

AN IMPORTANT YEAR FOR THE HOME AND THE TRUST

This year saw the twentieth anniversary of the death of Anita Goulden. Her sacrifice and dedication in caring for abandoned and disabled children in Piura still inspires the Anita Goulden Home, which has continued her work, but has now evolved into a residential facility specialising in the care and treatment of children and young people suffering the effects of infantile cerebral palsy. The Home provides personal care, health

care, physical therapy, spiritual and emotional support, recreation, and education, all tailored to the needs of each individual resident. The Trust has now been working for more than thirty years. Established in 1991 to manage a surge of donations following the appearance of Anita Goulden's inspiring story in the UK media, its founding trustees can hardly have imagined that, so many years later, the Trust would not only still

exist, but also be looking forward to supporting the Anita Goulden Home for years into the future. Some credit is no doubt due to the efforts of a succession of dedicated volunteer Trustees, but fundamentally the Trust is still here because of the donors who have continued to give their support, many of them since the Trust's foundation. Huge thanks are due to all of them.



Physical therapy



Virginia and Pedro prepare to dance a Marinera

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

The past year has been one of relative calm for the Trust. There have been no changes in the board of Trustees, who have kept in regular contact with each other, both in formal Trustees' meetings and informally. Every quarter, the Chair of Trustees and the Treasurer have had a Zoom meeting with the local Committee in Piura. These virtual meetings were well attended by the Committee members and their engagement with and commitment to the Home are very apparent.

The Trust takes seriously its responsibility to donors for oversight of how their donations are being applied. As well as

receiving financial accounts from the Home, Trustees have, over many years, made visits to the Home to see for themselves. Principally because of the Covid pandemic, there has been no visit to the Home for some time. Other commitments have meant that no Trustee could travel to Piura this year. Instead, a person based in Lima, Annie Buse, was introduced to us by Trustee Kate Arthur, and made a visit to the Home on our behalf. This took place over three days in October 2022.

She reports that the Committee is doing an excellent job, being present in the Home and always looking after the residents' needs.

She found the residents to be happy, despite their disabilities and looked after with real affection by the staff.

The Home looked clean and well maintained, but it is not new and needs some repairs and modernization. It also needs some additional medical equipment, including an electric hoist for moving the residents, and replacement of outdated or defective medical equipment and domestic appliances. The Trust is asking the Committee for a cost estimate, so that it can consider funding these needed investments.



Committee members, staff and residents welcome Annie Buse

NEWS FROM THE HOME

The Peruvian charitable Association that runs the Home has about 20 members and is led by a Committee, whose two-year term of office began in the middle of 2021 and which meets weekly. We are indebted to the Committee and especially to its Chair, Sra. Lola Santivañez, for the following news update.

Especially after the Trust was forced, some four years ago, to reduce the amount of its regular payments, The Home requires careful financial management. Fortunately, the local community gives a lot of support. About a dozen companies and a number of individual donors and voluntary organisations make regular donations in kind, which together provide almost all the Home's requirements for food, medicines and supplies. The Home also benefits from donations of food under local government social programmes.

On the staffing front, the Home now has a teacher who attends three times per week to teach the residents. Formerly, three of the children were registered at a local special school, but it had become difficult or impossible to transport them there and back.

A physiotherapist has been contracted, who attends once per month to monitor the condition of residents and issue regular reports about their muscular and motor development. A young man has joined the staff to fill the general services function that had been vacant since the death from Covid of Rolo Moscol in 2020. His ability to help the nursing staff in moving the residents around is very valuable. Staff training has included several presentations by outside specialists, mostly in physical therapy and rehabilitation. During the year, Peru faced its third and fourth waves of Covid and, as in many other countries, this produced more cases but



Enjoying an outing to the University grounds

fewer hospitalisations and deaths. In the most recent one, eight residents of the Home and some staff members were infected. The situation is now under control, and everyone has recovered well. The residents and staff had had their two jabs plus the booster, with the residents' vaccinations being administered at the Home. There are now 15 residents, up from 13 at the height of the Covid pandemic. The Home has capacity for up to 4 further residents. One new entrant was an adolescent, and another was 5-year-old boy who had been suffering from malnutrition and was in a precarious emotional state. He rapidly improved under the care of the staff and is enjoying his new life in the Home. One girl joined the Home but sadly had to leave after six months, being diagnosed with schizophrenia, which the Home is unable to manage. Personal care is provided by the Home's nursing staff and is quite

demanding. For example, only 2 or 3 of the residents can feed themselves and some are fed through a gastric feeding tube. The nurse technicians' shift working has been arranged to ensure 24-hour care of the residents whilst sharing the nurses' work commitments equitably. A physical therapist works with the residents during the mornings, six days per week.

The residents are all registered with the national health system, SIS. Their medical care is provided in the first instance by a nearby health centre, whilst more serious issues are dealt with by the local Santa Rosa Hospital. For those residents with families, parental approval is required for them to be hospitalised. When cases are beyond the capabilities of the Hospital, private medical specialists must be involved. The cost of this would be beyond the Home's ability to pay, but doctors from among the personal contacts of

the local Committee have donated their time and skills when needed. Through SIS the residents have monthly access to a neurologist to assess their condition, and twice yearly they are seen by a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Their nutritional state is managed by monthly control of their weight and six-monthly blood and biochemical tests. The residents have all recently had a dental examination, followed by treatment where required. When the Trust last spoke to the Committee, one 19-year-old resident was awaiting surgery to treat a hernia, and another had been in hospital for 15 days with pneumonia but was fully recovered. The mental and spiritual health of the residents is also cared for.

Outings to be in contact with nature were stopped by Covid but have now resumed. A group of students from the local university donate their time to entertain the residents and sometimes take them out for recreation. A local priest attends the Home regularly to conduct religious services and his volunteer group called "Messengers of Hope" helps in the Home. In April they arranged a trip to a country home offered for the purpose by a local family. A large television set has been donated to the Home, which allows the residents to see some of their favourite characters in action. Every month they have a party to celebrate the birthday of the residents that were born in that month.



Physical therapy

FINANCE

The Trust does not have employees and the Trustees and Administrator are all unpaid volunteers. There is no large endowment to fund our support of the Home, instead we rely exclusively on regular donations and legacies. We recognize that donations are made to support the Home and not so that the Trust can accumulate funds. We do, however, aim to hold some funds in reserve that, together with our best estimate of future donations, will be enough to support the Home for the next five to ten years. This reserves policy obliged us in 2018 to cut our regular transfers of funds to the Home, but since then we have been fortunate with new donors and



Pedrito's birthday celebration

some generous legacies to be able to keep reserves at a sound level without further cuts in support to the Home.

Donors can be assured that their continuing donations are of critical importance and without them it would be impossible to provide the funding that the home needs to survive and care for its residents whilst facing the inevitable increase in costs in the current inflationary environment.

giftaid it

UK taxpayers can download a Gift Aid form from the Donate page of our website. You can also donate via the website. Our arrangement with JustGiving makes sending donations very easy. Please let the Administrator know if your income tax circumstances change, which might affect Gift Aid donations.

WILLS

We benefit greatly from legacies so do consider mentioning the Trust when you make or update your Will.

SPREAD THE WORD

When you have read this Newsletter, you might like to pass it on to a neighbour or friend who could be interested in hearing about the Trust and its work in Piura. Further copies can be obtained from the address on the left.

Published by The Anita Goulden Trust,
PO Box 77029, London SW6 9PT.
Tel: 07856 494 033 Website: www.anitagoulden.org
Katharine Stansfeld, Administrator. Email: admin@anitagoulden.org