



Board Recruitment Pack

Clowns Without Borders UK (CWB UK) is a registered UK arts-led charitable trust (1156987) that uses laughter to provide emotional relief to people, particularly children, in situations of adversity around the world.

OUR VISION... is a world where every child has a childhood filled with laughter.

OUR MISSION... is to spread laughter and joy to people, particularly children, in situations of adversity through clown performances and workshops. We also seek to raise awareness of these situations amongst our own society, to promote a spirit of solidarity.

OUR BENEFICIARIES... are the communities adversely affected by conflict, natural disaster or other forms of humanitarian crisis, with a specific emphasis on children within those communities.

We are motivated by our **VALUES**: Honesty, resourcefulness, bravery, and open-heartedness.

HOW WE WORK

We send professional artists to share performances with children in crisis. By sharing shows and workshops designed to connect with children and encourage them to laugh, play and participate, we directly acknowledge their need for emotional support, respite and reassurance at the very worst of times. We are saying to them, “We see you, we care about what happens to you and you are not alone.” We enable children to be children.

Often for the traumatised child, reality has become simply too serious. We use laughter and play as a tool for recovery and a mechanism to strengthen children’s psychological and social development and well-being. This is because we know resilience and hope are not ‘things’ we can expect anyone to simply have or not have – it is a process borne out of supportive relationships. Experts in Aid describe this work as “psycho-social first-aid” and recognise our ability to make a meaningful contribution to humanitarian efforts in highly delicate crisis regions.

COMPANY ACTIVITY

CWB UK became a registered charity in May 2014 and was recognised by Clowns Without Borders International (CWBI) as an official chapter in June 2014. We carry out a minimum of three international tours annually and reach thousands of children.

CWB UK’s humanitarian scope is vast. In order to priorities effectively, strategic priorities were set in 2016 and will be reviewed in 2019; we currently select activities that meet one or more the following three areas:

- 1) We respond to the effects of the current high levels of migration particularly, in Europe and including points of arrival and reception with the UK. Through our unique form of humanitarian relief we can contribute to the restoration of a more positive emotional climate for those dealing with the struggles of life in refugee camps or as recent arrivals in new countries.

- 2) CWB UK responds in the aftermath of major natural disasters, such as earthquakes and cyclones. In the immediate or early aftermath of such humanitarian disasters, laughter can play a strong role in enabling people to cope with stress more effectively. But particularly in these complex and volatile times and situations, CWB-UK only deploys when invited or requested to do so by a local or international NGO in the area.
- 3) As one of the newest members of CWBI, we also focus on chapter development and growth. Deployments meeting this priority will include participation in other chapters' tours in order to train up and develop new CWB UK artists. CWB UK learns from, and collaborates with, the 13 other chapters of CWBI. Like these other chapters, we work in partnership with similarly motivated local, national or international Non Governmental Organisations (NGO's).

Recent CWB UK Tours

2016: 3 x Tours to refugee camps in Northern Greece in partnership with Save the Children and CWB UK
Workshop tour to child refugees in Istanbul, Turkey in partnership with SPI, Turkey

2017: Tours to refugee camps and asylum centres in Serbia and Greece in partnership with Save the Children
Workshop tour to child refugees in Istanbul, Turkey in partnership with SPI, Turkey
Tour to St Maarten to children affected by Hurricane Irma with Behind the Beyond Foundation



COMPANY OVERVIEW

We are currently a small, grass-roots charity with a Board of four. Founder, Samantha Holdsworth, who receives a nominal fee, completes the strategic and administrative work. Administrative volunteers provide support. The artists currently donate their time and expertise for free.

This is an exciting time for the charity as it transitions from responsive, "start-up mode" to strategic, long-term sustainability. This will be achieved by developing the three main pillars of the organisation; diverse fundraising portfolio, a deep and talented pool of artists and effective relationships with other NGO's working in the field. CWB UK is currently developing strategies to achieve this part as of Creative Unlimited's business development programme, "Prosper". In line with this, we are keen to develop the skills and capacity of our Board.

CLOWNS WITHOUT BORDERS INTERNATIONAL (CWBI)

Set up in 2010 to promote collaboration and coordination between different countries, CWBI is made up of representatives from the 14 CWB chapters. CWBI is also a mechanism to raise awareness amongst large NGO's and other bodies the collective might and impact of our work. In 2013, for example, the combined total of projects delivered was 81 in 40 countries reaching over 300,000 children. In 2015, CWBI became an official member of UNESCO and established an MOU with Plan International to ensure quick response to disasters is possible between organisations.

Each chapter pays membership dues to CWBI of 300 euros + 1% of funds raised.

We meet once a year for an AGM and with a minimum of four Board Meetings per year.

CURRENT BOARD For details of our trustees, please visit, <http://www.clownswithoutborders.org.uk/our-story>

FINANCE

The charity received donations of £22,077 in 2016 (2015: £11,329). After outgoing expenses of £13,010 (2015: £8,236), the charity was left with a surplus of £9,067 (2015: £3,093) for the year. The amount of unrestricted and designated funds we have at the end of year 2016 totals £14,046.

Our current sources of income are from a mix of corporate donors, multiple individuals and fundraising events run by supporters and CWB UK. We continue to build our reserves to safeguard us from an unexpected drop in donations. The amount has been set at £4,500. Our reserves policy also includes an emergency fund that enables us to respond quickly in a crisis situation. Based on similar calculations, our Emergency Fund is set at £3,375 and enables three performers to deliver laughter to children in emergency situations. Our total reserve fund is £7,875 and is reviewed annually.

ROLE TITLE	Trustee
Key Relationships:	Chair of the Board, Board of Trustees, Director
Role Summary:	To deliver CWB's mission through good governance
Key Skills:	We are interested in hearing from applicants with interest and expertise across one or more of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Management • Fundraising • Legal • Humanitarian Aid • Strategic Development • Marketing / Social Media / Graphic Design •

Specifically, we are looking to appoint 3 new trustees, ideally taking up the position of Chair or Treasurer.

Every trustee is responsible for:

- Governance & Accountability
- Ensuring CWB is carrying out its purpose for the public benefit
- Ensuring that CWB is acting in accordance with its Articles of Association and all applicable laws, including statutory accounting and reporting requirements
- Ensuring CWB is delivering the charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public for which it has been set up

Ensuring CWB is managed responsibly by:

- Being ultimately responsible for directing the affairs of the charity
- Ensuring CWB is and remains solvent, is well run and has sound financial safe-guarding procedures in place
- Supporting the Director to ensure the long-term financial viability of the charity including participation in fundraising
- Acting with integrity and in the best interests of CWB

Person Specification

- Passionate about the arts, culture and it's ability to create positive impact
- Interest in Human Rights
- Embodying the values of CWB and endeavoring to maintain a spirit of joy, peace, compassion and loving kindness in the way we work together on the Board
- Enthusiastic about our mission and able to support this through the sharing of ideas, professional expertise and networks
- Happy to represent CWB at events and CWBI AGM when necessary

Other

- Trustees are appointed for a minimum of two years
- Trustees meet at least three times a year, usually taking place in London or via Skype and last up to 3 hours
- A Trustee automatically ceases to be a Trustee if s/he is absent from three consecutive meetings
- Reasonable travel expenses to board meetings will be compensated
- This is a voluntary position

How to apply

For further information please feel free to contact, Sam Holdsworth (Director) on 07939 522 518 or at: sam@clownswithoutborders.org.uk

Closing date for applications: **December 20th 2017**

Please send a CV and Expression of Interest by email to sam@clownswithoutborders.org.uk

Interviews will be held early January 2018

