

# Annual Review 2015/16

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Rosie May  
Foundation  
[www.rosie-may.com](http://www.rosie-may.com)

Established 2004 in loving memory  
of 10 year old Rosie May  
UK Registered Charity No. 1113049

## Cover Photo Story



Lydia Shacklock was awarded the prestigious title of ambassador for the Rosie May Foundation in January 2016. Lydia is a talented dancer and successfully gained a place in the Rosie May Academy for inspiring young performers when she was just 14 years old. Since then, Lydia has fundraised for the Rosie May Foundation in many creative and initiative ways. When Lydia reached 18 years she knew that she wanted to volunteer in Sri Lanka and this is exactly what she did. This photograph shows Lydia leaving her handprint on our volunteer wall, which is now an iconic image for the Rosie May Foundation and testimony to the many volunteers who together, have made a difference to the lives of girls living in the Rosie May home. We have had the honour to witness this creative young girl develop into a remarkable young women and feel that she embodies the very essence of the Rosie May Foundation.

*'Being an ambassador really means so much to me, the Rosie May Foundation has given me the most special and incredible experiences of my life, and inspired me to keep giving back for the rest of my life' Lydia*

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## The Rosie May Foundation

Over the past twelve years, the Rosie May Foundation, has developed from a family-run charity to an international charity with a strategy to help children in crisis, especially girls. Our work at grassroots level is a practical 'hands on approach' which allows children to have a voice and importantly, a choice, in their own future.

**The Rosie May Foundation is a little Charity with a BIG vision which aims to:**

**R**e-unite and re-integrate children by strengthening families to become self-sustainable and prevent abandonment of babies and children.

**M**aintain truly innovative and meaningful projects for children and young adults in crisis that are fundamentally sustainable and ethical, by developing effective community relations to understand the need for such projects.

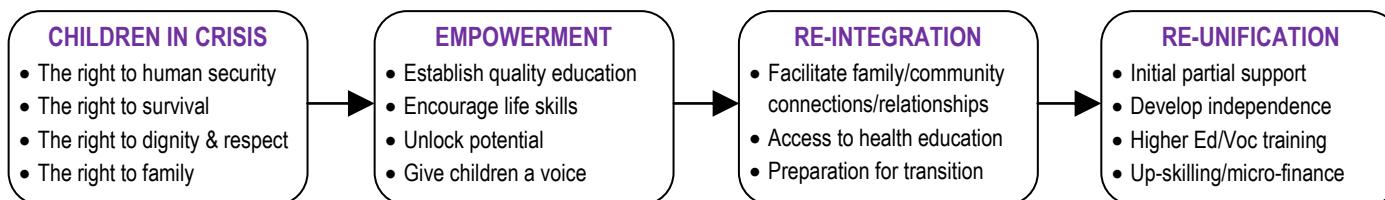
**F**ocus on gender equality by empowering girls and young women in under privileged circumstances, to break the cycle of poverty and unlock potential through a quality education, in consonance with human rights and human dignity, for a brighter and more equitable future.

The Rosie May Foundation is currently partnered with local NGO's in the UK, Sri Lanka and Nepal to work together on development projects which have emerged initially in response to catastrophes (2004 Asian Tsunami, 2015 Nepal Earthquakes), that place children in crisis, especially girls.

“ *Making a Difference Together* ”

### The Rosie May Foundation's Model of sustainable development

Many children, especially girls in Sri Lanka and Nepal are abandoned or relinquished by their mothers to orphanages in the hope their child will obtain a good education and a better future. The Rosie May foundation has developed a model which offers an alternative to institutionalisation, which, contrary to the perceptions of parents, condemn children to a largely hopeless future. The Rosie May Foundation works at a grass roots level, firstly to strengthen families at risk of separation by identifying needs. Empowering girls through education and a rights based approach, to give young women a voice and contribute to the success of their own future. Where possible, re-integration with family and community to achieve the ultimate outcome of family re-unification and self-sustainability to realise human and child rights.



## Mary Storrie, Co-Founder/Director



**"Tragedy can happen to anyone** at any time, and ours was every parent's nightmare. My personal tragedy, gave me the determination to do something extraordinary with my life and create a living legacy to my beautiful daughter. I wanted to give children in crisis a future, one that Rosie May had tragically been denied. In December 2004, we decided with our two sons, to escape the horrific recollections of the Christmas before. On Christmas day, we planted a little palm tree for Rosie May on boxing day, as we stood on the shore of the Indian Ocean the 2004 Tsunami hit. People told us we were 'lucky' to survive. After the tsunami we went to find the tiny palm tree and incredulously, it too had survived, stood upright with debris swirling around it. We knew that Rosie May was watching over us and had kept us, her brothers and the tiny palm tree safe. This was the inspiration for our very first project, the Rosie May home for girls, orphans of the tsunami in Sri Lanka".

**The Rosie May Foundation empowers girls** through education, to know that they are equal to boys and teaches them that every girl can achieve the same as a boy, if not better! Rosie May's mantra at ten years old was "girl power", so how very fitting her living legacy is and how very proud she must be.

**Over the last eight years**, I have had the privilege to get to know each and every one of the inspirational girls at the Rosie May home and be part of their transformation into confident young women. The Rosie May Home has successfully re-united 44% of sisters and 29% of girls who have been re-united with single or adoptive parents. Over 70% of girls are in regular contact with a single parent or family. These results are in total contrast to government run orphanages whose results of re-unification are significantly lower. This is testimony to the nurturing, family environment that has been created, and is why we call it a home, and not an orphanage. The Rosie May home is now self-sustainable through a successful child sponsorship programme and continues to reunite sisters and empower girls through a quality education to break the cycle of poverty and institutionalisation.

**Project Hope** has developed, in partnership with the Manacare Foundation, as part of our strategy to plug the source of unnecessary institutionalisation in Sri Lanka by offering an alternative for single mothers, rather than having no choice but to abandon their baby to an orphanage. This is a huge leap for the Rosie May foundation, and a vital step for Sri Lankan mums who desperately want to keep their babies when there is no family or state support to help them. The key focus is to prevent abandonment of babies and young children by providing support and empowering single mothers to help themselves, improving their life chances and outcomes and those of their children.

**Re-build Nepal** our most recent project was inspired by our experience of witnessing the aftermath of the 2015 Earthquake in Nepal. Plans are underway for 2016 to, in partnership with SAHAS, re-build a school in our sherpa's village in the lower Everest region of the Himalayas, provide access to secondary education for girls by improving conditions in a remote hostel and capacity building of a women's progressive group in rural Nepal.

Little by little, or 'tikka tikka' as the people of Sri Lanka say, the Rosie May foundation continues to thrive and turn tragedy into hope for so many inspirational children. Of course, we cannot do this without the ongoing kindness and compassion of our supporters, we thank each and every one of you.

**Mary Storrie**

# The Rosie May Home – Sri Lanka

## The Rosie May Home ...

... opened in December 2008 with just five children and is now home to 20 bright and lively girls age 4 to 18 years.

... works in partnership with the People In Need Foundation, our Sri Lankan partner charity, this unique, family orientated home aims to reunite siblings and enable reunification with parents or family.

... offers individualised care where every girl is nurtured to unlock potential and empower them to strive for a brighter and better future.

...continues to support girls when they leave the Rosie May home to find employment or progress to higher education.

... ensures a quality education, after school tuition, counselling and IT skills to create employment and higher education opportunities.

... is a family home where all of the girls, even the littlest, have a daily routine which involves responsibility for their personal laundry, domestic chores and cooking

... teaches life skills, tradition and culture are passed onto the girls, essential for their future, as they strive to develop into independent young women.

... is self-sustaining through our sponsorship scheme which includes wages for live-in house mothers and additional support staff, tuition, food, clothing, medical care, utilities and ongoing maintenance. The girls also enjoy outings and extra-curricular activities.

'empowering girls to strive for a brighter and better future'



# Project Hope and Community Outreach – Sri Lanka

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There are over 24,000 children in orphanages in Sri Lanka and incredulously over 80% have a single parent or extended family. Children are placed into orphanages, not always because mothers abandon them, but often because many single or widowed mothers simply do not have the financial means to support their children.

We believe that every child, wherever possible, should be with their family. Even some of the girls in the small, caring, family-orientated Rosie May Home will tell us that they want to be with their mum, knowing they will return to living in poverty. A 'world without orphans' is of course, a utopian vision and there will always be some children who have no family, have complex needs or are at risk; like some of our girls at the Rosie May Home.

Project Hope was launched, in partnership with the Manacare Foundation, as a pilot project in late 2015 and is already supporting 102 babies and children to live at home with their single parent mums who live below the poverty line (which in Sri Lanka is GBP £20 per month).

The Rosie May Foundation provides opportunities for skills training and support to help mums keep and care for their babies and young children. Hope House is a small residential home for mothers in crisis and their babies and children, used as a transit home until mum can return to live in the community. We believe that strengthening families is the vital ingredient to eliminate the source of unnecessary institutionalisation.

Throughout 2016, we will upscale and expand the outreach of the pilot project by developing the following facilities:

- Day Care Centre
- After school English and sports clubs
- Summer English and sports camps
- Girls Scholarship programme for higher education
- Mums and daughters water safety and surf club
- Women's Training Centre courses
- Micro-finance program
- Women's health education and sanitation project

# Manguri Girls' Hostel – Nepal

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The Mugu District in Nepal has only one senior school. The school provides education for year 1 to 10 schooling and supports a population of 508 students (237 girls and 271 boys). The facility services a geographic region encompassing seven Village Development Committees (five in Karan Area and two in Gum area).

Located nearby is a 20 room hostel that accommodates up to 64 girls whose villages are located beyond commuting distance. To gain access to education, the hostel was constructed to provide boarding for girls from low socio-economic families (children from wealthy families are boarded and educated at private schools in Kathmandu). The hostel is very basic, with only two toilets, no bathrooms, no running water, no lighting, no fencing and no furniture beyond makeshift beds.

Girls accommodated at the hostel are expected to bathe in open space with water sourced from a well located ten minutes away on foot. Studying in the evenings is hazardous, groups of girls huddle around a candle on the floor. These inspirational girls are totally committed to their education even in these extremely basic of conditions.

This project, in partnership with SAHAS, is providing safe, secure accommodation for girls to improve their health, well-being, self-sufficiency and raise educational achievement of underprivileged girls.

The project comprises the following developments:

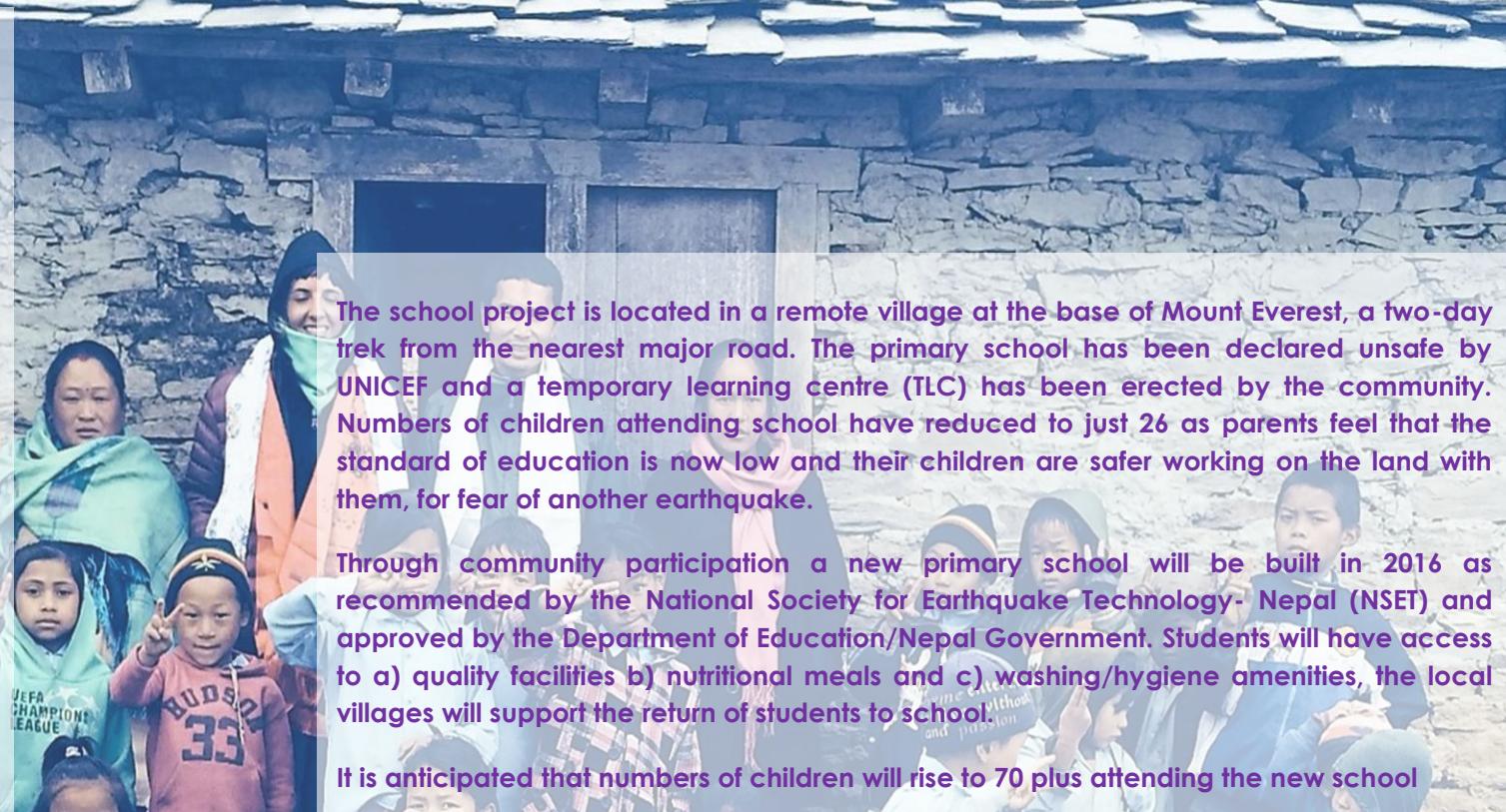
- Provision of piped drinking water
- Additional toilets and bathrooms
- Perimeter fencing
- Basic furniture
- Greenhouse to provide food security

# Re-build Nepal – Okhaldhunga District School, Nepal

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In 2015, while leading a team of twelve trekkers on the Rosie May Foundation Himalayan charity trek, we experienced the aftermath of the earthquake in Nepal. We were inspired to help the many children who continue to live in crisis a year on. Girls are more at risk than before, of being trafficked and education has been abruptly halted as many children cannot return to their schools as they are deemed unsafe by UNICEF.

We plan, in partnership with SAHAS, to re-build a safe, earthquake proof school in the foothills of Mount Everest. This is the school of the Sherpa who led our trek. In many cases, the only structure that totally collapsed in a village was the school and had either of the (two) earthquakes struck on a weekday, UNICEF estimates that over 500,000 Nepalese children would have been killed or injured.



The school project is located in a remote village at the base of Mount Everest, a two-day trek from the nearest major road. The primary school has been declared unsafe by UNICEF and a temporary learning centre (TLC) has been erected by the community. Numbers of children attending school have reduced to just 26 as parents feel that the standard of education is now low and their children are safer working on the land with them, for fear of another earthquake.

Through community participation a new primary school will be built in 2016 as recommended by the National Society for Earthquake Technology- Nepal (NSET) and approved by the Department of Education/Nepal Government. Students will have access to a) quality facilities b) nutritional meals and c) washing/hygiene amenities, the local villages will support the return of students to school.

It is anticipated that numbers of children will rise to 70 plus attending the new school

# Sanitary Hygiene – Sanitary Pad Manufacture

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In some societies, there are superstitious beliefs that women are impure during menstruation. Young women live outside the home for the duration of their period and are brought food, as the kitchen in particular is considered an inappropriate venue for them to be present in. In many of these communities, young women do not have the financial means to purchase commercially produced sanitary pads and so they utilise what options are available to them. Some use, and reuse, cloth that is neither hygienic nor properly cleaned, while others may utilise a leaf with mud. Such practices encourage poor hygiene and frequently results in infections, poor health and absenteeism from school one week of every month.

A women's health education project is planned for 2016/2017 in Sri Lanka and Nepal.

A low cost, mechanically simple sanitary pad production unit that utilises natural and readily available materials will produce very low cost sanitary pads.

By producing a product that is both hygienically safe and affordable, young women can utilise sanitary products throughout their menstruation without the embarrassment they have faced for so many years.

This innovative solution will provide employment for women operating the production unit. (see inset photo)

With minimal training, women can produce up to 40,000 sanitary pads per month from a single production unit at a very low price, the production facility can become self-sustaining.

The Rosie May Foundation plans to fund an initial pilot production facility in Sri Lanka and replicate the model in Nepal.



## Working with Volunteers in 2015-16

A huge thank you to our global Volunteers from the UK, Germany, Spain, Estonia, Hong Kong, Australia, Japan and the US for participating in our ethical volunteer program in Sri Lanka.

We make sure that our volunteers have a good understanding of what is expected which we believe is critical to achieving a positive impact to empower children and volunteers.

We utilise volunteer's skills and talents to develop projects and English language programmes with local communities. To provide continuity, short and long term volunteers work alongside local people so that our programmes are sustainable.

Over thirty volunteers got involved in 2015/16 and achieved ... Art Therapy Day, Gardening & Growing project, Jewellery making, Sewing, Photography Club, Bread making, Yoga lessons, Origami lessons, Saturday water safety & surf club for girls, afterschool English lessons, IT groups, dance class, training skills for women and much more





## Fantastic Fundraising in 2015-16 - International

The Rosie May Foundation undertakes numerous fundraising activities every year. Thank you to each and every one of our Inspirational Individuals who have raised funds we couldn't do what we do without you!

### INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING –

**Rosie May tea parties £4,129** - Over forty tea parties were held all over the world on Rosie May's birthday including the Rosie May home! Kindly sponsored by Tattlers Ceylon Tea.

**Trek Sahara 2015 - £4,767** - trekkers Mel Thornton, David Blanchard and Michael Bird braved the Sahara Desert

**Valencia Marathon - £1,222** was raised by Vincent Salva in this gruelling marathon

**Trek Nepal 2015 - £24,159** was raised by a team of 12 trekkers – 6 from the UK and 6 from Australia

**Take time out and do something extraordinary .....**



## Fantastic Fundraising in 2015-16 – National & Local



### NATIONAL FUNDRAISING –

London Virgin Marathon - £2,082 raised by runners Lucy Simpson and Matt Jordan

London BUPA 10k - £6,127 raised by a team of 35 runners from all over the UK

### LOCAL FUNDRAISING –

Living on £1 a Day - £4,021 raised by Nottingham Trent University students who lived below the poverty line for a week followed by a cold February night sleeping on the streets of Nottingham! This incredible amount was match funded by Santander

*Take time out and do something extraordinary .....*

Rosie May Home



**36 girls to date aged 4 to 18**

Project Hope & Outreach



**102 babies**

**60 School Aged Children**

Manguri Girls' Hostel



**64+ GIRLS**

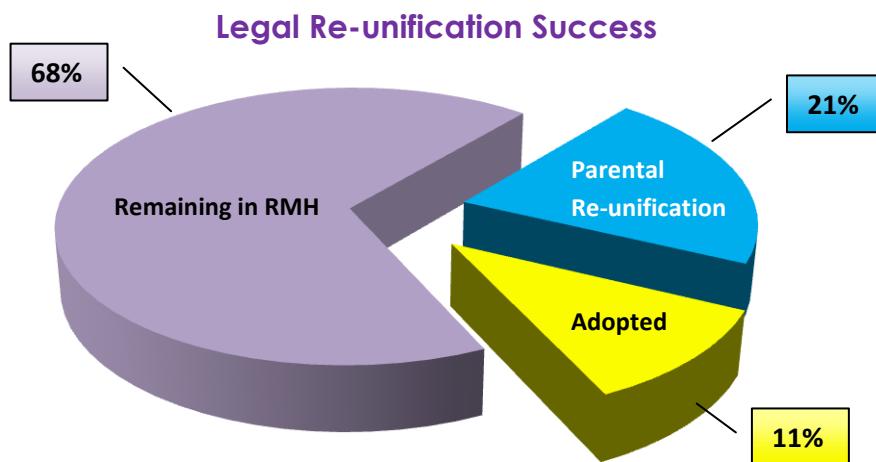
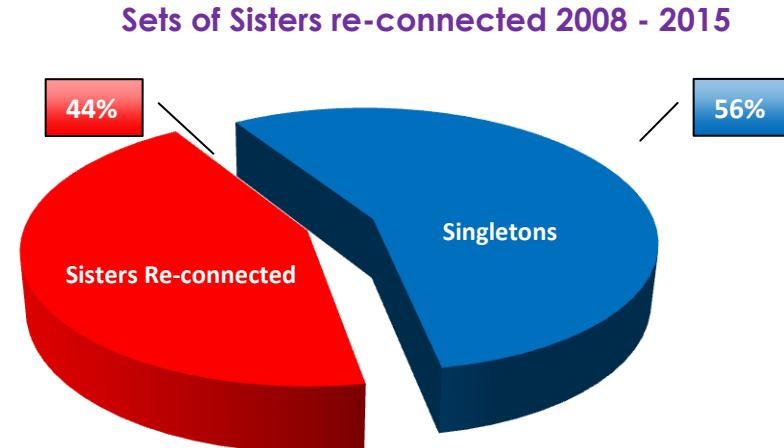
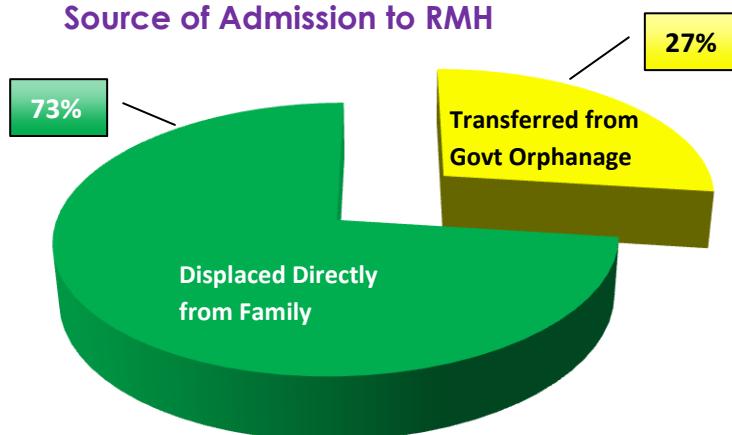
Okhaldhunga School



**26 CHILDREN  
AGED 6 TO 10**

**Increasing to 70+ over 2017**

## Rosie May Home - Outcomes and Information



Over 7 years, 32% of girls have been legally re-united with a parent, placed in kinship care or adopted

Over 7 years, 44% of girls have been re-united with siblings and able to remain together in the RMH

# A Trip to Udawalawa

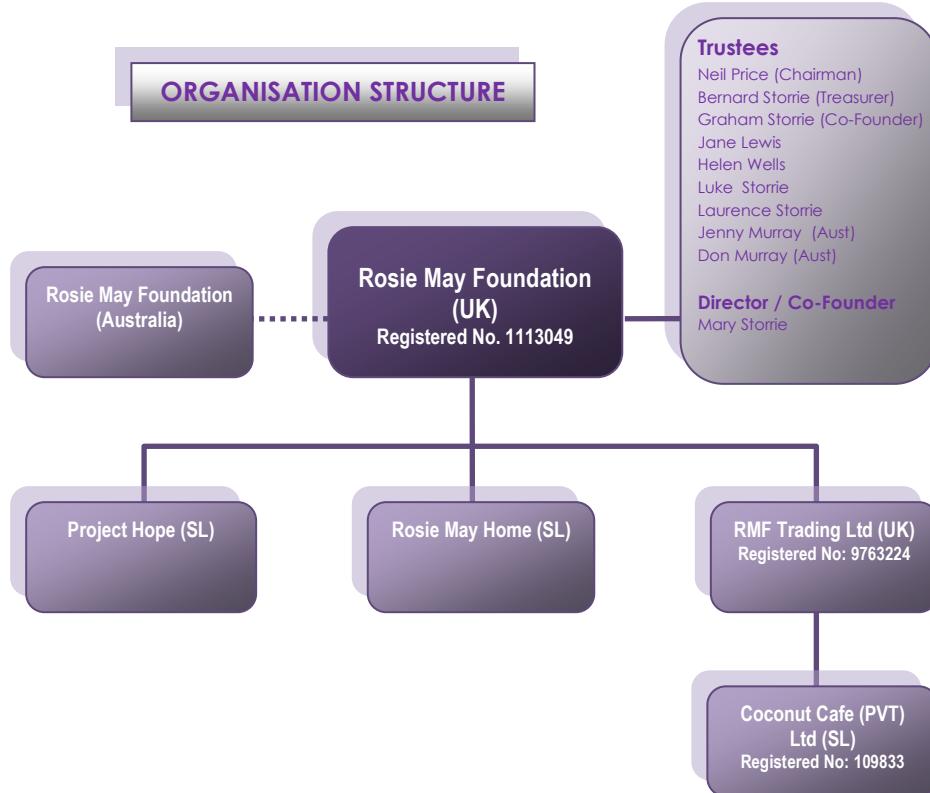
Asanthi - පෙරේසන්

my name is Asantni.  
I live in the Rosie May.  
home in Sri Lanka.  
my favorite color is pink  
my favorite food is straw berries  
  
Tillani Asantni Achcha  
I live with my sister

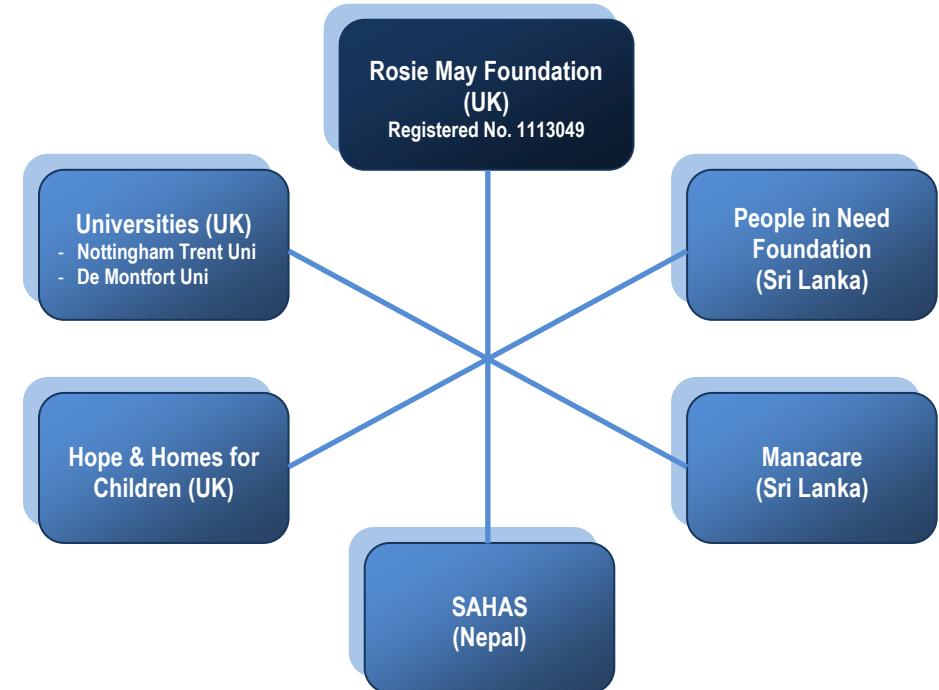


# Organisation Structure, Partnerships and Patrons

## ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



## FORMAL PARTNERSHIPS



## PATRONS



*"I am deeply honoured to be a patron for the Rosie May Foundation and support this local charity, who are doing amazing work giving children, especially girls, a future, both here and overseas"*

Emma, Duchess of Rutland



*"The Rosie May Foundation is vital in helping vulnerable children with limited life chances grow to their fullest potential in a loving environment."*

*"As a former volunteer, it's a real honour to be a patron of such a worthwhile charity"*

Geeta Pendse, BBC Presenter/Reporter



*"The legacy of the Rosie May academy is the talent and commitment of the girls that have graduated. What inspires me as a patron, is the fantastically high proportion that have gone on to stage schools and into my industry, all in the name of Rosie May"*

Charlotte Gordon, West End Musical Theatre Actress

## Financial Information

Summary Consolidated  
Statement of Financial Activities  
Year Ended 31 January

**Incoming resources:**

|                                 | FY 2016        | FY 2015        |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                 | £GBP           | £GBP           |
| From donations                  | 26,830         | 26,619         |
| From sponsors                   | 34,470         | 22,064         |
| From fundraising activity       | 37,028         | 75,993         |
| From giftaid                    | 2,968          | 2,621          |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b> | <b>101,296</b> | <b>127,297</b> |

**Resources expended:**

|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Charitable expenditure          | 51,565        |
| Cost of fundraising activity    | 27,736        |
| General operating cost          | 5,905         |
| <b>Total resources expended</b> | <b>85,206</b> |

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>                 | <b>16,090</b> |
| Cash funds carried forward previous year | 184,965       |

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Funds carried forward at 31 January</b> | <b>235,563</b> |
| Cash funds carried forward previous year   | 219,473        |

Summary Consolidated  
Balance Sheet  
Year Ended 31 January

**Fixed Assets:**

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| RMF Trading Limited | 20,660 |
|---------------------|--------|

**Current Assets:**

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Bank Account | 212,380 |
|--------------|---------|

**Current Liabilities:**

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Creditors (Short Term) | 2,524 |
|------------------------|-------|

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Bank Account | 0 |
|--------------|---|

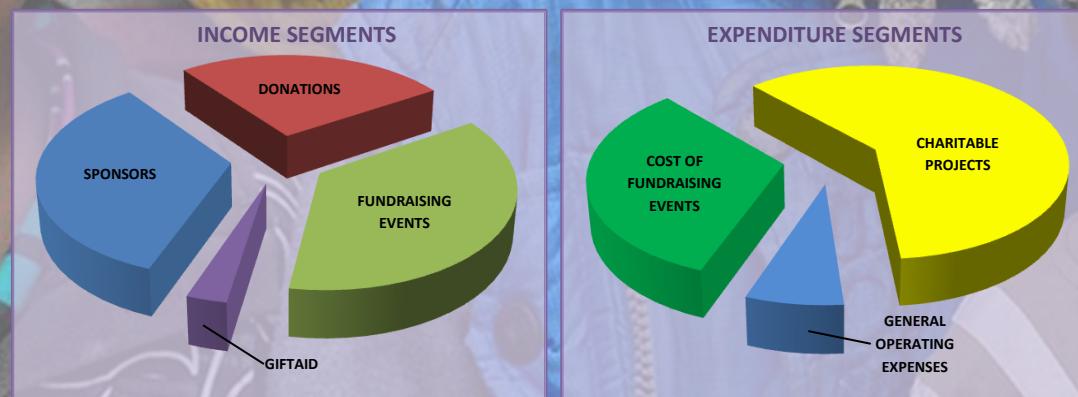
|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Current Assets less Current Liabilities | 214,904 |
|---|---------|

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b> | <b>235,564</b> |
|--|----------------|

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Reserves</b> | <b>235,564</b> |
|-----------------|----------------|

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016

- Reserves Policy:**  
 To ensure the charity can meet both current commitments and ensure long term sustainability, Rosie May Foundation has determined that the reserves should be held in unrestricted funds to cover:
  - a minimum of one year's operating costs of projects and employment liabilities.
  - meet current cash flow requirements.
  - opportunities to invest in new projects prior to securing full funding.
 As at the 31 January 2016, reserves meet this requirement.
- 100% of Sponsor contributions are held in a separate account and directed to the relevant support project with no administrative costs applied.





Rosie May

Foundation

[www.rosie-may.com](http://www.rosie-may.com)

Established 2004 in loving memory of 10 year old Rosie May

UK Registered Charity No. 1113049

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