



Trustees Annual Report 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

ALKIONIDES UK

Reg. Charity 1125976

Aims and objectives

The Alkionides UK Charity exists to provide emergency assistance to individuals in the UK Cypriot & Greek communities on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the committee. We mostly provide relief of financial hardship of needy patients and their families from Cyprus undergoing medical treatment in UK hospitals, by providing free accommodation and/or by making grants of money for providing or paying for services or facilities not otherwise provided for.

Additionally, the charity instigates projects and programmes to help groups or individuals in the British Cypriot community such as families with children with special educational needs and disabilities or students from low-income families, as discussed and approved by the committee.

Generally, for such other charitable purposes which are for public benefit as the Trustees shall from time to time in their absolute discretion think fit.

The charity works with key partners in the UK and Cyprus to identify and ensure that patients coming to the UK are in need of financial assistance.

All of the Trustees and members give their services and time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or financial benefit. The charity applies strict policies regarding the collection of funds to ensure full transparency and accountability.

Alkionides UK confirms that the trustees have paid due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake in order to ensure that the public benefit requirements are met.

The activities undertaken in order to ensure that these public benefit requirements and the objects of the charity are met, include covering the temporary accommodation costs in central London to house several families at a time. These funds are raised through various cultural events, membership and generous donations from sponsors. In the last fifteen years we have been able to provide short-term rented accommodation for around 400 low-income families, some coming more than once. This shelter, our 'Nest', has been mostly fully occupied over the years bringing enormous relief to those we help. Our volunteers also provide assistance with translations/ telephone support/ transportation to and from hospitals/airports, and visit the patients and their accompanying family members and carers as much as possible.

The charity is proud to have established a Birmingham and Midlands branch which similarly raises funds and whose members and volunteers provides much needed support to families in need.

Thanks to the support of the Keith Coombs Trust we have been providing outings and financial assistance to families of children with special educational needs and disabilities in the Birmingham and Midlands area for several years. The families and the children greatly enjoy these outings and are happy to meet and support the other families facing similar challenges.

Several years ago, we started a programme to sponsor poor, deserving Cypriot students at UK institutions to help with the enormous costs which we have continued this year. We feel that education is an essential commodity and will help these youngsters find and secure better careers and allow them to help their families and perhaps others too.

Summary of achievements:

1. This year we purchased a house in North London to use as our 'Nest'. The property acquired was renovated within two months and with the help of our volunteers we moved into our new premises in February. The funds for the Nest were provided by the charity and the 'Nest' is held by Alkionides (UK), a charitable company with the same charitable objects as and under common control with the charity.
2. We continued to house patients and their accompanying families or carers in our 'Nest' or hotels during the year. With the acquisition of our new 'Nest' we expect to eliminate or significantly reduce the need to spend money on hotel accommodation.
3. Families in need in Birmingham and the Midlands enjoyed the arranged outings.
4. Our charity's president, finalized and presented her book, documenting the story of the charity. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the charity.

Alkionides UK President's report 2024

The past year was marked by a remarkable achievement, the purchase of a six-bedroom property on the Golders Green Estate, the Alkionides UK 'Nest'. This was made possible by the support of our members, the devotion of amazing volunteers on the team who undertake the enormous responsibilities involved, and of course our major sponsors. We will be forever grateful to CAPITAL GROUP, The A. G. Leventis Foundation, The Reo Stakis Charitable Foundation, Alkionides Cyprus, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas and the NPT Trust, Alkionides Birmingham & Midlands and Mr & Mrs J. Koumi, K. J. Pittalis and others who contributed in so many ways.

The financial year started with our 25th Anniversary celebration at St. Panteleimon Church Hall in May 2023, which was a great success. Both our Patron, His Excellency the High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus in the UK, Mr Andreas Kakouris, and His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, honoured us with their presence and kind words. In July 2023, we also welcomed the President of Parliament, Annita Demetriou who showed great empathy and had a lot of time to talk to our patients.

Our new 'Nest' was professionally renovated in two months under the supervision of Petros Stylianou and architect Akis Pattihis. We were very moved when Joe Koumi arrived at 7.00 a.m. with vans and 20 volunteers from his factory 'Love Joes' in Birmingham in order to help us with the move. They cleaned our previous rented house as well as the new one, installed and carried machines and furniture, cleaned the patio and finally put up a canopy for an impressive barbeque for all!

We were proud to celebrate the inauguration in March with the High Commissioner unveiling the plaque. Mr Kakouris has supported the charity enormously during his tenure in the UK. Mrs Leventis OBE, helped plant an olive tree in 'Georgia's Garden, named after our dear friend Georgia Polyviou, President of Alkionides Cyprus (2006-2021), who left us too soon. After years of campaigning for patients' rights, we felt very moved by former Minister of Health Mrs Popi Kanari's emotional speech in which she praised the charity's enormous contribution, on behalf of the whole Cypriot nation. Mrs Kanari worked ceaselessly to enact the law that will provide additional financial support to patients who are sent abroad for essential medical treatment. Archimandrite Vissarion Kokliotis from the local Church in Golders Green and Protopresbyter Constantinos Garivaldinos gave their blessing.

The refurbished 'Nest' at Cumbrian Gardens is already full and it provides a home-from-home where volunteers visit and provide moral support and advice to help alleviate the stress faced by these families in addition to the trauma of serious illness. The house is very near the Royal Free Hospital, where long-term liver patients undergo many tests before they gain approval to be added to the transplant list, a process that can take a long time. The committee has set up a rota of visitors to ensure that the guests have everything they need and the house is in good order. We provide cleaning services, Greek TV and fast internet. Taxis to and from airports are covered by the charity, until the new law is applied and the Cypriot government starts reimbursing these expenses. We help with volunteers or paid interpreters when needed.

Accommodation will remain free for our patients who prefer our welcoming 'Nest' to a hotel because of our support, facilities for laundry and cooking as well as Cypriot television. Hotel prices in central London are prohibitively expensive and availability is often restricted. The government covers part of the cost on their return.

Fundraising events bring our communities together and help cover the enormous running costs. Last November, I felt very moved at the presentation of my book / memoir, the story of the charity written during the pandemic period, 'Ταξίδι Αγάπης' ('Alkionides Making a Difference') which took place at the Kykko monastery Archangelos centre in Cyprus. Katie Economidou and her band entertained once more, free of charge. I was very moved by the love and support from everyone, especially patients who attended the events. The House of Cyprus at the High Commission in London, opened its doors the week after for the launch in the UK. A big thank you goes to our Cultural Councilor Marios Theocharous for the organization. The High Commissioner's words brought tears to our eyes. All the money from the book will support the charity. A young Cypriot student at Bath University, Aggelina Lakkotrypi, was presented with an 'Olympic' medal at the event, for climbing the Kilimanjaro Mountain to raise funds for Alkionides UK.

Also in November, the famous Bailey's Night in Birmingham, an initiative started by dynamic Doula Koumi years ago, took place at the ESTIA, where hundreds of people danced, performed, played games till the early hours of the morning and donated with their hearts. Trustees Lillian Malla and Helen Vasiliou, as well as Kyriacos Akathiotis and Fotoulla Lytra and the team saw to all necessary preparations. Our team in Birmingham continue to organise memorable outings for families with children with special educational needs and disabilities. A Christmas get-together and a birthday party for young Dorotheos were very special. Costs are covered by an annual grant from the Keith Coombs' Trust. Siblings, carers and parents are included and a friendship has developed between them.

In December, Maro Athanasiou hosted, once again, the traditional baking of cookies ('kourabiedes and melomakarona') which sold out at our Christmas Carols event with our High Commissioner, at Dr Rebecca Hatjiosif's hospitable home. Volunteers provided delicious food and everyone enjoyed the festive atmosphere.

We are delighted to be able to provide grants for some students, especially from families who have stayed with us over the years: We are proud of Ioannis, who lost his leg at the young age of 11 to osteosarcoma who is now in his second year, studying IT at Westminster University. At the same time, he is working on the websites for two associations and helping at our events. Stella, who started coming in 2010 as a young child needing painful facial plastic surgery, is still coming for more treatments. She now excels at Volos University and hopes to become a teacher for special educational needs in order to help others, 'like Alkionides helped her'. The mother of baby Izabella at Kings hospital could not wait for benefits after complications which meant that she had to extend her stay, so the committee decided to help without delay.

The purchase of our beautiful new home required several key changes: the conversion from a charity to a charitable company, Charity Commission approval, registration at Companies' House and new banking arrangements. We are grateful to Mr. Chrysanthos Protopapas and the Xenophon Protopapas Foundation for their help and advice for the conveyancing. We are indebted to our directors: Angelos Athanasiades, Dr Alan Nicholsby, Tatiana Der Avedissian, Nicholas Nicolaides, Galatia Rossides, Dr Rebecca Hatjiosif, Helen Vasiliou, Lilliana Malla, David Nicholsby and myself who have taken enormous responsibilities for decisions, to ensure that the charity can move to the future with confidence.

We are equally grateful to the Alkionides UK Committee: Treasurer Leandros Sideris, Secretary Eugenie Papadopoulos, Media secretary Monica Kourtoumbelides, Maro Athanasiou, Sue Kittalides, Linda Kyriacou, Maro Chrysostomou, Stella Dinenis and Clarissa Germanos. We welcome new members and we are very sad to lose my valued advisor Galatia this year, who is moving back to Cyprus with her husband.

Thank you for giving us courage to continue serving those who desperately need our help. We are honoured to have with us today the wife of our new patron, Dr Kyriacos Kouros, who is keen to help us with our work.

With a heavy heart, I ask everyone to stand in silence to think of our boy, 37-year-old George Nikolaou, who passed away on the 13th of June, having waited for nearly 7 years to receive a second liver transplant for amyloidosis. Let us hope nobody else will endure his suffering.

Committee 2023 -2024

- Marie Parisinou-Nicholsby, President & Trustee
- Tatiana der Avedissian, Co-President & Trustee
- Angelos Athanassiades, Trustee
- Dr Alan Nicholsby, Website manager & Trustee
- Linda Kyriacou, Membership secretary & Trustee
- Eugenie Papadopoulos, Secretary
- Leandros Sideris, Treasurer
- Nicholas Nicolaides, Corporate governance
- David Nicholsby, Financial advisor
- Monica Kourtoumbelidou, Social media manager
- Clarissa Germanos, Committee member
- Dr Rebecca Hatjiosif, Committee member
- Galatia Rossides, Committee member
- Helen Vasiliou, Committee member
- Liliana Malla, Committee member
- Maro Athanasiou, Committee member
- Maro Chrysostomou, Committee member
- Stella Dinenis, Committee member
- Sue Kittalides, Committee member

Structure and Governance

The charity is an association of members governed by a constitution adopted 20th May 2007, amended on 21st October 2012 and as further amended by resolution dated 29th September 2019. The committee meet roughly every two months and hold their annual general meeting in the summer.

Trustees are appointed having due regard to their competence and commitment to the charity and are briefed about their duties by the committee.

The charity's registered address is: 52 Cumbrian Gardens, NW2 1EF, London

Financial Review

All funds are deposited in a current or deposit bank account from which disbursements are made. As at the year end the charity held cash of £167,076 and reserves of £170,769. The majority of funds are raised from donations and charity events. The reserves held are sufficient to cover the charity's long-term needs.

The charity acquired the 'Nest' for which an amount of £875,000 was needed. The charity also spent an additional £54,464 on property improvements. The funds for the Nest were provided by the charity and the 'Nest' is held by Alkionides (UK), a charitable company with the same charitable objects as and under common control with the charity. Furthermore, on 1 April 2024, the charity transferred its trade and assets (net assets totalling £170,769) to Alkionides (UK). Consequently, the charity is no longer operating, is not a going concern and the financial statements have been prepared on the break up basis. Any future donations received by the charity will be transferred to Alkionides (UK).

The Charity prides itself in keeping all administration cost to an absolute minimum to ensure that all money raised is able to be used to help those in need. We do not employ staff, rent office space nor incur costly administrative overheads. Please refer to our accounts for further details.

Consumables such as cleaning materials for the 'Nest', PPE, administrative charges for website hosting, printing as well as event-related costs and software licenses amounting to several hundred pounds are generously provided by the trustees and other members and do not appear in the Charity's accounts.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

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Full name(s)

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Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

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Date

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ALKIONIDES UK – Final Accounts April 2023 - March 2024

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

Assets	Note	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-23
		£	£
Fixed Assets	1		
Household Items, original cost		0	1,262
Less Accumulated Depreciation		0	1,262
		0	0
Current Assets			
Inventory		693	245
Prepayments		0	500
Rent deposit		3,000	4,350
Cash at Bank and in hand	2	167,076	732,104
		170,769	736,699
Total Assets		170,769	736,699
Equity			
Current Year Earnings		(565,930)	257,888
Retained Earnings		736,699	478,811
Total Equity		170,769	736,699

As at 31 March 2024, funds of £nil (2023 - £92,181) were restricted for the purchase of a property.

As at 31 March 2024, funds of £2,306 (2023 - £nil) were restricted for individuals with special needs.

On 15 November 2023 Alkionides UK paid £875,000 for the acquisition of the Nest and £54,464 for property improvements on behalf of Alkionides (UK), an incorporated charity with the same charitable objects and under common control with Alkionides UK. The payment of these funds constitutes an unrestricted donation from Alkionides UK to Alkionides (UK).

On 1 April 2024, the charity transferred its trade and assets to Alkionides (UK), an incorporated entity with the same charitable objects. Consequently, the charity is no longer operating, is not a going concern and the financial statements have been prepared on the break up basis. Any future donations received by the charity will be transferred to Alkionides (UK).

ALKIONIDES UK - Accounts April 2023 - March 2024

Income and Expenditure Statement

	Note	2023 - 2024 £	2022 - 2023 £
<u>Income:</u>			
Fundraising events	3	27,241	31,032
Donations	4	382,962	295,445
Membership subscriptions		10,365	10,415
Sale of Merchandise	5	3,892	1,469
Other	6	20,373	4,579
		444,833	342,940
<u>Expenditure:</u>			
Donation expense (New Nest)	7	929,464	
Nest running costs	7	44,938	44,449
Additional accommodation		3,195	13,810
Medical assistance & translation		20	500
Student grants		6,200	5,000
Special needs programme	7	3,695	7,089
Transport & Food		14,237	10,446
Other administrative costs	8	9,014	2,942
Depreciation		0	816
Total UK Expenditure		1,010,763	85,052
Excess of Income over Expenditure		(565,930)	257,888

ALKIONIDES UK**Notes to accounts**

	31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2023
	£	£
1 Fixed Assets		
Household items, original cost		1,262
Depreciation - Audio visual and computer equipment		-288
Depreciation - Furniture and soft furnishings		-311
Depreciation – Household appliances		-663
Total Fixed Assets	0	0
2 Cash at Bank and in hand		
Barclays Business Banking Current	11,713	98,238
Birmingham & Midlands	6,047	16,516
Hampshire Trust Bank	0	88,055
Lloyds Business (UK)	145,104	441,447
United Trust Bank Charity 1yr bond	0	87,005
Petty cash EUR	3,520	282
Petty cash GBP	692	561
PayPal	0	0
Total Cash at Bank and in hand	167,076	732,104
3 Fundraising events: (net proceeds)		
Dinner dance (raffle tickets) / Other raffles	15,458	40
Cultural & other daytime events		7,415
Personal & Virtual sponsored challenges	1,133	1,705
Sponsored Events	4,040	7,016
Christmas Bazaar, Kourabiedes	1,639	
Bluebird Sessions and other young events		495
90s night	50	686
Birthday fundraisers	1,821	175
Birmingham fundraisers	3,100	13,500
Event income	27,241	31,032
4 Donations		
Unrestricted donations		
Memorial donations	10,252	12,852
Capital Group (unrestricted)	79,426	83,382
The A. G. Leventis foundation	49,574	10,000
REO Stakis Charitable Foundation		15,000
Ayia Napa Hotels & Christos Lazari Foundation	5,085	3,000
Other major benefactors	62,096	41,138
Other unrestricted donations	31,930	29,542
Total unrestricted donations	238,362	194,914
Restricted donations	£	£
REO Stakis Charitable Foundation	100,000	12,852
Capital Group		83,382
Keith Coombs Trust (special needs)	6,000	10,000
House Purchase	38,600	15,000
Other restricted donations		3,000
Total restricted donations	144,600	41,138
Total donations	383,962	295,445

All the funds from these restricted donations are being used in accordance with their intended use.

ALKIONIDES UK**Notes to accounts continued**

	31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2023
5 <u>Membership & Merchandise</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Memberships	695	560
Sustaining membership	9,670	9,855
Sale of Merchandise – Marie's book	3,153	
Sale of Merchandise - tea towels & aprons	470	220
Sale of Kourabiedes and Melmakarona	130	986
Sale of Merchandise - cards, bags and other books	139	263
<u>Sub-total</u>	14,257	11,884
6 <u>Other Income</u>		
Other donations	30	44
Interest on deposits	1,675	1,591
Tax reclaimed via Gift Aid	18,668	2,944
<u>Total other income</u>	20,373	4,579
7 <u>Financial Assistance:</u>		
Nest		
Nest rent	30,000	36,000
Utility bills (Gas & Electricity)	6,163	4,032
Council Tax	2,525	2,715
Water	845	850
Cleaning	624	
Telephone, Internet and Cyprus TV	818	852
Repairs & maintenance	3,964	
Donation to Charitable Company (New Nest)	929,464	
Nest total	974,402	44,449
Other Accommodation	3,195	13,810
Medical assistance & translation	20	500
Student grants	6,200	5,000
Special needs outings and other help	3,695	7,089
Transport	4,907	3,864
Food & Living expenses	9,330	6,582
<u>Total Financial Assistance</u>	27,347	36,845
8 <u>Other Expenditure</u>		
Event costs (hall hire, catering, etc.)	4,295	1,185
Insurance	1,350	269
Accounting	1,033	292
Legal costs (house purchase)	1,450	
Bank charges	62	302
Other expenses	779	894
Awards	45	
<u>Total other expenditure</u>	9,014	2,942