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Introduction

The six month period covered in this report is by far our most successful to date. During a time of global financial concern, when many businesses and charities are really struggling to survive, we are delighted to see that the GVI Charitable Trust continues to grow and flourish.

We believe this really stands as a testament to the amazing and inspirational people we work with around the world. Our local partners and community groups, the students and teachers in the schools in which we work, our dedicated staff teams and of course our amazing supporters.

On many of our projects, due to this increase in funding, we have been able to significantly increase our impact. For others we have exciting developments planned for the coming months. I hope you enjoy reading about our progress over this period and share our excitement for the year ahead.

As always thank you to everyone who has supported the GVI Charitable and our projects.

All the very best

Ross Deans
GVI Charitable Trust Manager
Performance

This report covers the 6 month period from July to December 2011. During this period incoming funds nearly matched the annual total for the previous financial year.

Donations to our main projects during this period saw a near 90% increase. In addition our disaster campaign to support flood victims in Thailand brought in over $90,000, by far our most successful disaster campaign to date.

The below graph compares this 6 month period to the same period in previous years:

![Graph comparing funding over 3 years]

We are delighted to see this increase in funding for our projects and according impact on the ground. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported the GVI Charitable Trust during this period. During a tough financial time when many businesses and charities are experiencing serious issues we believe this growth really stands as a testament to our supporters and their dedication.
Over recent months we have worked with our teams around the world to implement more efficient systems and tools to better aid fundraising. We feel the fruit of this labour is now starting to materialise as we see good funds coming in across more of our projects.

The below pie chart demonstrates a breakdown of funds raised by project location:

Compared to previous years we now see many more areas contributing towards our overall funding.

In these locations our dedicated teams of staff, volunteers and supporters have worked tirelessly to support their projects.
Fundraising

It has been a very busy 6 months for GVI Charitable Trust fundraising events with one day events and multi day challenges taking place across 9 countries! In addition our supporters, as ever, have been truly inspirational and hard working in their efforts to raise funds for our projects.

People have held dinner parties and summer garden parties, organised church collections and sales, jumped out of planes and participated in walkathons and running events.

As always, thank you very much to everyone who has organised or participated in an event to support the GVI Charitable Trust or made to donation to a fundraising campaign. Without your support we simply would not be able to continue our work.

GVI Charitable Trust Fundraising events

The pace set last year for fundraising events, if anything, has grown in recent months. Our teams have been busy scaling volcanoes, trekking through highlands, kayaking, biking, running and more!

Guatemala was the first country in which we ran fundraising challenges and it continues to be the most prolific. During the second half of 2011 there were three separate Guatemala challenges, a 60km kayaking challenge on the Rio Dulce and two different volcano challenges, the second of which being the annual volcano challenge taking in four monster peaks guaranteed to push participants to their limits.

In Peru GVI staff and volunteers took part in the first route of the condor challenge in July raising amazing funds to support our educational projects, then in November a group of challengers set out for the mighty volcano Chachani, the highest peak near to the city of Arequipa at over 6,000 meters!
The Ecuador team set out for their own three peak challenge in August, taking in three monsters which are visible from our project during the daily journey to school.

Up in Mexico, the first challenge to support our local projects took the form of the ‘Mayan wilderness challenge’ in October. This involved biking and kayaking across the Sian Ka’an Biosphere reserve.

Nicaragua ran a second volcano challenge in November which even saw participants returning for a second go after enjoying it so much last year!

Over in Africa, our Cape Town team ran our first African challenge in November. Named the Big 5 Challenge participants had to cover over 750 km and 5 landmark sites in 5 days with no motorised transport!

Elsewhere we have seen one day events around the world; a 105km bike challenge in India, the Seychelles Amazing race, Amazon rainforest challenge 24 and on Christmas Day a team in Thailand took part in the Chiang Mai marathon.

An absolutely amazing effort by everyone involved in each of these events. Thanks to their hard work and dedication we have seen our strongest 6 months in the GVI Charitable Trusts history.

Exciting events are already planned for 2012 in various locations and we can’t wait to get going!
Progress

Latin America

The Phoenix projects: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Perú

Across Latin America the Phoenix projects work with impoverished children from Indigenous and rural communities helping to provide a sustainable infrastructure in which they can access a safe and consistent education.

On each of these projects GVI Charitable Trust donations cover essential elements needed to provide a safe and sustainable environment in which children can learn and develop. A lot of donations help us to provide essential day to day educational materials for students in our schools, with thousands of children across Latin America receiving daily education on our projects. This can be quite a daunting task although of course an important investment. Donations also help us to employ many local people, including local teachers and drivers, to help run our projects.

Food programs form an important part of these initiatives, many of the children we work with live below the poverty line and sadly malnutrition is common. Malnutrition can seriously hinder physical development in children but it can also have very serious effects on their mental development leading to disadvantage in later life. A hungry child cannot concentrate in school meaning they will fall behind and may stop attending. When a child is suffering from malnutrition it clearly means that the family are struggling, this may mean that the children will need to work to help put food on the table rather than attend school.
Project director Dom Williams explains: ‘A child with an empty stomach cannot learn. Giving a child often their only meal of the day is a huge weapon in the battle against malnutrition’. Over the years we have seen clear improvements in attendance when school meal programs are introduced. If parents know that their children will receive a meal at school they are more likely to ensure regular attendance, resulting in healthier children benefitting from a consistent and structured education.

In addition to these shared essential elements, each project has certain initiatives which it focuses on, as detailed below:

**Guatemala**
To support the project, the team in Guatemala have been busy running three in-country charity challenges in the last six months! Scaling volcanoes and kayaking the Rio Dulce, an amazing effort by all involved and incredible funds raised to support our work.

Running two independent schools with over 500 children means that a lot of food, fruit and materials needed. However thanks to amazing support we are able to run additional initiatives for the benefit of the community.

‘Plan Ancianos’ remains an important part of the Guatemala project. In this initiative 250 elderly relatives of our children receive parcels every three months which include food staples such as maize, rice, sugar and oil. We also provide medicinal and fruit plants providing sustainable solutions for nutrition and ailments.

The parcels, which are distributed to the elderly generation, are in effect earned by the children. Only grandparents of children regularly attending school receive parcels. This brings attention to the benefit of the schools and also creates a source of pride building confidence in the children.
Once the children complete their primary school we fund scholarships so that they may progress onto secondary school. The scholarships cover school fees and materials, costs which are simply out of the reach of families in these Indigenous communities.

**Honduras**

Where possible we always strive to encourage traditional culture which can provide an important sense of belonging for Latin American communities. In Honduras, with full support from the community, we have introduced classes in the local dialect of Ch’orti’. Sadly and to the alarm of the older generation the language is dwindling. Funding a Ch’orti’ teacher can help students to understand their history and culture whilst keeping the language alive and providing an income.

On many of our projects we run sustainable income generation initiatives which aim to secure the costs associated with education. These help the community take ownership of the projects whilst making education sustainable.

In Honduras, ‘Plan Cafe’ has been born. The community have provided 2.5 hectares of land and, thanks to donations to the GVI Charitable Trust; we have bought 12,000 coffee plants which will be planted on this land. Once the plants are mature, in 2-3 years time, the coffee will be cut and sold with profits funding secondary education at the school.

**Nicaragua**

The two schools in the communities of La Thompson and Chiriza, which we constructed and run with the community in Nicaragua, have been developing rapidly. We recently celebrated our one year anniversary in Chiriza-, an amazing achievement.

As students progress through their education, it has been our goal to secure secondary education for students graduating from primary school. This goal has now become a reality as the first secondary scholarships were awarded in September 2011. Six students received scholarships which cover the costs of public school uniforms, shoes, transport to school and the cost of school materials. We will continue to award scholarships each semester if students show consistent attendance and passing grades.

Secondary education retention in Nicaragua is alarmingly low and we hope that this system will inspire students to stay in school and earn their complete education.

Bringing further excitement to the schools the long talked about sports program was launched in September. The program will bring the two schools together through regular football matches, a
great source of healthy excitement for all of the students. The first match saw two of the girl’s teams energetically fighting it out to a nil-nil draw!

**Ecuador**

Sustainable income generation initiatives remain an important focus for our project in Ecuador. ‘Plan Moo’ (cows) and ‘Plan Cuy’ (guinea pigs) provide animals for families with children who regularly attend school. Within the community the beneficiaries will form groups to generate a sustainable source of income which will help to cover the costs of further education for their children.

Project director Dom Williams explains: ‘Over twenty cows have been purchased under the Plan Moo scheme, which is seeing unbridled success in the funding of secondary school education in the communities. With the addition of Plan Cuy, five houses have been built to farm the guinea pigs and the income generated by them is also seeing yet further benefits for the community. Over the coming year, we plan to add to the herd and also to the guinea pig houses to help the communities become even more sustainable in the years to come.’

**Perú**

In Peru we have be keeping traditions alive in our communities Maldonado and Truinfo by paying for traditional dance costumes and transport so the children can partake in dance competitions. This enables them to grow in self-esteem and maintain a strong sense of tradition.

Recently both schools participated in a dance competition. The children spent many hours practising and put on an incredible show on the day. We are proud to say that Triunfo won second place!

At the end of 2011, we celebrated the anniversaries of the schools in both communities. We have been working in the schools since 2006. It is such a treat to be able to see the parents, teachers, volunteers, and kids all come together in celebration of the great work these schools are doing.

Maldonado was practically bouncing on its foundations from all of the dancing, not to mention the free for all scramble when candy came showering down on them from teachers and volunteers alike! Triunfo was covered wall to wall in streamers, balloons, and glittery posters! The kids from Triunfo put on a choreographed traditional dance that was the absolute highlight of the party.
Mexico

The team in Mexico have been working hard to secure funds for our projects this year including running our first ever Mexico Fundraising challenge which took the form of the Mayan Wilderness Challenge. The challenge involved three days of cycling and kayaking across the UNESCO Sian Ka’an Biosphere reserve. A dedicated group of GVI volunteers, staff and supporters participated bringing in great funds.

One of our projects is focussed on establishing a recycling centre in the community of Punta Allen situated within the above mentioned Sian Ka’an reserve. The aim being that, in addition to helping to conserve the area and reduce waste, the centre will act as an example to other communities in the area.

Due to recent funds raised we have started construction of the new Recycling centre. A true joint effort, the work has involved our team as well as hard working members of the community who will join the recycling scheme. Recently, Tropical storm Rina had littered the area with plastic bottles. Working to tidy these, the bottles are now being used in the construction process.

Africa

Kenya

Over the last year and a half, our programs in Kenya have seen incredible growth in funds raised through the GVI Charitable Trust. This has enabled us to increase the scope and reach of our work considerably.
**Mombasa**

In Mombasa, we continue to work with our local partners on educational projects at Precious Vision and the Olives Rehabilitation Centre. We have maintained our focus on important initiatives including the Food Program, Teachers wages and training and our ongoing Land Fund.

In addition, donations have funded much needed materials such as blackboards, text books and classroom renovations. Previously, in many classes, students had needed to share text books between large numbers; this resulted in very slow progress in the classroom. Our investment in text books now means that, on average, students share one book between two. This is a simple but worthwhile investment which has led to more efficient classrooms.

**Construction**

At both Precious Vision and the Olives Rehabilitation Centre, we have funded important construction work this period. This has included laying a concrete floor at the Olives church to create a suitable space for adult education classes and constructing new classrooms at both Precious Vision and Olives.

At Precious Vision, a lack of adequate teaching space meant that not all standards would have their own classroom. Standard (grade) 1 would work outside under a make shift tin roof with no walls. Offering little protection from the sun and rain, distraction was also easy due to foot traffic from the kitchen staff and other children. Meanwhile Standard 4 would share the front hall space with Kindergarten standards, resulting in 3 classes being taught in the same space. Classroom construction now means that all Standards have their own room leading to much more productive classes with less distraction and noise.
At the Olives Rehabilitation Centre, recent development of temporary classrooms means that for the first time in Olives’ history students have been able to progress through to Standard 8 being in a position to earn the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education (KPCE).

Land was provided at the Olives church to construct the classrooms where the junior Kindergarten classes will now learn. By moving the younger students from the school premises, the new standard 8 will benefit from less distraction and noise as they progress onto their higher level classes.

This is a very exciting development for the project, as GVI Kenya Country Director Tess Doogue explains: ‘Since its inception in 2001, Olive Rehabilitation Centre’s goal has been to somehow hold on to their students to the end of standard 8. Standard 8 is a significant year because at the completion of the year, students are eligible to sit their KPCE. Without this basic qualification, it is extremely difficult to enter into the most basic paid work roles after school, for instance unskilled labour, house cleaning or the hospitality/tourism industry. Until now, at the end of standard 7 students had to leave ORC due to a lack of space to hold another classroom. For the first time in ORC history, they will now have a full class of 20 students sitting this qualification. In the words of Principal Michael Nyundo, this is “truly a dream realised”. Upon obtaining their KPCE, it will also set these students up as ideal candidates for high school sponsorship, something which has been extremely difficult to achieve without their KPCE qualification.’

**Food Programs**

2011 has been a very tough year for Kenya with severe drought, rising energy costs and conflict. This has dramatically affected food costs which have also seen a sharp rise. Maize, the main food staple in Kenya rose by 84%, the fourth highest increase in the world.

Affecting millions of people, this rise also added a huge strain to the food program on our projects where we aim to provide breakfast and lunch for students at both schools. Appealing for extra funds to cover these costs we were delighted by the generosity of our supporters. Thankfully, costs are currently covered and the food program was standing strong as it entered its second year.

Looking at the impact of this program, recent project manager Louise Elard explained: ‘Over the first year of the feeding scheme GVI staff have seen huge benefits in each student eating a nutritious lunch every day. Firstly, in the health improvement of the children and secondly, the academic progress of the children. The daily proteins they are taking in shows. Children on the whole are looking healthier. We have less absenteeism cases resulting from illness. The concentration span of the students is better. Children are no longer as fatigued or low on energy. Actually it is quite the opposite now. The children are happier and sometimes have too much energy! Their attention in class has improved and consequently aided their learning. Evidence of this is now beginning to show in their monthly class tests. Significant improvements have been shown compared to last year.

GVI believe the food program is an essential contributing factor to this being achieved.’
Teachers Wages and Training

The teachers we work with at both schools show real passion and amazing commitment for what they do. Despite irregular pay, due to lack of funds, they had shown regular attendance and admirable dedication to the schools. However, with pressing needs to support their families, regular pay is of course essential.

To help with this situation, GVI Charitable Trust donations have contributed towards teacher’s wages. In line with this we have also introduced teacher training courses. This has helped the teachers to develop their skills and meet the demands of the children as they progress to higher levels of education.

Whilst GVI volunteers work in the schools and provide much needed assistance and tuition in the classes, it is critical for our long term goals that local teachers are able to take control.

Teacher training also plays an important role in securing self-sufficiency. With trained and qualified teachers, the schools will one day be able to qualify as formal schools, which in turn will see the implementation of local government assistance from the Ministry of Education.

Recent project manager Louise Elard explains: ‘Having local teachers at the schools is invaluable to the successful running of the schools. It provides stability and continuity for the children, something that is not as easy to achieve with the arrival and departure of volunteers.’

Land Fund

The land fund has been set up by the GVI Charitable Trust to enable the schools to eventually buy their own land and build schools. One of the major outgoings for the schools is monthly rent. By helping them to buy land, it will relieve this monthly pressure and any threat of the schools being asked to leave their current location.

Although it will take time, GVI believes that this is the best way possible to help the schools to not only become self sufficient but also help them on their way towards being recognised as formal schools by the government.
Mkwiro Village

On the South Coast of Kenya, our teams have been working hard as ever to raise funds for our projects. At Mkwiro Village, on Wasni Island, the community are working to develop the area to be more susceptible to tourism which they hope will improve the local economy. Access to proper facilities is essential for this to work. Recent funds raised through the GVI Charitable Trust have been used to construct a new public toilet; reducing waste on the beach which created an unsafe environment for the children. This is an important progressive step towards cleaning up the area.

Working closely with the nursery school we have invested in new furniture. The school has grown rapidly over recent years with over 90 children attending at any time. A Lack of furniture meant that children would sit and work on the floor. The new furniture has created a much more productive and enjoyable atmosphere for these children to begin their education.

We have also invested in a security wall which now surrounds the school. A lack of adequate security sadly led to theft in the school inhibiting development. The new security wall has created a safer environment for future investments.

South Africa

In Cape Town we have seen an impressive increase in support and funding for our projects which has provided the opportunity to expand our plans in exciting ways.
The recently opened Hope Centre has grown over recent months to become an important part of the West Lake community. The centre is completely funded by the GVI Charitable Trust and provides a safe and educational environment for vulnerable children who may otherwise be left to roam the streets exposed to exploitation and negative social issues such as future unemployment, substance abuse and criminality.

To avoid the risk of over commitment in the early days the initial group size had been limited although the centre is now ready to accept additional students. We had initially intended to purchase and convert a used shipping container although now find ourselves in a position to build a permanent brick structure.

The second focus in Cape Town is with our work with Children with Special Needs. In poorer communities facilities to suitably care for these children can be severely limited due to lack of funding. We are working to establish plans to develop a dedicated centre to provide care for Children with Special Needs and act as a training centre for parents and carers.

Our partners are providing a building and we will focus GVI Charitable Funds on developing this into a suitable centre. We look forward with excitement to commencing work on both of these initiatives and sharing news in 2012.

Seychelles

This year we have been excited to see new GVI Charitable Trust projects getting off the ground such as our project to provide education for abused, neglected and orphanned children in the Seychelles.

Our team have managed to create a real buzz about the project locally by organising events at the Presidents Village children’s home which we support and also running amazing fundraising activities.

During Christmas some of the funds raised were used to purchase a selection of useful Christmas gifts for the Children such as clothing and shoes for which they have very limited supplies, many of the children in fact did not own a pair of shoes. In addition two bicycles were purchased to be used by all. The gifts brought a real sense of Christmas and delight to the children.
Asia

India

In India our partnership with UK based Food and Drinks Company Marston Foods continues. Thanks to their amazing support we have seen great progression on the project. In addition, GVI staff organised and ran a 100 km biking challenge in July and our supporters have been generous with donations and their efforts in fundraising.

In August we were able to give scholarships to students at the Auxillium School in Kerala. The beneficiaries of the scholarships were students who had been identified as coming from poorer backgrounds, struggling to meet the demands of paying for an education and as such within risk of not completing school. Average income for families of the beneficiaries will be below 5000 Rps / £70 a month, security for their children’s education will bring huge relief and increased prospects for the future. As GVI Project Manager Ridhi Patel explains, ‘Having their children’s school fees taken care of for a year is such a huge weight off their shoulders.

‘One of the main long term goals of the project is to ensure that children do not drop out of school as this is a huge problem in the state of Kerala. With donations we are able to keep the project going but more importantly help poor children and the community we are working with financially. As many of the parents are daily wage earners (i.e. fishermen, coolies, or auto-rikshaw drivers), the families often have to borrow money to pay for school fees and end up in a cycle where they are always in debt. Some of the parents also have terminal injuries or illnesses that do not allow them to work and hence there may be no income. The pressure is huge on these children to perform as their families feel they are working hard towards paying their school fees and expect their kids to work equally hard in school and earn high grades. The donations thus reduce the burden from both the families who struggle with fees and also the children who are expected to earn top grades.’

In class donations have enabled us to renovate classrooms to create a more colourful and engaging educational environment. We have also purchased important educational supplies including many books, pencils, paints, crayons and colouring books.

Another area which we have continued to focus on is the school sports program. Previously the students at the Auxillium School did not have regular access to sports education, an important and very popular aspect of their education.

GVI Charitable Trust donations have enabled us to employ a sports coach and bring much needed sports equipment into the school, this has included sports kits and shoes, badminton supplies, cricket bats, footballs, volley ball’s and a fence for the soccer ground. The sports shoes and kit have made a huge impact for these children of which many cannot afford these items. Previously many children would play barefoot making them susceptible to injury.
Laos

In Laos our partnership with the Mekong English centre remains strong and recent donations have helped to fund a government workers English class. Government workers in Laos receive a very low salary and would generally not be able to afford these classes. Without English skills these workers will be at a disadvantage compared to other South East nations so we are very happy to work in Partnership with the Mekong English Centre to provide this service.

We also have a strong relationship with the Wat Pasa Viet temple. GVI volunteers teach English 5 nights a week at the temple and where possible we support specific needs. Recent donations helped to fund important renovations such as new tiling for classroom floors, completing a toilet block and installing lights.

Australia

Our partnership with local charity Desert2Surf in Australia led to exciting developments this year as funds raised through the GVI Charitable Trust helped to run the first stand and lead (SAL) project with Indigenous youth. The project aims to teach leadership and development skills to these youth with a focus on surfing.

As project director Deb Oliver explains: ‘The aim of the SAL project was for Desert2Surf to skill up youth leaders from the Beswick Community in stand up paddling with a view to them being able to coach younger kids and develop an ongoing recreational program of SUPPING in their community. The skill transfer from SUPPING to surfing would also set up the leaders to hit the waves with D2S later in the year and reward them for their commitment to the SAL Project in their Community.’

Disaster relief

Thailand

This year over three months of heavy rain brought the worst flooding for 50 years to Thailand, 63 of the country’s 77 provinces were affected with huge areas submerged, millions of people forced from their homes and severe damage caused to buildings and infrastructure.

With strong connections in Thailand from our long term projects we were of course keen to respond and bring support to Thai people during this difficult time. The response to our fundraising
campaign far surpassed our initial expectations bringing in over $90,000. This truly amazing show of support has enabled us to work on important relief work and long term initiatives to help people get back on their feet.

Initially we supplied emergency support parcels containing essential daily supplies for which people were denied access after being forced from their homes. In addition to supplying the packages we also funded heavy duty transport to distribute the supplies to areas which were hard to reach due to continued flooding.

As waters finally started to subside the huge scale of the cleanup operation became clear. Working with our local partners we have identified important areas on which we would like to focus to aid long term recovery from the floods.

Due to the severity of the flooding it had been impossible for schools to operate resulting in students missing many months of important education. To reduce the knock on effect of this interruption we are keen to work with schools on clean up operations. Funds will be used for removing debris, repairing water damage and repairing and replacing damaged resources to get students back into school as soon as possible.

Other areas we are investigating include a training program for people who are unemployed as a result of the flooding and post trauma counselling to help those worst affected recover from the effects of this huge disaster.
Structure, Governance and Management

Trustees' Annual Report
Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document: Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted: Trust
Trustee selection methods: Appointed during preparation of Trust Deed

Once proposed recipients of funds are reviewed and agreed by the Trustees. These are usually, but not limited to long-standing project partners of Global Vision International.

Objectives and activities of the GVI Charitable Trust

The “Objects” as set out in the Trust Deed are in any part of the world:

- to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment;
- to advance education and research for the benefit of the public in the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment
- to relieve sickness and preserve and promote the good health of persons
- to relieve poverty, financial hardship and distress

The GVI Charitable Trust has raised money for a number of causes as outlined above, in each case the GVI Charitable Trust is duly diligent with how funds are used.

The GVI Charitable Trust strongly believes that it is only through local participation and leadership that projects can be successful. This is why each award that the GVI Charitable Trust makes is carefully vetted to ensure that the goals of that award are both sustainable and realistic. Awards are given for conservation and research, humanitarian aid and education, but we do not accept unsolicited requests for money. Awards are not given simply in the form of handouts, with local communities, organisations and other stakeholders being consulted to develop long term planning and sustainability for the goals of each one.
Trustee Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature

Full name

Andy Woods Ballard
Trustee