



ANNUAL REVIEW 2019



Whilst setting up its work amongst the refugees and orphans in war-torn Bosnia, on 12th October 1994 **Miracles** was awarded Charity Registration by the British Charity Commission under the number 1041449 and thus our charity came into force here in the UK to offer help to those who really need a miracle in their tragic lives.

On that same date a Silver Jubilee Dinner was held at Church House, Westminster, to celebrate twenty-five years of service.

In support of this significant landmark, the renowned graphic designer, Mike Payne, created an artwork to encapsulate just what **Miracles** is all about and he came up with an artwork depicting exactly what the Friends of **Miracles'** Support Group is all about—and has been since 2000. This Jubilee year we hope to find many more Friends to help us towards our Golden Jubilee!

Miracles' Patrons and Trustees joined Founder, Theo Ellert, who had organised the event, to pay tribute to the work carried out over the past twenty-five years—here at home and in Bosnia. Our special guest at the dinner was Matthew Procter (*right*) just returned from a trip to the **Miracles'** Centre over there. His attendance was the miracle we had all prayed for in his long months of recovery from the stroke he suffered last year.



Other guests at the dinner included Patrons, Bishop John Gladwin, Joseph Caruso from Australia and Christopher Biggins. Sadly Terry Waite could not be with us due to an accident to his knee but a moving letter from him was read out by **Miracles'** Chief Executive, Robert Linley-Munro.

A warm welcome was extended too to the renowned QC, Rudi Forsten (*left*) a new addition to the **Miracles'** Board. Rudi is particularly supportive of James Burton's Prison Project.



With the Jubilee Year approaching, Theo felt it was time for her to take a lesser role in the running of the charity and after considerable thought and discussion, Helena Clavel-Flores agreed to co-Chair the charity with her for the time being. Helena is now the official Chair of Trustees Meetings as well as a highly valued supporter. (*pictured right is Theo welcoming Hele-*



Trustee Rodrigo Rodriguez (*pictured left with his beautiful wife, Nayke Garcia*) Chaired the Event Committee for the 2019 Annual Dinner, this year held in March at The Plaisterers Hall in the City of London.



The event was highly successful – in line with the reputation of all **Miracles'** events – and raised a considerable sum in support of our Casework here in the UK and particularly our Crisis funding which is very much in demand now that the **Miracles'** service is becoming more widely known by Social Workers in Hospitals throughout the country. Our special thanks go to Arlene Blankers from Christies who generously gave up her time to conduct the Auction for us. .

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An Urgent Appeal from Miracles' Founder

My Very Dear Friends

You may or may not know me personally but I have always felt that our charity is a family my family - and as such I deeply value your part in *Miracles*.
Miracles exists for the many families living in dire poverty and trying to cope with sick- sometimes dying - children.

Over the last twenty-five years we have provided this service literally on a shoestring. To this day our office is housed in a couple of rooms on the ground floor of my home in Sussex with our Project Director based in his home in Teddington - all at no charge to the charity. Our Casework and Respite Break projects are co-ordinated single-handed by our Casework Co-Ordinator working alongside myself and our CEO in Sussex. We have a seven strong Board of Trustees - none of whom receive any payment - myself included. Indeed, our total outgoings on Management and Administration is less than £150,000 p.a. - and this includes our State of the Art Prosthesis and Counselling Centre in Bosnia - still dealing with cases of landmine victims.

Here at home, however, government cut-backs are causing poverty to rise at an alarming rate with Food Banks running out of supplies and desperate families being housed in barely adequate accommodation - often with neither furniture nor floor covering. This has meant that calls on *Miracles*' help have trebled over the last two years as our name spreads from children's hospital to children's hospital as a source of help. Requests from London Hospitals alone now have risen to some £2,000 per month.

We are coping - mainly thanks to our Trustees digging deeper into their own pockets - but the trend is still rising. It is *Miracles* itself that needs help now - hence this plea for the help of all who are part of the *Miracles*' Family.

To continue providing free Respite Breaks to supremely needy families costs around £26,000 a year but in addition to this we need to find £24,000 each year for the tragic crisis cases being referred to us every day.

We CANNOT let these families down. They are the reason *Miracles* exists.
They are our families - yours and mine.

I am appealing to you all - every single one of you - and I am appealing from my heart.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE WHATEVER YOU CAN so that *Miracles* can still be a viable source of help to those who need it most.

My love to you all,

Theo Ellert

WHO'S DOING WHAT FOR.....*MIRACLES*

Team Grunburg Comes Up Trumps

With corporate support being so important to our work at *Miracles*, we were delighted when Grunberg & Co - our accountants for some twenty years - committed themselves to us even further by choosing *Miracles* as their chosen charity for 2019.

Robert Bean, Managing Partner and a *Miracles* Trustee, describes the aims and rationale of their support:

*Grunberg & Co supports a yearly charity and last year we put forward three options for our staff to vote on. **Miracles** overwhelmingly received the majority vote. The support that **Miracles** provides really touched the hearts of our staff: knowing that your financial support is actually getting to those that need it most.*

Grunbergs planned a whole range of fund raising events from a wine and cheese evening to a sponsored abseiling of the O2 tower in London, parachute jumps, walks and bike rides - to raffles and competitions all helping to raise £6,675 for *Miracles'* work.

Here's what Ollie Jones had to say about the parachute jump:

*It was a crazy and exhilarating experience. I was surprisingly not as nervous as I thought I would be. It's unlike anything else I've ever done in my life. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who wants to try it. The day was even more enjoyable knowing that we had raised a significant sum of money for **Miracles**—such a great charitable cause.*

Thank you from all of us at *Miracles* and, more importantly, from all the families we are able to help through the generous efforts of all our friends at Grunberg & Co.



St Martin's School – North London

St Martin's School proprietor, Joanna Wilson, was looking for a local charity that worked closely with its beneficiaries – where the funds raised would go directly to the people who needed it most.

Miracles fitted the bill.

Their first fund raising events took place in the build up to Christmas with bake sales, festive jumper day and cookie decoration workshop. The highlight was their annual Valentines disco where students raised a wonderful £305 for *Miracles*.

Thank you St Martin's – you're an inspiration to us all.

A Very Digital Thank You! ...

.... To our friends at AMI (Adagenda Media International), an independent media agency based in London, of which *Miracles'* Trustee Ben Williams is founder and Managing Director.

In particular this year our thanks go to Aeron Corrigan (*pictured right*). Aeron is AMI's Senior Client Director and was instrumental in 2019 acting as an adviser and mentor to *Miracles'* Project Director, James Burton, helping to shape our website content, developing google analytics and creating our first ever online advertising campaign in December.

Aeron also hosted a Well Being at Work week in September and gave *Miracles* the opportunity to join in and present the charity to employees.



Miracles is deeply grateful to all our supporters and Challengers for the time and effort they put in to the all important task of fundraising for *Miracles'* work—and particularly for *Miracles'* Respite Breaks and Rapid Response Service for families in Crisis.

For more ideas on how you can get involved please go to our website: www.miraclesthecharity.org



A Few of The 2019 *Miracles*' Children



Remember Lauren Malins, the Child Carer for her mum, Nikki?

Well, after Nikki died, Lauren married her childhood sweetheart and on a brief weekend at our Caravan little Alfie was conceived.



On his first visit to the *Miracles* Caravan Alfie met up with the Bunn Leisure Character, Foxy. He was so taken with the toy that for Christmas *Miracles* bought him his very own Foxy!



Left: Our wonderful Harmonie Hall enjoying herself in the snow with her school friend, Kairo.

Right: Sonny—by name and nature—is a little boy of six. He cannot walk or talk but has an amazing smile! His case was referred to us by Harmonie's mum, Caseworker, Freya Hall.

Caseworker, Jemima Gidley referred to us the case Naomi Tomlinson who was brought up in care and now suffers from severe epilepsy. She has a daughter, Mercedes, with Autism and a new baby (*left*) - four months old and just diagnosed with CHD and needing frequent hospital treatment.

Miracles is helping Naomi with travel costs and a shoulder to lean on.

One of our Social Worker friends at Great Ormond Street Hospital contacted us about a seven month old with Downs Syndrome and many life threatening complications. His six-year-old brother, Kaiyan is deeply upset seeing his baby brother in hospital so, at her request, James Burton, *Miracles*' Project Director, arranged a really fun day out: taking him by Rolls Royce to the Shrek's Adventure in London.

(*Pictured right with a Shrek toy in the Rolls limousine laid on for him.*)

The lovely *Miracles*' Disney Princesses—as featured in last year's Review—have been representing *Miracles* in schools and hospitals throughout the year.

Here they are with a little girl called Maham who has severe Autism. For her they organised a very special fifth birthday party.

Thank you, girls, you are as beautiful as you look



Here's how you can help us to make more miracles happen
Join the **Friends of *Miracles* Support Group** with a monthly donation direct from your bank
Include *Miracles* as a **Beneficiary in your Will.**
Support *Miracles*' Gala Events and Sponsorship Projects.
www.miraclesthecharity.org

And more of The *Miracles* Children you are helping

Below: Adie and Reilly James. With their Mum Maxine, they organised a Halloween Party last year to raise funds for *Miracles*. In the Summer the family came to our wheelchair friendly caravan for a holiday by the beach.



Left Pedro and Sandra Nobrega with their two daughters, Kayla and Lettie-May (2) who suffers from a congenital thyroid. In 2017 *Miracles* saved the family from being evicted from their home in a debt crisis situation. Since then *Miracles* has been there for them and always will be. Last year they enjoyed a family holiday in Selsey—thanks again to *Miracles*.

Right is happy little Ciara. She has Downs Syndrome and Leukaemia but is always happy!



Above is Kian who is in treatment for Leukaemia. He came to the caravan in August with his mum, Sarah and older sister Lacey. During their stay Kian celebrated his fifth Birthday and Park owners, Bunn Leisure invited his wider family to join the Birthday Party.



Above left: Matthew and Stephan Balogun enjoying a free ride at Gary and Melissa Butlin's ever popular Fun Fair.

Above right: Lexi-May Cairns with one of the Bunn Bunnies. And later at home, the proud possessor of a brand new wheelchair.

MIRACLES SILVER JUBILEE DINNER
12th October, 2019, at Church House, Westminster
Celebrating twenty five years of service to those in supreme need

Trustees and Patrons of Miracles joined Founder, Theo Ellert, at a Dinner in tribute to Miracles' landmark achievement.

Guests included Matthew Procter MBE (*Top left*), Miracles' Head of Mission in Bosnia, to whom Theo offered a special welcome. Matthew is now almost completely recovered from the stroke which so nearly claimed his life. His presence at the dinner was our very own miracle.

A special welcome was also extended to our wonderful celebrity Patron, Christopher Biggins, (*Centre*) with Rula Lenska—a dear friend of Miracles over many years. The Auction items included three exciting pieces of artwork from the renowned cartoonist, Mike Payne, and a superb sterling silver Miracles' Dove pendant specially made for the Jubilee by Jeweller, Valerie Black.

Present also was Patron, The Right Reverend John Gladwyn, (*Right*) who offered a special prayer for Miracles' future, making special mention of his late wife, Lydia—also a Patron of the charity until her tragic death last year. Pictured with him are Professor James Lynch with his wife, Mary, whose son Dominic is also a Trustee.



Also present at the Dinner were our friends and long time Miracles' Accountants, Grunbergs (*pictured below left with Marie-Antoinette Periere, Miracles' original Chair*). Another most welcome guest all the way from Australia was Trustee Joseph Caruso and his wife, Caroline. Joseph is pictured below right presenting Theo with a 25th Anniversary Plaque. They also donated the magnificent Coffee Table Book on the Caruso Family Heritage which was bought by new Trustee, Rudi Forsten.



Thanks go to Deborah Aldridge, Miracles' Casework Co-ordinator, for gathering all the prizes for the Rose Tombola and to voluntary caseworkers Sharon Hansell and Michelle Leonard for running it so successfully. And to James Burton, our Project Director, who ran the Silent Auction. (*James is pictured below left with his wife, Caroline, a long-time supporter of the charity.*)



The evening was brought to a close by Theo delightedly introducing Trustee, Helena Clavel-Flores (*Pictured bottom centre and right with her husband, Raphael America.*). Helena has recently agreed to take on the shared role with Theo as Miracles' Chair, dedicating herself to help the charity flourish and grow into its second Quarter Century.

Finally, thanks go to our photographer, Antonia Penia, whose photographs can be seen on her website: [www.antoniapena.com /miracles](http://www.antoniapena.com/miracles)

MIRACLES' ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER



Miracles' annual Gala Dinner was held at this year at the ancient Plaisterers Hall in London. This amazing venue has been preserved beneath a vast modern block tucked in behind St. Paul's Cathedral and next to the historic London Wall.

The Hall itself is only accessible via a lift from the ground floor to the basement of the building to this most elegant venue which delighted our 150+ guests joining us to raise urgent funds for *Miracles'* work during the coming year and to have a great time doing so..

The theme of the evening was pink—a theme highlighted by our beautiful Trustee and Co-Chair, Helena Clavel-Flores—pictured right with one of the superb paintings donated for the occasion.

One of the highlights from the evening was the *Miracles* Art Gallery – a broad selection of donated artwork from some of the UK's finest artists. Highlights included a Gerald Scarfe limited edition print and a satirical portrait of Theresa May's handling of Brexit. This work, entitled 'The Magician', sold for £800. In addition, there were two Matisse lithographs donated by the Broad Gallery, a Sue Ryder oil painting, a portrait from James Lloyd and an exquisite sea-scape from Michael Ewart.

Pictured left: Helena Clavel-Flores with one of the superb paintings

Also on display was the work of the sculptor Carol Peace who donated a piece entitled Winter Sun which raised over £3,000. Her work was on sale during the evening with a generous percentage donation from each sale to *Miracles*.

The dinner closed with a live auction expertly run by Arlene Blankers from Christies who generously gave her time in support of the charity. Auction Lots included two weeks' work experience at the Financial Times and also Depop, the hugely popular fashion website, a two-week holiday in Jose Ignacio; a week's break in New Hampshire and a chance to take part in the Monte Carlo Road Rally.

Miracles would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the event - from all our wonderful guests through to every company and individual who donated a prize:. Their continued support is what keeps *Miracles* happening.



*Pictured above: Trustees Dominic Lynch; Helena Clavel-Flores and Ben Williams.
Below: Miracles CEO Robert Linley-Munro with Founder, Theo Ellert and, Nayke Garcia with her husband Rodrigo Rodriguez*



A full list of sponsors and donors can be found on our webpages at www.miraclesthecharity.org

The *Miracles* Centre for Prosthesis and Psychotherapy

We are proud to announce that the Tenth Anniversary of The Miracles Centre was celebrated on 6th May 2019. During those ten years a huge amount of work has been achieved to ease the lives of landmine and civilian patients. Just a few are featured below. The following are details of the work completed over the past ten years.

519 new prosthetics * 2,168 corrections and new sockets * 94 gel liners * 356 shoe insoles
53 orthotic devices * 6 second hand wheel chairs * 4 new wheel chairs * 1 child's standing device
1 buggy for a disabled child * 48 pairs of orthopaedic shoes

Psychosocial counselling for 60 people * Financial aid for families (medicines, food, books, physiotherapy) * Seminar on Trauma Therapy for 25 participants organized by Divita *Miracles* and BacktoBack Ministries (US) * Project Proposals submitted to embassies and other possible donors.

Below is the moving account of Maid Bucman, one of the ongoing patients at the *Miracles*' Centre. His story was to be highlighted at the March fundraiser organised by *Miracles*' Swiss Foundation which sadly had to be cancelled. The Swiss Foundation (lafondationmiracles.org) is dedicated to providing limbs for the Centre. A limb costs around 3/4,000 Euros to be made and fitted. We would welcome hearing from anyone wishing to sponsor a limb and thus to change the life of others like Maid.

*Maid Bucman was just ten when a wartime grenade blew off his left foot and severely damaged his right leg. He battled his way through school and university and has now graduated from law school. The *Miracles* Centre provided him with one of their first prostheses and have looked after him ever since*

He remembers his first meeting with Matthew, Elvira and Nihad who he says are like a family to him, enabling him to play football with other children. Now, at 32, his love is Sitting Volleyball with fellow team-mates also patients at the Centre. Today he is a member of the BiH National Team - Olympic, World and European champions.



All this', he says, 'is proof that the boundaries of man are indeed in the head. My life is a struggle and I enjoy it. And I want the same for everyone else. We, the children of war, never lose - we just sometimes forget to look at the result. Let's move on.....'

Psychosocial counselling is a very necessary addition to the work of the Centre and we welcome our association with BacktoBack Ministries in the US and to Bosnia born Marcie Beckwith for her positive support of *Miracles* Bosnia.

Included in the last International Trust Fund Project was a psychologist working at the Centre to provide most needed psychological support for our patients. Many have been severely traumatised by what they have been through—the war, land mines, accidents and disabilities from birth. Counselling helps them to face their demons, to achieve their goals, and to develop and grow as individuals. It also helps them to cope with the challenges that face them and to make positive changes in those areas of life in which they need it.

In November, in conjunction with BacktoBack Ministries (US) who certify such training in countries throughout the world, Divita-*Miracles* arranged the very successful Seminar on Trauma Therapy Training which was held at Los Rosales—the Kindergarten supported annually by Julia and James Ogilvy and The Olga Trust. The Seminar was attended by 25 students of Psychology who may themselves one day provide an ongoing Psychological Service at our Centre. That is our hope and our aim.



Above left to right: Amina (10); Din (6); Edina (Mum of 3) - each semi funded by The Arthur MacClusky Foundation; Samir who lost his leg in a traumatic car accident and needs ongoing prosthesis treatment to enable him to work and provide for his young family. And an Autism Awareness Outing for the children of Los Rosales.

We were also pleased to welcome to the Centre a group from Ampleforth College and a Mine Risk Awareness Day for students from the Elementary School, both of which were given a comprehensive insight into the work of the Centre by *Miracles*' Prosthetist, Nihad Subicic.

MIRACLES

Music in Prisons Project

The Singer Inside

The latest 'Singer Inside' project came to an end on Friday 17 January in Send Women's Prison, near Guildford. It was by far our most successful prison project to date with twelve prisoners joining the course and with eight graduating in the final concert.

The 'Singer Inside' is a 3-month music project teaching prisoners how to play the guitar and write songs. It is funded with a grant from the Big Lottery and supported by our charity, ***Miracles***.

Miracles' Project Director, James Burton initiated and devised the project and partnered with three of London's finest singer-songwriters to deliver the project. They are pictured below (*left to right*): Adam Beattie, Lorraine Wood, Gabriele Moreno and James Burton.

Guitars were donated by Billy Brag's Gail Guitar Door charity as well as Friends of ***Miracles***.

The 'Singer Inside' is a creative intervention that helps to reduce the number of prisoners self-isolating, self-harming and falling into depression.

It increases the number of prisoners having access to activities that improve their skill levels, their confidence, their self-esteem, their support networks and their friendships - all contributing to their long term rehabilitation.



A letter of appreciation from the Governor of Send Prison

“ On Friday 17th January I was invited to attend a music concert organised as a culmination of a series of workshops held here at HMP Send.

It was a fabulous event and the music was truly inspiring. I felt extremely proud of the enthusiasm and talent that was showcased and am very grateful to the project for having pulled this together.

The therapeutic benefits of music are widely accepted and in an environment where so many of our women have been damaged or traumatised, it was really uplifting to see and hear the positive impact on those that took part.

I have had nothing but positive feedback from the women about how much they enjoyed the workshops and how learning how to write songs has helped them to channel their thoughts and feelings into something positive.

Thank you to all involved.”

Management Coordinator
Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service, HMP Send, Ripley Road, Send, Surrey

Getting Together with *Miracles'* Caseworkers

During the last week in August *Miracles'* Casework Co-ordinator, Deborah Aldridge, arranged for two of her key Voluntary Caseworkers to spend the last week of the school holidays together so that their children could gel and enjoy each other's company while the parents could spend some quality time with them and with each other, sharing experiences and ideas of ways in which they could promote the work of *Miracles*, the charity which means so much to them

Kelly Robbie from Bournemouth was there with her three daughters – Kyla, the oldest, who is training to be a nurse and looking forward to promoting *Miracles* in her future career; Daisy, a sweet, shy little 7 year-old and Lily (11) who keeps a loving and watchful eye on her six year old brother, Charlie, the apple of all their eyes who was born with severe heart problems, is tragically autistic, non-verbal and seriously hyper-active.

Jemima Morris was there with her husband, Phil, her nine year old son, Taylor, his adorable autistic brother Nathan (4) and the newest addition to the family, 17 week old Rozann whose older sister, Meghan, died earlier this year at just nine months old.

The two families had met through the hospitals where their respective children were receiving treatment. Five years ago, Kelly's son, Charlie, underwent life-threatening heart surgery during which time Kelly's husband was killed in a hit and run car crash. Then, during the surgery, George's heart stopped beating. After long hours of prayerful waiting it gradually re-started and shortly after he was discharged Kelly had his restored heartbeat tattooed onto her inside arm in gratitude for his recovery. Charlie still has a long way to go and will be undergoing further heart surgery through the years ahead.

Jemima is a dynamic and dedicated volunteer for *Miracles*. It was she who organised her daughter and friends to promote *Miracles* as the Disney Princesses, visiting schools for the handicapped and raising money for *Miracles* at the same time. Her son, Taylor, is now determined to follow her example and become a junior *Miracles* 'Ambassador'. His initial plan is to persuade his headmaster to allow him to promote the charity at a school Assembly.

Jemima's other initiatives include the production and sale of T-shirts (she will make a special one for Taylor's school debut). She is also making and marketing mugs, plates and other items and jumped at the chance of making some for the *Miracles'* Silver Jubilee.



It was a great opportunity to meet up with the Caseworkers and it is hoped that such gatherings can be organised for other members of the team with their families to spend time together, getting to know each other and exchanging ideas with their counterparts from all over the country. Gatherings like this are invaluable in developing the Caseworker Service which is now such a key part of the *Miracles* work for families in Supreme Need.

Pictured left to right: Theo Ellert (*Miracles'* Founder) with Nathan, Deborah Aldridge, Phil, Taylor, Jemima (with Baby Roxann), Daisy, Lily, Kelly, Charlie and Kyla.

WHO'S WHO IN THE *MIRACLES* CHARITY

Miracles Board of Trustees: Robert Bean * Theo Ellert (Founder) * Rudi Forsten
Silvia Gil-Alberdi * Helena Clavel-Flores (Co-Chair) * Dominic Lynch
Marie-Antoinette Pereire * Rodrigo Rodriguez * Ben Williams

Miracles UK Executive: Robert Linley-Munro (Chief Executive)
James Burton (Project Director) * Deborah Aldridge (Casework Co-ordinator)
(Sponsored by The Sobell Foundation)

Miracles Mission in Bosnia: Matthew Procter MBE (Head of Mission)
Elvira Dugalic (Director of the *Miracles* Centre and Trustee of Divita-*Miracles*)
Nihad Subasic (Divita *Miracles*/Prosthetist)
Amel Mrkjonc (*Miracles* Representative in BiH)

Miracles' Patrons: Christopher Biggins * The Earl of Bradford
Joseph Caruso * The Right Reverend John Gladwyn * Father Michael O'Malley
Terry Waite CBE

La Fondation *Miracles* Suisse:

Board of Trustees: Pierre-Laurent Bel * Patrick Fauchier * Celine Boudry
Francois Pereire * Marie-Antoinette Pereire * Ingrid Tissot * Nicolas Tissot

Patron: Lady Vernon

Director: Ingrid Tissot

Website: www.lafondationmiracles.org

Financial Summary taken from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st October 2019

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Incoming resources:	Voluntary income:	£260,820
	Fundraising	£146,156
	Other:	£ 446
		<u>£407,422</u>
Expenditure:	Fundraising:	£47,954
	Charitable Activities:	£405,403
		<u>£453,357</u>
<hr/> Net incoming Resources		<u>£-45,935</u>

BALANCE SHEET

Tangible Fixed Assets	£578,137
Net current assets	£167,303
	<u>£745,440</u>
- Represented by the following funds:	
Designated funds	£549,259
Other charitable funds	£196,181
	<u>£745,440</u>



These are
just some of
the children
who
Miracles
helps
here at home
and in post-
war Bosnia
through



The *Miracles*' Centre for Prosthesis and Psychotherapy

