

## Trustee Application - Information Pack

### Message from Ian Gray – Chair of the Toybox Board

I am delighted that you are interested in exploring more about Toybox. The Role Description and Person Profile will tell you a lot about the role of a Toybox Trustee with our website filling you in on the work that we currently do, but before all of that I wanted to give you an insight into being part of Toybox.

Toybox began almost 30 years ago with a mission to end the injustice of children clinging to life on Guatemala City's streets. Today that mission is undiluted, we are still working with street children in Guatemala City although our remit has significantly grown and changed during these intervening years and we now work across Latin America, Africa and Asia.



Toybox operates from a modern office in Bletchley, Milton Keynes where you can sense the commitment, professionalism and dedication amongst all staff as soon as you walk in. The whole team undertake amazing work with great energy and enthusiasm to support the street children and partners we work with. We try to give these children choices and opportunities in life, which would be impossible without the help of Toybox.

With a strong infrastructure and solid foundations in place, we are poised to expand and develop our work to help more street children and this is a tremendously exciting and challenging time to join us. Our CEO, Lynne Morris brings energy and experience to our Leadership Team.

I am privileged to be joined on the Board by a committed, experienced and skilled team of Trustees (please see [www.toybox.org/about/trustees](http://www.toybox.org/about/trustees) for details). We have worked hard to ensure we operate within a clear understanding of the different roles Executive staff and Trustees hold. We look to ensure we provide appropriate support for the CEO and the Leadership Team whilst properly exercising our governance responsibilities. Why else might you want to be part of Toybox? Because you want to see a just world where no child is forced to live or work on the streets – then you are just the candidate for us.

I hope you find the information we have provided helpful. If you believe you can bring the necessary skills, knowledge and passion to this important cause we would love to hear from you. I would be very happy to speak with you personally and can be contacted by email: [chair@toybox.org](mailto:chair@toybox.org).

Yours faithfully,



Ian Gray  
Toybox Chair

## What motivates us to act

We are distraught that we live in a world which allows children to sleep on pavements, work in appalling conditions, be subjected to violence and abuse on a daily basis and are denied the right to access healthcare, an education and have a voice in their own communities.

Right now, 100 million children<sup>1</sup> are subject to abuse and exploitation – this must change. Every street child has the right to a life which is free from fear and exploitation, where they can use their skills and talents and fully participate in community life.

## Our organisational vision

Our vision is of a just and fair world with no street children.

## Our organisational mission

Our mission, today and for the next three years, is to positively change the lives of more than 40,000 street children.

## Toybox core value

Our Core Value is: Courageous and to us this means:

- To do the right thing;
- To speak the truth against injustice and;
- To be unafraid to try new ideas.

## Our history

In 1991 the BBC aired a documentary about police officers shooting children living on the streets of Guatemala City. A British couple were watching from their sofa in Amersham and could not believe this was true. Moved to action by their disbelief, they flew to Guatemala to see for themselves. On arriving they came face to face with children living on the streets, children as young as three; desperate, isolated, alone and subject to the most brutal abuse. When then got home, their eyes had been opened and they could not close them, and Toybox was born – born out of a desire to challenge this injustice and change the future for these children.

Our unusual name, Toybox, was chosen to capture the visual representation that every child deserves a childhood free from harm in a loving, nurturing family.

## Our today

During the intervening years, Toybox, with countless dedicated, skilled staff and the most loyal supporters, has expanded its work to reach as many street children as possible. We are working across Latin America, Asia and Africa alongside children who are:

- living and/or working on the streets;
- subject to physical and sexual violence;
- without birth certificates, unrecognised citizens with no rights or opportunities;
- not in school or with no access to healthcare or a job and;
- in conflict with the law

Today our passion, commitment and reliance on God remains undiluted, we are a compassionate and

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<sup>1</sup> latest figure provided by UNICEF (2019)

determined people based in Milton Keynes, who completely believe that one day soon there will be a world with no street children. We are spurred on by anger and compassion that today millions of children are hiding under newspapers, sleeping on pavements, cowering in doorways; desperate to find food, desperate to find a toilet and desperate to be safe.

We have glorious but devastating jobs where we can make the world a better place – does it get any better than that? For us, it doesn't!

### **Our tomorrow**

We don't want to exist; we want to be unnecessary, irrelevant, as no child will be forced to sleep on the streets tonight.

### **Time commitment**

The Board meet four times a year at the Toybox office in Bletchley, Milton Keynes. Meeting last for a maximum of three hours and normally take place in the afternoon.

### **How to apply**

Expressions of interest are by summary CV together with a covering letter explaining what you would hope to bring to the role. You can either email your CV and covering letter to [lynne.morris@toybox.org](mailto:lynne.morris@toybox.org) or post to Lynne Morris – Challenge House, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6DP United Kingdom, marking the envelope "Private and Confidential". All expressions of interest will be kept confidential.

Toybox is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff, trustees and volunteers to share this commitment.

Toybox values diversity and therefore we encourage and welcome applications from suitably skilled candidates from all backgrounds.

We will only use the information you provide to process your application. For more information about how we use your information, see our Privacy Policy. In submitting an application for this role we will deem that you have read and understood this Policy.