

# Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

## 14th Annual Report: Financial Year 2022



January 2023

<https://ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org/>  
UHST Charity Registration Number 1128762

## Schools reopen fully

In February 2022 all schools in Uganda reopened following two years disrupted by the Covid lockdown.

The first full year back was not without its problems. Family savings were exhausted, and it would be some time before family coffers were replenished. In a school system reliant upon fee-paying, those children whose families could not pay for schooling were forced to stay home and work the land to grow food and provide income. Many of those who did return to school soon fell into fee arrears. Schools faced the dilemma of whether to send children home or to keep them in school hoping that families would eventually catch up with payments.



Mustard Seed Humanist Primary & Secondary  
The effect on enrolment in the Humanist schools was uneven. The **Mustard Seed Schools**, in a particularly poor area, suffered a fall in numbers. Secondary school numbers shrank from 600 to 510 and the former Muslim primary school, reopened as Mustard Seed Humanist Primary School, operated with just 156 children.



Isaac Newton Humanist High  
In contrast, the return to the **Isaac Newton Schools** was strong with secondary

numbers rising from 600 to 640, and the former Evangelical primary school, reopened as Isaac Newton Humanist Primary School, having a healthy number of 276 children. However, as the year went on 27 high school children dropped out of school after failing to keep up with fee payments.



Part built Katumba Parents Humanist Primary  
The pent-up demand for schooling at Katumba was so strong that, as soon as the newly built **Katumba Parents Humanist Primary School** reopened its doors in January 2022, it was full to overflowing. Over 700 children enrolled in the school. However, scarcely two-thirds of them managed to pay fees. As a school originally set up and run by parents, they were reluctant to exclude children who could not pay. Families with one or more fee-paying children were allowed to keep a second or third sibling in school on the promise of later payment. However, by the end of the school year it was evident that the promise to pay for a good quarter of children was not fulfilled. This put the school under huge financial pressure. It had to cover the food and firewood costs for around 150 children who were making no financial contribution. This was only possible because of help provided by the supporters of UHST and Humanist Aid in Sweden.

**Kanungu Humanist Primary School** in its first year of operation, faced opposition from the local Evangelical Christian church, which urged the local community to boycott



this new irreligious school. As a result, the newly built school on a very attractive site suffered severe under-recruitment. When we visited in August there were only 97 children in the school. Fortunately, our visit seemed to reassure local people. It demonstrated that Robert Magara had backing. So, in the term following our visit, numbers increased to 135. With low numbers of children and high levels of fee arrears, Kanungu required substantial support from UHST to pay for teachers, school food and firewood and to get through its difficult first year.



Kanungu Humanist Primary

The school year ended with all schools being required to close 2 weeks early due to an Ebola outbreak. Fortunately, this came and went in a few weeks. The schools are looking forward to a much better year in 2023. The Humanist Schools programme in Uganda is unique and exciting. We are grateful to UHST supporters for sticking with the schools. Their success requires and will surely reward our long-term commitment. In 2023, UHST's aim is to garner the resources our schools need to achieve high standards of education and welfare and provide a life-changing opportunity to generations of children.

## Receipts

In 2022, UHST's **total receipts** were a healthy £211,594, our second highest. This followed an exceptionally high level of £299,779 in 2021. In that year, as well as receiving money from a legacy, we had

funds from appeals to help the schools and their teachers through the covid crisis, and to buy two failed religious primary schools.

The timing of **Gift aid** claims also distorted the picture. 2021 figures included receipts for gift aid from both 2020 and 2021, amounting to £43,347. This was very welcome given the financial challenges the schools faced in 2021. However, only £4,732 of Gift Aid appeared in our accounts in January 2022. This covered the last couple of months of 2021. Receipts of gift aid for the whole of 2022 were left to be claimed in January 2023 and will figure in that year's accounts.

**Scholarship donations** reached a new record level of £44,825.

**Unrestricted donations** came to £157,090. This included proceeds from the "*Thoughtful Tales for Growing Minds*" books, which generated an additional £3,050 in sales receipts and associated donations during 2022.

Donations from kindred organisations in Europe and the United States have been growing in importance. UHST very much appreciates the opportunity to work in partnership with groups in other countries. International collaboration is the best way to ensure that the pioneering Humanist schools in Uganda get the ongoing help they deserve.



The **Ethical Society of St Louis** made a substantial contribution of £18,109. In 2022, the group's donations provided 30 boarding scholarships for girls, Afripad

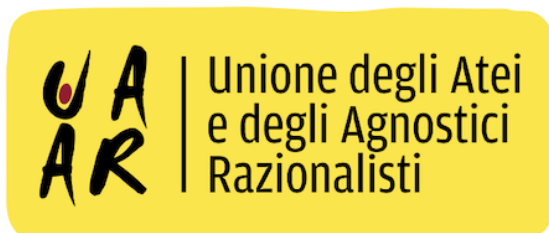
sanitary pads for girl students and valuable additional support across the schools.



£3,128 raised by **Humanist Aid in Sweden** has made an invaluable contribution to securing the futures of over 700 primary school children at Katumba Parents Humanist Primary School. The school is in an impoverished area, where, in addition to the normal stresses of life for a poor farming community, they have had to cope with the vicissitudes of floods, landslides, covid, Ebola and refugees fleeing conflict around the nearby Congo border. Money raised by Humanist Aid in Sweden has made it possible for over 100 fatherless children to remain in school, even though their mothers can only afford to pay partial fees.



For some years now we have had an excellent relationship with the **Free Religious Congregation of Pfalz** in Germany. Renate Bauer, from the community, has joined us on International Friendship Visits to the schools and we worked together to teach secular songs to the school choirs. In 2022 the group raised a very significant £3,260 to fund two scholarships and provide more general educational support across the schools.



In December we were delighted to make a new relationship with the **Union of**

**Rationalist Atheists and Agnostics (UAAR)** in Italy. Members of UAAR raised £3,380 towards infrastructure in a Humanist school. After discussions on video link the group chose to donate the money to the refurbishment of the Lily van Haelen Girls' Hostel at Isaac Newton School. The Hostel, which was built 12 years ago needed repairs to the floor and fabric of the building. However, once work started, they discovered serious structural cracks caused by the 2022 Lake Victoria basin earthquake, which require the reconstruction of part of the outer wall of the building. Work on the building is progressing well and the school hopes to have the building ready for the girls' return to school for the 2023 school year in February.

## Grants awarded

In 2022, UHST allocated £200,003 in grants to the Humanist Schools. This was down over £105,000 on 2021. Due to the financial crisis in the schools, we dramatically reduced expenditure on infrastructure and concentrated on providing necessary cash support to enable the schools to pay teachers and buy school food and firewood for cooking.

### *Scholarships* (£44,825)

The number of scholarships awarded in 2022 was 155. This represented an increase of 17 on the previous year. The scholarships went to roughly equal numbers of boys and girls in Isaac Newton and Mustard Seed High Schools. Scholarships cover the tuition fees, accommodation, school meals and uniform of named students.

### *Uses of Additional School Support*

#### **Isaac Newton Schools** (£54,741)

Books  
Science materials  
Examination materials  
School/community opening event

Staff development, including Humanist Ethos workshop

Supplementary funds for staff salaries and National Social Security Fund contributions  
Bicycle

Post-covid start up costs, including community meeting

School infrastructure:

- New water pump and pipework
- Construction of Library & Information Centre and equipping it with computers and data projectors
- Refurbishment of Lily van Haelen Girls' Hostel



Post-earthquake repair of Isaac Newton girls' hostel

### **Mustard Seed Schools (£36,359)**

Books

Science materials

Examination materials

School/community opening event

Staff development, including Humanist Ethos workshop

Supplementary funds for staff salaries and National Social Security Fund contributions

Purchase of school food

Bicycle

Post-covid start-up costs, including community meeting

School infrastructure:

- Refurbishment of computer room, including new furniture
- Purchase of additional computers



Refurbished computer room at Mustard Seed

### **Katumba Parents Primary (£44,936)**

Books & play materials

Humanist Ethos workshop for staff

School/community opening event

Supplementary funds for staff salaries, school food and firewood

Bicycle

School infrastructure:

- Land purchase and registration
- Kitchen stove reconstruction
- Lightning protection for school buildings
- Library & computer room
- Completion of staff rooms
- Classroom furniture
- Perimeter security fence



New classrooms at Katumba School



**Kanungu Humanist School (£19,023)**

Books & play materials  
 School uniforms  
 Humanist Ethos workshop for staff  
 School/community opening event  
 Supplementary funds for staff salaries,  
 school food and firewood  
 Bicycle  
 Lightning protection for school buildings



Teaching staff at Kanungu

***Other expenditures across the schools*****Afripads (£2,944)**

Packs of re-useable sanitary pads were purchased for girl students in every school, primary as well as secondary.

**Accounting Fees (£1,419)**

Conduct and preparation of annual audits of the school accounts. Our Ugandan auditor checks cash receipts against school bank statements and coordinates with UHST's accountant and Independent Examiner. The new arrangements have improved overall transparency and accountability.

**School Directors' Honoraria**

£4,800 was spent on personal payments to the Directors of the four schools. These payments are partly loyalty bonuses and partly to compensate for the substantial amount of extra work involved in managing infrastructure projects and procurement work related to grants from UHST and the extra burden of financial accountability,

including working with the auditor to produce transparent annual accounts.

**Prospects for 2023**

As in 2022, we intend to limit grants for infrastructure to essential items only. We will maintain our focus on helping the schools to restore and surpass former standards of welfare and education. Our aim is to raise each school's standing and make them the schools of choice in their districts.

New Humanist schools are emerging that are looking for additional help. In the past three years, UHST has extended its support from 2 high schools to include 4 primary schools. This has put pressure on our resources, and we do not wish to spread our funds so thinly that quality is compromised. We would encourage humanist groups around the world to adopt new schools as a focus for ongoing support. Such groups are well advised to apply due diligence in ensuring that new schools have proper governance, transparent accounting and have a reasonable chance of long-term viability.

At our 2022 AGM we agreed to continue with the following broad set of priorities:

1. **Cash Flow Assistance** – As school communities continue to recover from the pandemic, their ability to pay school fees will recover and we anticipate that there will be less need for unplanned cash support from UHST.
2. **Scholarships** – For 2023 there has been a long-overdue increase in scholarship fees from £300 to £420 a year. We are delighted that almost all our supporters have moved to paying the larger amount, which will better enable the high schools to cover the costs of tuition, food and educational resources and release resources to enable us to help the new primary schools.
3. **Learning resources** – We will provide more funds for books, play, science and arts

materials and provide support to enable children to become independent knowledge seekers.

4. **Welfare** – We will continue to support measures that lead to improvements in children's welfare, including sanitary pads, hygiene and food standards, personal safety and happiness.
5. **Humanist Schools Association (HSA)** – We have sent funds to enable the HSA to enrol as a recognised organisation with Uganda Registration Services Bureau. We will provide initial funds to enable the Association to support school-based and collective workshops to develop a common Humanist Ethos among all the Humanist Schools in Uganda.
6. **3<sup>rd</sup> Uganda Humanist Schools Conference**  
We have had to postpone this conference yet again from January 2023 due to a nationwide closure of schools in response to an outbreak of Ebola. We intend to transfer the £6,000 budget to the HSA, so that the schools' Association can run the conference at a suitable later date.
7. **New schools** – We will support the HSA in its efforts to forge links with new Humanist Schools and consider how best to help them to play their part within the Humanist Schools Association family.

## Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

Charity Number 1128762.

The UHST (UK) is a charity that raises funds to support education in Humanist Schools in Uganda.

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### Board of Trustees in 2022

Steve Hurd B.Sc., M.A.(Econ), PGCE  
(Chair)

Professor Hilary Hurd, B.Sc., Ph.D.,  
PGCE, FRES, FRSTMH, MIBiol  
(Scholarships Manager)

Daniel Hurd, B.Soc.Sci., ACA., MABRP  
(Hon. Accountant, EY-Parthenon Partner)

Paul Ewans, B.A.(Hons)  
(*Humanistically Speaking* Co-editor)

Christine Smith, B.Sc., PGCE  
(Dorset Humanists)

Glenda Miller, B.A. (Hons) (Lawyer)

Derek Miller, LL.B. (Lawyer)

Krystal White, B.A., M.A.T.  
(Ethical Society of St. Louis, U.S.)

Lee Denison, M.Eng, ACGI, IT Specialist

Adviser: Mary Wallbank, DCha, FCA,  
FCIE (Charity Specialist, Humanist on  
Southampton SACRE)

## Grant-making Policy

### UHST Objectives

Object 1: To support the educational work of Humanist Schools in Uganda.

Object 2: To provide support to enable needy children to attend those schools.

The Charity supports schools providing a broad general education consistent with the principles embodied in the following [Humanist Inspiration](#).

The Trust offers grants to Humanist schools in Uganda. We normally expect the schools we support to be not-for-profit organisations and to be members of the Uganda Humanist Schools Association (UHSA). Our mission is to help the schools provide a good educational experience for children attending them. A condition of support is that a proportion of places are made available to disadvantaged children from the local community.

UHST funds items that contribute to improvements in the education and welfare standards of children attending the schools. The Trust gives grants for learning materials, staffing costs, staff development activities and towards the improvement of school buildings and infrastructure or for additional buildings and such other items that meet the objects of the Trust. The Trust also funds boarding scholarships so that schools can recruit bright children without the means to pay.

Trustees will consider applications for funds from (a) individual Humanist schools and (b) from organisations offering services on a collective basis to the schools (for example, to pay for professional development events for teaching staff). Applicants are advised to approach the Trust on an informal basis and to seek advice before they make a firm application for funds. Where bids exceed the funds

available the Trust reserves the right to offer a proportion of the funds requested or to mount an appeal for additional funds to meet a need that has been identified.

From time to time, the Trust may offer grants to schools for specific purposes determined by our Trustees. The Trust may also announce a total amount of money available for a specific purpose and invite applications from schools either individually or on a cooperative basis.

In most cases, successful grants go through the following stages: (1) initial enquiry and outline bid, (2) full application with reasonable and realistic cost estimates from suppliers, (3) on approval of larger projects, payments may be sent as each stage is completed, (4) recipient supplies evidence of completion with a list of outcomes, including photographs, (5) a final account with receipts are submitted.

UHST requires a copy of the relevant annual accounts and bank statements of each school supported and we expect the amount and purpose of each grant to be recorded in those accounts as well a record of how the money donated has been spent.

Should you wish to donate to help take forward the pathbreaking work in Uganda, please visit our website:

<https://ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org/donate/make-a-donation/>

Steve Hurd,  
Chair, UHST,  
January, 2023



## UHST Accounting Summary 2022

### RECEIPTS

Scholarships	£44,825
General Donations	£161,869
Gift Aid	£4,733
Interest & other	£167
<b>Total Receipts =</b>	<b>£211,594</b>

### PAYMENTS By Purpose

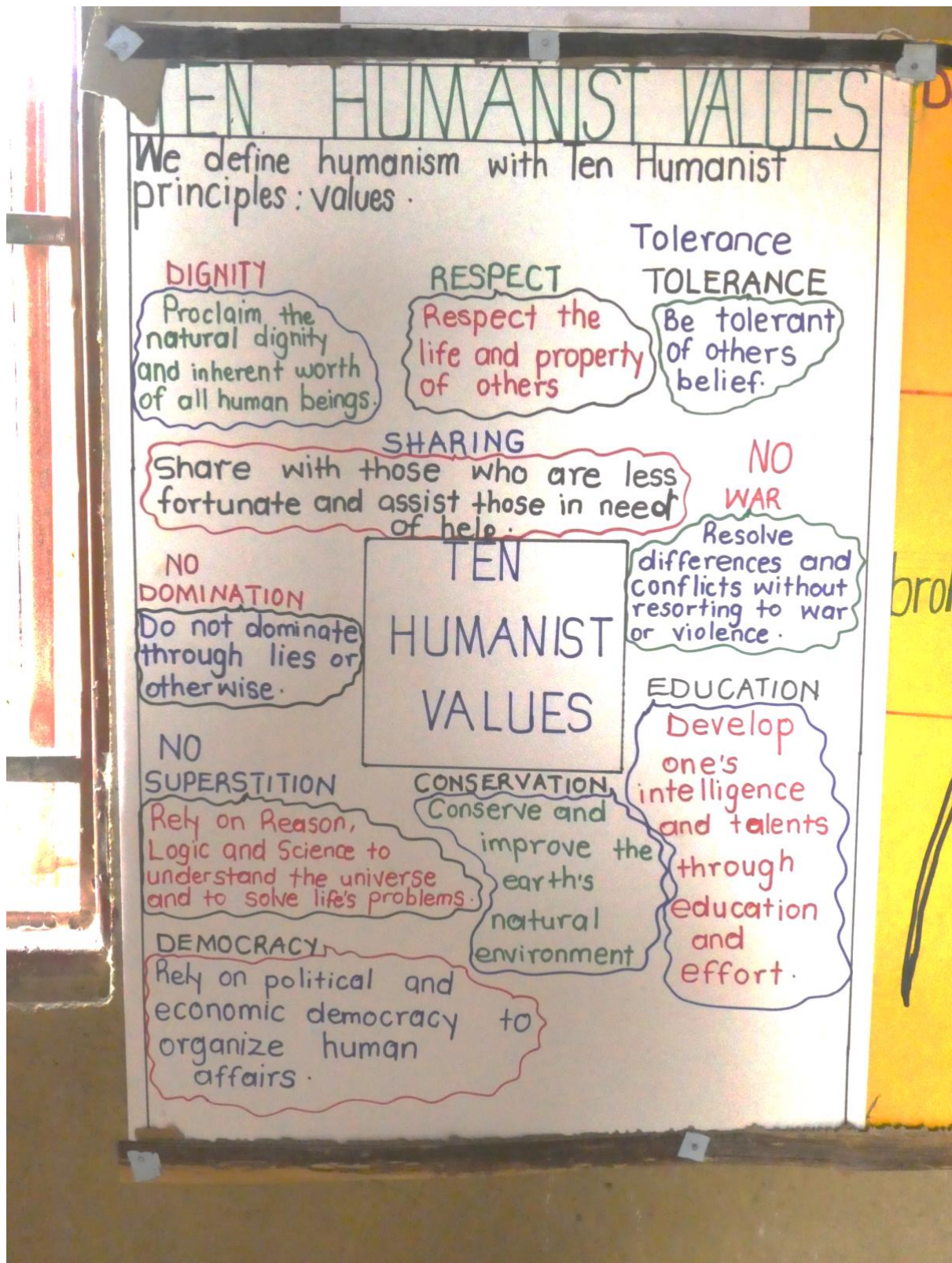
Scholarships	£44,825
Utilities (water)	£3,500
Learning materials	£7,500
Additional support for salaries, food & firewood	£29,840
Sanitary pads (Afripads)	£2,944
Land purchase & registration	£8,942
School accounts & audit fees	£1,418
Library & IT facilities	£24,382
Staff development & community engagement	£4,050
Kitchen construction & repair	£4,277
Lightning protection for buildings	£3,300
Directors' honoraria	£5,000
Other infrastructure & maintenance	£59,906
Bank charges	£119
<b>Total Payments =</b>	<b>£200,003</b>

### GRANTS by School

Isaac Newton Humanist Schools	£78,716
Mustard Seed Humanist Schools	£57,209
Katumba Parents Humanist Primary School	£44,936
Kanungu Humanist Primary School	£19,023

### RESERVES

End of year 2021	£27,726
<b>End of Year 2022</b>	<b>£39,317</b>



Wallposter at Kanungu Humanist Primary School