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Annual Report 2012

“Taking the next step”

WELCOME

In preparation for a period of expansion, 2012 was a year of consolidation and stabilisation for the SCOOP Foundation.

Up to now, we largely focused on fundraising and supporting our projects in India and Varanasi, with our operations in Dublin taking a back seat. We vigorously work with the resources at our disposal to continue to improve our work India and Cambodia. While we have managed to operate at a certain level up until now, we plan to take a step up increase our operations. We're convinced that the only way to sustain and grow our schools is to try to secure first paid employee, to enable SCOOP to continue our work and fulfil our ambitious plans.

In preparation for this, after four years of solid work running events and spreading the word about our schools, we started to develop our capacity at home. Our first step was to secure office space. In October SCOOP moved into Block T in Smithfield, Dublin 7 giving us a base to grow our team and expertise.

The changes continued throughout 2012 with the arrival of a new Volunteer Manager and the development of a volunteer programme for SCOOP Officers at home and in our schools. As an organisation that strives for best practice, the development of the programme will continue into 2013 by working to become signatories of Comlamh's Code of Conduct for overseas sending organisations and Dochas Code for Images and Messages.

Our volunteers together with our events are the backbone of the organisation. Through volunteering, fundraising events, donations and support from the community, we are able to continue supporting children in our projects in India and Cambodia. In a difficult financial year, we are continually grateful for the generosity of SCOOP supporters. We are dependent on our events, such as our trademark SCOOP art auction, to deliver essential fundraising income.

We look forward to an exciting 2013, with plans to build a self sufficient Educational Village on

the on the outskirts of Varanasi. This will see the SCOOP Foundation work along side our partner organisation Jeevan to build a village of homes, classrooms, science labs, art rooms, kitchens, canteens, cricket pitches, gardens for over 100 homeless children. Construction is proposed for 2014/15 and is estimated to cost €80,000. It's a challenge that our new team are eager to get started on in 2013.

Thank you for your support. We depend on your help.

Andrew Sweeney

CEO

OUR EVENTS

At the SCOOP Foundation we strive to make each event bigger and better than the last, and we're known for offering supporters unique and creative events for an important cause.

Every year at the SCOOP we host an Art Auction to raise money to provide education to children who need it most. In October we were delighted to hold our 4th annual **Art Action and Exhibition**. In association with Mealy's Auctioneers, we presented 90 original artworks from 70 artists from all around the world. The highly sought after pieces went under the hammer to raise over € 12,500.

In order to up our game in the fundraising stakes, we decided to host the **Better than Socks Dinner and Auction** in December. The event offered people an opportunity to bid for unique and interesting Christmas gifts that were quite literally, better than socks. Guests bid on one of a kind Christmas presents ranging from acting classes, to breaks at luxury hotels. Hosted at the Powerscourt Townhouse the dinner and auction raised €10,000.

Other events throughout the year included; the SCOOP Table Quiz, Paddy's Day Fun n' Frolics at The Leprechaun Museum, the Jeremy Kyle Comedy Show and The Sugar Club, SCOOP's Euro Jamboree and the SCOOP Social at The Ormond Wine bar.

OUR PROJECTS

Jeevan School of Life, Varanasi, India

In 2012 The SCOOP Foundation made the decision to fund and build a new Educational Village on the outskirts of Varanasi India. Our goal for this new project, and in all our endeavors, is the provision of sustainable and culturally salient centre that holds the local community at the heart of the development. We will build community capacity through ongoing engagement and through the provision of responsive education, agriculture and shelter.

This will see the SCOOP Foundation working alongside our partner organisation, Jeevan School of Life Varanasi, deliver a self sufficient educational village of schools, living quarters, fields to grow food, kitchens and eating areas, as well as creative and re-creative areas for over 100 children who are homeless. Nestled in the beautiful countryside outside the city, this new village will offer children a loving home, as well as an all round, holistic education. Besides giving them a constant and loving home, it will give them the opportunity to create new and positive avenues in their lives.

Late 2012 also saw the arrival of the very first SCOOP Officer for Jeevan School of Life Varanasi. Siobhan O'Grady, a development studies graduate, has been working closely with head teacher, Kati Richer, and the Jeevan team to create a curriculum for English classes for Jeevan and other schools in the area.

Throughout the year the 90 children attended the school and 35 of those without a home lived in the hostel. They received classes in English, Hindi/ Sanskrit, math, political science, social science, geography, environment, yoga, creativity, computers and science.

Mary's School, Kerala, India

Another plan for expansion in 2013 started with volunteer manager, Claudia, visiting St. Mary's School, Kerala, India in the middle of 2012. SCOOP plan to begin sending volunteers and teachers to project in the new year.

SCAO, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Throughout 2012 the SCAO continued to grow through the support of the SCOOP Foundation. The schools responded to the ever-increasing educational needs in the communities it support.

In 2011 the SCOOP and the SCAO built a school with five rooms to house volunteers, 20km outside Phnom Penh in a small rural area, called Som Rong. An innovative, community focused school, the centre saw a substantial increase in registrations with 650 children attending classes in 2012.

The school developed a computer training program and in successful partnership with several Cambodian NGOs presented workshops on Human Trafficking, Hygiene and Renewable Energy.

Ongoing through the year, children in Som Rong and surrounding villages continued to enjoy English classes while offering them an outlet for creative activities and learning.

In order to be a responsive community organisation, SCOOP development officers began a survey of the village to understand major social issues and how best to support children and their families. The work will continue into 2013 and we are excited to find new and innovative ways to deliver education and social service to the community.

OUR TEAM

Our team is made up the most talented and passionate people, who volunteer their time to make SCOOP possible. Without their dedication and commitment to the children that SCOOP support, we would not be able to raise funds or implement educational programmes in the schools.

In 2012 Claudia Tormey joined as Volunteer Manager. Since joining she has formed an overseas volunteer placement programme and development team who are working on policy, partnership and structure.

Joining the team in Dublin, Samuel Finnerty came on board as Development and Policy Officer. Since coming onboard in October he has worked with SCAO and the SCOOP Development team in Cambodia to develop several policy documentation as well as focusing on SCOOP's Development in Ireland.

Also joining the team at the end of 2012, a previous SCAO teaching volunteer via SCOOP, Sorcha Mellon has come on board as SCOOP Education Officer to aid the educational development of our partner organisation SCAO in Cambodia. Sorcha is keen to help develop an Irish schools Development Education Programme in 2013/14.

Other new additions to SCOOP included Eric Scanlon and Peter Downey who got involved with our project in Cambodia as SCOOP Development Officers. Siobhan O'Grady also started as SCOOP Development Officer and was been working with Jeevan on the on the ground since November 2012.

The events team welcomed many new interns and volunteers throughout 2012, bringing energy and ideas to the fundraisers. Thank you to Philip O'Brien, Julie Simpson, Leah Gillson, Laura Cullen, Aurore Austruy, EUSA international volunteers and DIT Event Management students for your dedication and hard work.

FINANCIAL RETURN

The SCOOP team volunteer their time and energy to make SCOOP possible and the hours that are invested in the organisation are humbling.

The team's work and dedication allow most of the money raised through events to be directed to the schools. Towards the end of the year and in conjunction with the new volunteer programme, overseas officers cost for visa, food and board were covered while on placement.

Our CEO, Volunteer Manager, events and development officers in Dublin invested over 5,000

hours in 2012. While an impressive figure, an increase in guaranteed hours will be require to sustain and grow our activities in 2013. Based on these figures, and in order to continue to support our schools and secure operational capacity, a necessary focus in the coming year will be to secure funding for a paid position in Dublin.

Financial Statement

The SCOOP fundraising events were the sole generation of income, the total of which in 2012 was €29,756. This was a 15% reduction on 2011 mainly due to focusing on capacity building and human recourses in Ireland, Cambodia and India. Our total expenses in 2012 were €10,970. This was a change from 2011 because we retained the income generated in Ireland for utilisation in future capital projects abroad.

