylum seekers should be free from discrimination and should be treated equally.

WE BELIEVE that young refugees and asylum seekers have a right to long-term solutions and should be helped to integrate into local and host communities.

WHO WE ARE HERE FOR

Our services users are young refugees and asylum seekers who are displaced due to armed conflicts and human rights abuses. We deliver services directly to them through the facilitation of activities and through our partners in Lebanon, Nepal and London.



BRIDGING LONDON PROJECT

AIMS

The Bridging London Project began in January 2013 and supports refugee, asylum seeking and migrant young people aged 11-21 years in the London boroughs of Barnet, Brent and Croydon.

Many of our participants have lived through conflict in their country of origin or suffered difficult experiences on their journeys to the UK. About half of the young refugees we work with are in the UK alone. These unaccompanied asylum seeking children are looked after by foster carers or live in shared houses with other young people.

The young refugees and asylum seekers we support face challenges including language barriers, lack of education, social isolation and economic hardship. Our Bridging London Project aims to improve the life chances of young refugees and asylum seekers in the London boroughs of Barnet, Brent and Croydon by providing activities which improve communication and social skills, reduce social isolation, and improve confidence and the ability to problem-solve and seek help.

As this project draws to a close after three inspiring and successful years, we look forward to continuing and expanding our work in London with the Rise Up Project.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

IN 2015, OUR THIRD AND FINAL YEAR OF THE BRIDGING LONDON PROJECT, 701 YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR ACTIVITIES.

WEEKLY AFTERSCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUPS

We have continued running five, weekly, term-time groups for young refugees and asylum seekers in Barnet, Brent and Croydon (including afterschool clubs, girls groups, boys group and mixed youth groups) and monthly girls only activities in Barnet. We offer creative workshops (including music, drama, photography, dance and artwork), cooking, team games, and drop-in advice and information sessions.

This year, we also piloted a football project for young refugees and asylum seekers in Brent and surrounding boroughs. The project was initiated

in partnership with Housing Plus QARA who Young Roots has worked closely with for almost a decade. With regular attendance of 15-25 young people each week, the project was enthusiastically received and participants regularly requested more and longer sessions.

Our youth groups target unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), who are in the care of social services. For these UASC we offer independent living skills workshops (e.g. on rights and entitlements, budgeting and first aid) and invite solicitors and advocates to offer one-to-one advice sessions and follow-up casework.





SATURDAY TRIPS

We have run ten mixed-sex Saturday trips and twelve girls-only trips or workshops for young refugees and asylum seekers this year. These have included visits to the zoo, IMAX cinema, Tate Modern and Museum of London as well as graffiti and film workshops, a tour of Tottenham Hotspurs' stadium, a Croydon football match and bowling.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

We provided activities for young refugees and asylum seekers during Easter, half-terms and summer holidays. These included a girls volleyball activity, art, drama and bike workshops, pedal boating, and trips to a climbing wall, the aquarium, swimming, bowling, ice skating and to Brighton.

During Easter we ran our first joint residential trip with Community Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers and South London Refugee Association for young people from Croydon. In the summer we ran a residential weekend for young people from North London, focused on team building. Sixteen young people participated in these residential trips.

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

In the academic year 2014-5, we have run peer support programmes in a school in Barnet, two colleges in Croydon and one college in Brent. These include lunchtime social groups as well as study support groups for newly arrived young refugees and asylum seekers in ESOL departments. Over 100 young people who are new to the UK and/or have a low level of English have benefited from support from these programmes.

EDUCATION PROJECT AND REFUGEE WEEK

For Refugee Week 2015, we ran 24 lessons and delivered 11 assemblies in secondary schools. Young people also participated in making a film, which won a national competition, to celebrate the contributions that refugees and asylum seekers make in the UK. During the week we attended a Museum of Childhood event, where we coordinated comic strip making and social media tables, and where the film was launched. 54 young people were involved in the film and event.



PARTICIPATION GROUP

Our participation work continued through awarding six Jack Petchey awards in each location. The scheme awards £200 to a young person to spend on something that will benefit the whole group, such as resources or a trip. Nominations are made based on who was a positive influence on the whole group, showed good leadership and team building skills, and was viewed as a good role model. Young people nominated each other and selected the winner. Some of the awards were spent on trips to a restaurant, the cinema and London Eye, resources for our after school club and an end-of-term party.

Another aspect of our participation group this year was training 10 young volunteers to help with peer interviews for an external evaluation conducted in summer 2015.

EXTERNAL EVALUATION

Our latest external evaluation, conducted by Richard Malfait Consultants, invited and received input from 67 young asylum seekers and refugees and 41 stakeholders from within Young Roots and other organisations in Barnet, Brent and Croydon through interviews and online surveys. The evaluation reserved strong praise for our work. According to the report's executive summary:

“It is clear that Young Roots is a very highly valued and respected organisation, recognised for its strong commitment to the needs of the young people it works with, for its emphasis on and practice in a participatory approach and its collaborative and flexible approach to working with other organisations supporting young asylum seekers and refugees.”



PROJECT OUTCOMES

THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS ATTENDING OUR ACTIVITIES FEEL THE PROJECT HAS HELPED THEM IMPROVE THEIR ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS, MAKE FRIENDS AND ACCESS HELP FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

YOUNG REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IMPROVE SOCIAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Having recently arrived in the UK, many young refugees and asylum seekers know little English and for some, learning the language is their first experience of formal education. When asked whether attending our groups and activities has helped their general English speaking and understanding, 71.5% of young people said that it had. Young people have told us their language skills have improved through our groups and that this has had a positive impact on their lives:

“My English has improved and I have learnt to speak it in two years -- I have also made friends and feel happier, more confident. I sang on stage and did a performance -- it’s fun and supportive here -- not like at school”

– Male project user

“When I first came to the UK, I had low self-esteem due to language problems. I felt sad and alone. Now I like it here and I feel safe. Coming to Young Roots activities has helped me improve my communication and language skills. This volunteering certificate will also help me I think”

– Female project user

YOUNG REFUGEES' SOCIAL ISOLATION IS REDUCED

Many of the young refugees and asylum seekers we work with have arrived in the UK after being separated from their local communities, friends or families. They enjoy coming to our activities where they can make friends and connect with others in similar situations:

“It’s helped quite a lot --I didn’t know anybody and had no friends in London and I am staying in a hostel... they make me feel welcome and I get food and friendship.”

– Male project user

80% of young people reported making friends at one (or more) of our groups or activities.

“I made some friends here and they spoke in English with me”

– Male project user

“Young roots makes me happy – they change my mind and my brain – I meet new people and we talk”

– Female project user

Professionals also tell us that our activities help young refugees make friends and develop their social skills.

Young refugees and asylum seekers have increased confidence and ability to problem-solve and seek help.

We organise information and independent living skills workshops for young refugees and asylum seekers including sessions on preventing and dealing with bullying, writing CVs and looking for jobs, leadership skills, internet safety, drug and alcohol awareness, cultural diversity and sexual health. We work with solicitors and counsellors to deliver workshops on the asylum system, dealing with problems and coping with anxiety. With the new understanding gained through these workshops, young refugees and asylum seekers were encouraged to think of practical ways that they might address current and future problems.

“I have seen Young Roots give young people the confidence to deal with their problems; one young person told me after attending the Boys’ Group that it was the first time that anyone had listened to him and believed what he had to say.”

– External stakeholder



The professionals who led workshops also provided follow up one-to-one sessions and referrals to other services. In addition to one-off workshops, we have a solicitor and counsellor providing a monthly drop-in service at our Croydon youth groups.

While most of the young people consulted for our external evaluation told us they primarily came to Young Roots for the groups, opportunities to meet other young people and fun trips, it is clear from their feedback that the safe and trusting environment created through our activities, encourages the young people we work with to approach our staff for support with problems they face.

“You meet different people from different backgrounds. I’ve met people and my English has improved. I find it hard on my own but I meet new people here and go to new places. They also helped me enroll in college and get a solicitor to apply for status.”

– Male project user

Professionals we work with have also commented on the benefits of our activities and the positive relationships we develop with young people:

“The young people are able to develop their confidence and it greatly improves their self-esteem, which is often lacking. The young people feel fully supported and feel able to trust and openly communicate with the staff, which is particularly important for young people who are experiencing problems with social services or remain confused about issues relating to asylum/age disputes.”

– External stakeholder

This year we supported 94 individual young people to seek help from other organisations by making referrals, accompanying them to appointments, and/or arranging for solicitors, counsellors and caseworkers to visit our groups for drop-in advice sessions.

We held 21 drop-in advice sessions resulting in referrals. Often young people experience multiple, complex issues requiring numerous referrals. For example to Coram Children’s Migrant Legal Centre, to counseling services, to social services and to casework services.

LEBANON

AIMS

Established in 2004, our Lebanon Project is based in the refugee camp of Al-Bass, which suffers from chronic unemployment, poverty and a lack of infrastructure. The camp receives no educational, health or social services from the Lebanese government meaning that youth education and well-being are at precariously low levels. Research conducted with Palestinian children in southern Lebanon by Terre des hommes (2009) found that approximately one third of children over the age of 10 drop out of school before completing their primary education, or have never attended school.

Now in its eleventh year the project provides refugee children (6-14 year olds) with five weeks of summer schooling to boost education and improve well-being. In the camp there is neither designated safe space for children to play, nor opportunities for young people to access organised activities outside of formal school. The project provides both factors, as well as exemplary schooling in English and Arabic literacy. Such support is desperately needed by the stretched United Nations-run education programme, which struggles to provide sufficient schooling for the camp. Furthermore, as secondary schooling is conducted in English, the project assists young people in a difficult educational transition, an aspect of the project much appreciated by parents.



ACTIVITIES

Between 3rd August and 5th September 2015, Young Roots, in partnership with the Sour Community Disability Project (SCDP) ran a five-week summer activities project for Palestinian refugee children aged between eight and fourteen years old in the camp of Al Bass. 100 disabled and non-disabled children were overseen by a project team consisting of twelve Youth Workers, eleven Assistants and a Project Coordinator.

The project team was supported by a Project Supervisor, Ambassador and a Steering Committee consisting of local stakeholders and NGO representatives who visited the project regularly to offer support and advice.

'My favourite thing about Young Roots is that it is like a family to me.'
– Young Assistant

A typical day for each class group involved starting with an assembly before literacy support and craft activities, which were based on a new educational theme each week. This year the project also involved two day visits to the Qasmieh River, and a day visit to the public garden in Sour, at the invitation of the Lebanese Red Cross, a highlight for many participants. At the end of the project a graduation ceremony for participants took place attended by parents and community members.

The reputation of the project within the camp continues to grow, with many parents and Youth Workers saying they consider it the best project in Al Bass. Some parents have offered to volunteer for the project to express their gratitude. The project will run again in summer 2016, thanks to various grants and donations, and funding efforts will soon begin anew to support the project from 2017 onwards.



PROJECT OUTCOMES

THE PROJECT IS FULLY INCLUSIVE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

There is a strong visible pride by all involved (including the children) that the project fully integrates disabled and non-disabled children and is the only local project to do so, with 20 disabled children attending this year's project. Disabled children are placed in each group to foster inclusiveness and are given encouragement and assistance to be fully involved throughout. In many conversations during the trustee visit it was emphasised, by staff members and project users alike, that this was the most integral part of the project's identity. Disabled children are still unable to access United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) schooling and therefore the project offers a high valued opportunity for learning, developing confidence, and making friends.

'The thing I most like about the project is the full inclusion of disabled and non-disabled children.'

– Youth Worker

Recently arrived Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) are included in the project giving them the chance to integrate into their new environment

The inclusion of Palestinian Refugees from Syria, 25 in 2015, is an increasingly valued part of the project, with importance for the community spirit in Al-Bass and social cohesion. Palestinian Refugees from Syria had reportedly faced some hostility on arrival, including tensions with local children, who did not fully understand the sudden influx of new arrivals to the camp. The project has contributed to the diffusion of these tensions and misunderstandings between children, with relations reportedly improving over time. This year the project ran sessions specifically on integration and harmony with the new Palestinian Refugees from Syria, including a drama sketch by the children at the graduation ceremony. It is worth noting that several Youth Workers and Assistants are also Palestinian Refugees from Syria, meaning greater inclusion for all ages.





Youth Workers and Young Assistants gain valuable training and work experience whilst acting as positive role models

Classes are run by Youth Workers (young educational workers, often in training or studying at university) with the help of Young Assistants. These Youth Workers foster a spirit of aspiration and show that education can be a fun, engaging and positive experience. The Youth Workers and Assistants also benefit themselves through the work experience and training provided through the project. Ahead of this year's project, an enhanced programme, involving six days of training, was provided to the Youth Workers by local NGOs Right To Play, the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA), and an individual specialist in disability, Sanaa' Kassem. Training focused on academic teaching, learning through play, psychological support, child protection and supporting young people with disabilities. This year the project also introduced an appraisal system for youth workers to be used in their search for future employment.

'I most like being able to give something back to the children and see them enjoy the activities.'
– Youth Worker, who previously attended the project as a project user

NEPAL

AIMS

Young Roots began our work in Nepal in 2007, at which time there were over 100,000 Bhutanese refugees housed in seven refugee camps. Since then, a large resettlement operation has resulted in over 82,000 people leaving Nepal for third countries. As of December 2015, there were 17,134 Bhutanese refugees living in three camps, 35% of which were children under the age of 18. With over three quarters of the population of the camps now having been resettled, community-based social support networks have been disrupted and funding from international organisations has significantly decreased.

In 2014 and 2015 Young Roots continued to work with our project partners to identify and support the most vulnerable Bhutanese children and young people living in difficult circumstances in Beldangi and Sanishare refugee camps. This includes those who are living without their parents, who are carers for elderly or disabled relatives, and / or have dropped out of school to work. We provide targeted support through regular hut visits, weekly group activities and life skills training opportunities.

Our project partners are the Bhutanese Refugee Children Forum (BRCF) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Over the past year we have strengthened our links with Damak municipality, where the camps are located, working to raise awareness and understanding of the needs of refugee children and to ensure their access to local government child protection mechanisms.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

ONGOING IDENTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Project staff maintained a database of the most vulnerable children and young people through regular hut visits, sharing this data with other agencies and referring children to the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) for additional support. Those identified received targeted intervention.

WEEKLY SOCIAL SUPPORT

The BRCF and refugee staff facilitated weekly educational and social activities for vulnerable children across the three camps including drama, debating, music, sports, literature, gardening and art. Key safeguarding concerns, such as child labour and sexual and gender-based violence, were explored in a child-sensitive manner.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AWARENESS-RAISING AND ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

BRCF facilitators supported young people to run activities to raise awareness of child rights. For example, this year, refugee children, alongside children from the host community, learnt about



child labour and produced educational posters of their own design that were printed and disseminated to schools.

VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATION SUPPORT

BRCF provided children at risk of dropping out of school with supported homework sessions, and assisted children who had already dropped out to return to education. Some older children were provided with vocational training.

LIFE SKILLS AND PEER EDUCATION TRAINING

Life Skills and Peer Support training was delivered by Prakash Koirala, our children's rights and participation facilitator, covering topics such as communication skills, teamwork, confidence building, managing stress, decision-making and problem solving techniques. Participants learned how to deliver the training to their peers, using a specially-produced life skills training manual.

CO-ORDINATION WITH DAMAK MUNICIPALITY

Young Roots has been working to ensure that local refugee children have access to local government child protection mechanisms, which we view as particularly important given declining levels of support from international NGOs. As part of this initiative, we work to increase the awareness and understanding of local government staff of the specific protection needs of refugee children.

In the past year we have facilitated camp visits for local government staff, organised child protection training, contributed to regular child protection working committee meetings, and have run workshops and conferences.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND REDUCED SOCIAL ISOLATION

- Weekly out of school activity clubs were held for vulnerable refugee children in all three camps. On average 122 children attended each week.
- Joint initiatives between local Nepali and refugee young people continued to strengthen relationships. A network of 21 children's clubs, from both the refugee and host community, came together on a bi-monthly basis to share best practice. On average 40 children and young people attended these meetings.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS

- Bhutanese Refugee Children Forum (BRCF) staff continued to maintain a database of the most vulnerable children and to identify their changing needs. This improved access to support and services for vulnerable refugee children and 112 cases of children at risk were referred to the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG).
- 15 camp committee meetings were held by the BRCF across all three camps. The meetings provided a platform for children and young people to share their ideas and take ownership of their needs. On average 45 young people attended the meetings.

- Increased awareness of the specific needs and rights of vulnerable refugee and host community children, by agencies and amongst community members. One key achievement was a one-day workshop on child labour, which included representatives from the refugee camps, local schools, police, local media and Child Network.
- The camp child protection working committee continued to develop its partnership with local host child protection committees and to share best practice. Workshops were held on protection issues for both host and refugee children. Collaboration between key stakeholders is strengthening.

INCREASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- BRCF organised after school study clubs that were attended by, on average, 94 children and young people, who had been identified as those at risk of dropping out of school.
- 25 young people who dropped out of school were supported to re-enroll.

INCREASED TRAINING, WORK AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

- 21 young people received vocational training, including computer training, catering and electrician training.
- 32 young people took part in six days of Life Skills Training. This focussed on communication skills, identification of vulnerability, self-awareness, managing stress, problem solving, decision making, negotiation and facilitation.

'I am vulnerable because I don't have a father and I act as a guardian because my mum is frequently sick. Before coming to the Bhutanese Refugee Children's Forum (BRCF), I was very shy and found it difficult to talk in front of groups or adults but the BRCF has helped me to become pro-actively involved in the community, to do better and become a leader. Life Skills Training showed me how to sustain my life, how to manage work and study and most importantly how to share the skills that I learned...'

- Nepal Project User 2015



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In the year ended 30th November 2015, Young Roots' total income from grants and donations was £186,375 (2014: £162,998). More details are available in our published Financial Statements.

RESERVES POLICY

Our reserves policy is to have enough unrestricted income to wind down the charity were it to become necessary, including paying staff redundancy costs. Since there are overseas projects, we also keep enough in reserve to ensure that we could pay additional travel or accommodation costs in the event of an emergency. The majority of our work is grant funded. Over the next three years we would like to build our reserves in line with a projected increase in income to create less reliance on significant grants in the short term.

STRUCTURE, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Young Roots is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and governed by its articles of association. Prior to its incorporation, Young Roots (formerly named Refugee Youth Project) was constituted as an unincorporated charitable association and was registered with charity number 1109104. Young Roots commenced operating as a company in February 2011.

The directors of the company are also trustees for the purpose of charity law. Any person who is willing to act as a trustee, and who would not be disqualified under the provision of Article 27 of the Articles, may be appointed to be a trustee by a decision of the trustees.

At every annual meeting of the trustees at which the Financial Statements are adopted after the third anniversary of the incorporation of the charity, one third of the trustees, being those who have served the longest since their appointment or reappointment must retire from office. Retiring trustees may be appointed but a trustee who has served for two consecutive terms of office must take a break from office.

The trustees have a wide range of skills pertinent to the charity. The trustees' knowledge is kept up to date by reading and training courses. New developments are discussed at meetings.

Our volunteer trustees remain responsible for the overall running of the charity, including the management of our projects in London, Lebanon and Nepal, fundraising strategies and the development of new projects. Thousands of hours of voluntary time is spent managing and growing the charity each year, with our trustees drawing on professional experience including academia, teaching, law and accountancy.

THE TRUSTEES OF YOUNG ROOTS CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE CONSIDERED AND HAVE REGARD FOR THE CHARITY COMMISSION'S STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON PUBLIC BENEFIT.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Special thanks to our funders and partners:

FUNDERS

BBC Children in Need
 Big Lottery Funding Grant – Awards for All
 Big Lottery Funding Grant – Reaching Communities
 The Bower Trust
 Christian Rebuild
 The Edith M Ellis Charitable Trust
 First Give
 Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Award Scheme
 John Lyon's Charity
 London Catalyst
 The Network for Social Change
 Wembley National Stadium Trust

PARTNERS

Amnesty International
 Bhutanese Refugee Children Forum
 Caras
 College of Northwest London
 Counterpoints Arts
 Coram Children's Legal Centre
 Croydon College
 Croydon Young Refugee Network
 John Ruskin College
 Housing Plus QARA
 Lutheran World Federation-Nepal
 Off the Record- Compass
 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Nepal
 United Nations Relief and Works Agency
 Right to Play, Lebanon
 South London Refugee Association
 Sour Community Disability Project
 Trafford Hall
 Whitefield School

THANKS TO ALL OUR STAFF, SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS:

Great thanks to all our staff, supporters and volunteers for their dedication, skill, all financial assistance, and for spreading the word about our work to support young refugees and asylum seekers.

STAFF

Fatma Ali
 Shahin Aslam
 Katherine Auber-Hill
 Roz Evans
 Eoin Flavin
 Alice Griffey
 Hana Hamaz
 Naji Harfouche
 Michele Kirschstein
 Hannah Marcos
 Katrina Munir
 Djamal Naser
 Caroline Neita
 Tung Nguyen
 Cadi St. John
 Despina Tsiakalou

INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

Serena Esiri-Bloom
 Sara Immé
 Charlene Jollivet
 Freddie Knaggs
 Dein Lawson
 Aziz Maarij
 Tina Macintyre
 Layla Mearns
 Temi Otesile
 Pavle Popovic
 Mohammed Rafiq
 Beverly Sharma
 Zara Sumpton
 Phil Surgeon
 Helen Tsehay
 Neide Van Dunem

Thanks also to our many Saturday trip volunteers.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

B Ahmed (resigned 21.03.2015)

G Ayres

J I Barnes (resigned 18.1.2015)

R Bayley (appointed 23.03.2015)

G L Capel

C Delaney (resigned 31.10.2015)

S Fekadu (appointed 31.10.2015)

S A Foster

V Ing

D Jones

L Kyrke-Smith (resigned 05.09.2015)

J Mawby

T S S Mawby

C L Pennel l (resigned 13.01.2015)

N Prendergast

S Singleton (appointed 05.09.2015)

R Trayner (appointed 05.09.2015 then resigned 31.10.2015)

K Van Balen (appointed 05.09.2015)

THANK YOU TO ALL THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR PROJECTS AND SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCE, ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM WITH US THIS YEAR.

CHARITY INFORMATION

Registered Office:

Young Roots,
Cornerstone House, 14 Willis Road, Croydon,
CR0 2XX, UK

Young Roots is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.

Registered Company no: 7448744

Registered Charity no: 1139685



*“Young roots makes me
happy – they change my
mind and my brain – I meet
new people and we talk ”*



YOUNGROOTS

Helping young refugees to realise their potential

**Annual Report
2015**

youngroots.org.uk