



ATD Fourth World Annual Review 2013



The past year has been one in which we have harnessed the insight and engagement of many different stakeholders in order to affirm the governance and direction of ATD Fourth World for the years to come.

Following the announcements made by Martin Kalisa and Sarah Kenningham that they wished to step down from their responsibilities in the National Co-ordination Team, a gathering in September launched the process for forming a new team to lead our organisation forward.

The current challenges being faced by families and individuals experiencing persistent poverty in the UK were, as ever, at the heart of our discussions. We also took stock of how our programmes, projects, events and campaigns have been supporting people to overcome obstacles and pursue

Navigating change



their goals as well as counter prejudice and influence policy and practice.

Many family members, activists, friends and supporters were encouraged to participate in, and contribute to, the process of setting the priorities for ATD Fourth World going forward and writing the mandate to be given to the new National Co-ordination Team. These debates informed the decision to extend the scope of the team beyond those directly engaged in the day-to-day management of ATD Fourth World to people who, through their involvement in the community and wider society, can provide understanding and support from other perspectives.

As a result, Ben Cheney, Tom Croft and Moraene Roberts were invited to join Dann Kenningham, who will be continuing in his

role, in a new National Co-ordination Team that assumed its responsibilities at our recent Annual General Meeting.

All that remains is to thank the outgoing team for their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work over the past six years and to wish the new team the best of luck as they continue our work together towards our vision of a world without persistent poverty where everyone is valued, can participate fully in society and fulfil their potential.

With thanks for your ongoing support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Edwards'.

Rev. Nicholas Edwards
Chair, Board of Directors



When persistent poverty grinds a family down, from parents to children to grandchildren, it is not merely their material circumstances that are affected. Hand-in-hand with the key issues of poor health, debt, insecure housing, limited employment opportunities and a lack of choices comes a daily reality of badly, if not irrevocably, damaged confidence.

And yet it is having the confidence to engage in community life and face one's own challenges that is often key to combating poverty and carving out a fulfilling life for oneself. With the security and belief to define one's personal goals and aspirations comes the self-assurance to take the steps necessary to make progress towards them.

The ATD Fourth World Family Support Programme strives to work alongside the

Building confidence



most vulnerable families over the long-term to build trust, form lasting relationships and create a vital support network that allows families to make positive changes in their own lives before crisis strikes.

In the words of one mother, *“Before, we didn’t have much help; there was nobody to turn to.*

“Having a family support team behind me helped me gain confidence and I got a lot of support from them.

“It enabled me to speak out, helped me sort out issues with my children and communicate better with my son. It helped me with going to the council, making phone calls and attending meetings. There was support with rent arrears and budgeting, as well, which is a big issue right now for

everyone.

“It enabled me to go to places to ask for help when I needed it because I didn’t do that before; I kept things bottled up and didn’t get them sorted. It’s a big step to talk about things.

“ATD Fourth World has made a big difference for me and my family. The team has been inspirational to me and changed my life.”

family support



Frimhurst Family House is a modernised Victorian manor house set in its own woodland grounds in Surrey with full disabled access and superb facilities including a library, art studio, games room, nursery, computer suite and four purpose-built family apartments. And yet it is so much more than the sum of its parts.

As the setting for all residential activities of the ATD Fourth World Family Support Programme and, in particular, the *Getting Away From It* project, Frimhurst also offers families a peaceful and enjoyable break away from the day-to-day pressures and anxieties of a life in poverty as well as a chance to share experiences, build relationships and form new friendships.

In the words of one young girl, *“I like the freedom at Frimhurst; at home we’re not*

Shared experiences



allowed to play outside. I like it because I make new friends and the team are friendly.”

As always, it is the input of children that dictates the success of the project. Evaluating one residential break, one six year-old boy commented, *“The best bit for me is the playroom; there are a lot of toys. I really liked the painting because you can choose your own stuff to do. I like the flowers that are outside in the pots and I liked the baking workshop. I also liked doing the drums. I give a gold star to the playroom and doing the art.”*

In bringing together residential breaks and annual events such as the Summer Fun Day and the Christmas Party the aim of the *Getting Away From It* project is simple: to brighten up school holidays, take pressure off weary shoulders and generate happy

memories.

Together, the Summer Fun Day and the Christmas Party boasted art workshops, live music, face painting, karaoke, a clown, a bouncy castle and a visit to Santa’s Grotto. Events such as these allow parents to see themselves within a broader network of support, give them the opportunity to talk through issues they may find hard to discuss in other settings and broaden their horizons.



getting away from it



“People get self-esteem out of sharing their skills and working together. They can see the work they put in and get something back when they see a decent outcome in the way it gets used. It also introduces people to new things, new skills and is enjoyable.”

ATD Fourth World, through its *Skill-Sharing Workshops* and *Access to Volunteering* initiative, continues to invest in opening up more volunteering opportunities to disadvantaged adults and young people.

The aim is to offer practical steps towards supporting people to gain real work experience, develop their interests and fulfil their potential.

One long-term project has been the conversion of an attic at the ATD Fourth World National Centre in London into

A practical step forward



bedrooms, a living room and a kitchen. With specific tasks ranging from plastering walls and building a staircase to polishing floorboards and installing kitchen units, all overseen by skilled team members and trained personnel, project participants not only gain a sense of accomplishment and knowledge of their valuable contribution but also the chance to prepare themselves anew for the world of employment.

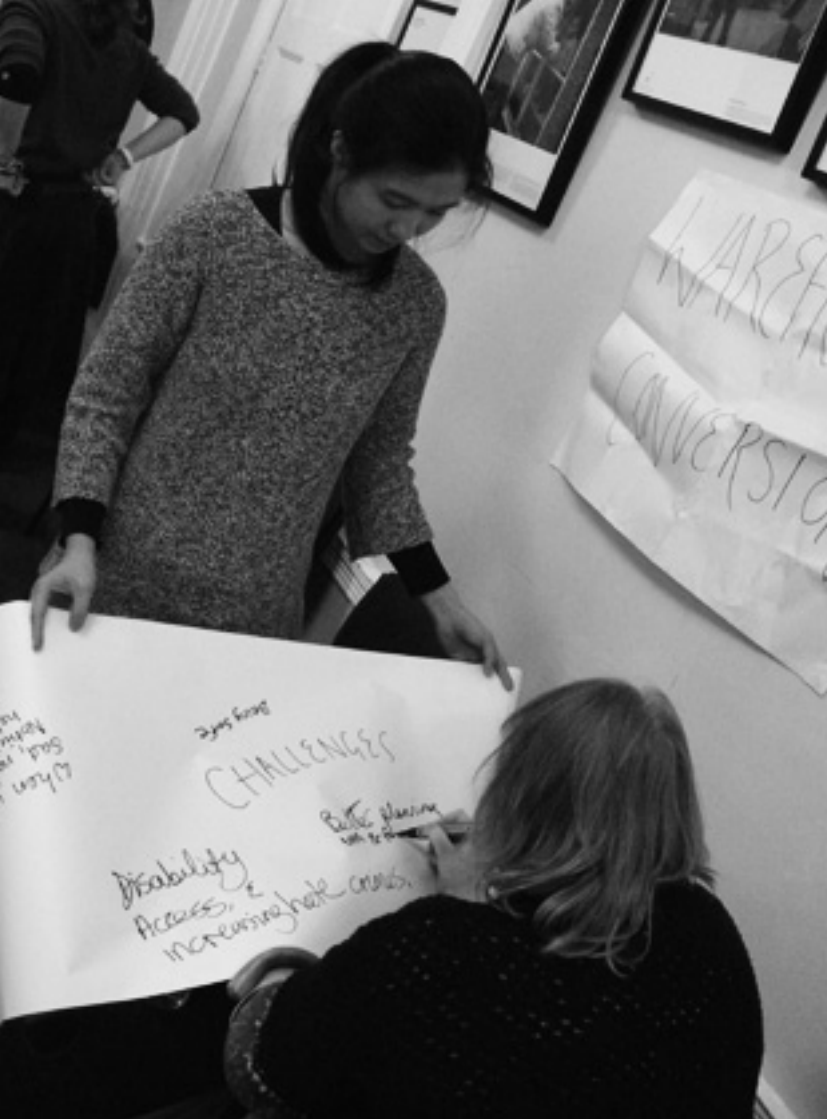
One father, looking back at his time working on the attic renovation, says, *“I like using my hands and learning new skills. It’s what I’ve done all my life, basically. I like getting my hands dirty. If I want to get out of the house, I come here; it gives me a break from all the pressures at home.*

“It’s about learning new skills and learning off each other.

“I have painted the stairs, the walls on the stairs and learned a bit of plastering through getting involved with was the attic renovation.

“I’d recommend it because it sets you up for work. It just helps you, especially if you’ve been unemployed a long time, because it gives you energy. When you’re here, you’re doing something with your time and not just staring at four walls, listening to music or watching the television.”

skill-sharing



Throughout 2013 the *Giving Poverty a Voice* project focused on the issue of housing and its impact on people already facing poverty and social exclusion, as well as exploring new avenues for participants to get involved in their local communities, express themselves and participate in the democratic process.

Using a wide range of workshops, opportunities for training on public speaking and discussion groups, the project worked to identify issues related to housing that people would like to see change. The resulting report, *Housing and Home*, was released in October to coincide with the United Nations-recognised International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The report focused on three main recommendations: more good quality social

Speaking out for change



housing should be available for people on state benefits and low wages in London; there should be good advice, information and support to explain changes in the system and prevent people falling into crisis; and everyone should be treated with dignity and respect by service providers.

As the launch of the report neared, participants targeted campaigns and decision makers to make their voices heard. In May, a delegation took part in the Southwark Council Community Conversation *Let's Talk about the Future of Housing* and, in September, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing Raquel Rolnik met *Giving Poverty a Voice* as part of her study visit to the UK.

On the back of the report, the Old Vic New Voices community theatre organisation ran a

workshop to gather participants' experiences, hopes and fears for the housing system to be incorporated into the Spring 2014 production *Housed*.

"Giving Poverty a Voice has given me the chance to be a part of something that puts in the public eye the voice of people who often can't speak for themselves and make people aware that poverty exists and not to sweep it under the carpet. It's been a chance to meet people and visit different venues. I like hearing their different points of view and what they have to say on the big issues."



 Lloyds TSB | Foundation for England and Wales

giving poverty a voice



From helping neighbours and volunteering in community projects to being full-time carers for family members or supporting local art projects, individuals living in poverty find many ways to participate in the society around them. Unfortunately, these contributions are often forgotten or overshadowed by the political, media and public portrayal of people in poverty as lazy, self-interested or as work-shy skivers.

Throughout 2013 ATD Fourth World worked to challenge such stereotypes through the development of the soon-to-be-published book *The Roles We Play: Recognising the Contribution of People in Poverty*.

The publication will feature professional portrait photographs of individuals with experience of poverty, taken by London-based photographer and artist Eva Sajovic,

Participating in society



and self-written biographies that underline how the participants combat poverty and social exclusion in their communities and their everyday lives.

The creative process was collaborative. Participants were at the centre of the project and chose the locations for their photographs based on their personal significance or to highlight an aspect of their engagement in the community. This included homes, local markets, ATD Fourth World premises, parks and cafés.

For Eva Sajovic, *“What is beautiful about this project is that it has grown together; it really is the most proper collaboration that you can have. Often, it’s really very difficult to have the feeling that people are all contributing in an equal way but, for me, that is how you achieve something*

different. You can feel that this is something profound.”

Photo shoots were accompanied by videotaped interviews (later to feature on a multimedia website) where participants were invited to discuss how it felt to be involved in the project. As one participant said, *“This project is very important to me because it means I am not invisible anymore; I am recognised as a human being with thoughts, feelings and aspirations. I feel respected. It helps me define myself more positively and feel I have a valuable part to play in society.”*



the roles we play



For several years now, ATD Fourth World here in the UK has celebrated 17 October, the United Nations-recognised International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, with a series of local events to raise awareness about the reality of poverty both at home and around the world.

The overarching theme for this year's events was *Poverty=Discrimination*. To highlight how people living in poverty can experience prejudice as a result of their situation, a group of ATD Fourth World grassroots members, alongside friends and supporters, interviewed members of the public and produced short films capturing people's thoughts on the significance of the day and the reality of being discriminated against due to one's economic disadvantage.

The films were featured during an evening

Poverty = Discrimination



of folk music at St. Giles' Church in Camberwell and at an acoustic night at Café Cairo in Stockwell, as well as accompanying the photographic exhibition *The Roles We Play* while it was on display at Café Maloko in Camberwell.

In the words of one filmed interviewee, *"17 October is a day for celebrating the achievements of people in poverty and human resilience. It's also a time to remember people who have been victims of poverty. I remember people I knew who have died, some of whom were very, very young; they're not with us anymore and they should still be here. It's a time for remembering them and all the millions of people around the world who are like them."*

Furthermore, on the day itself and with support from the Wakefield and Tetley Trust,

a roundtable discussion and open forum marked the public launch of the *Housing and Home* report. Organised in conjunction with the Southwark Citizens Advice Bureaux Service, the event showcased local initiatives to tackle disadvantage and promote social inclusion and boasted a great turnout of local authority staff and voluntary groups alongside participants and partners in the *Giving Poverty a Voice* project.

In addition, an Open House Family Day including art workshops, live music and children's activities rounded off the weekend.

17 october



A residential internship at ATD Fourth World can offer new skills, discoveries and experiences to anyone willing to give their time, energy and talents towards making a difference.

Volunteers have an important role to play in the running and organisation of a number of our projects in the UK and there are opportunities to work directly with families living in poverty or supporting those who do. Every effort is made to take into account the location, availability, background and interests of the applicant so as to make it possible for those that wish to get involved to do so.

A limited number of residential internships are made available throughout the year, ranging from supporting specific projects and campaigns to fundraising or general

A true contribution



maintenance. Often based at the ATD Fourth World National Centre in London or at Frimhurst Family House in Surrey, these full-time internships last a minimum of six months and accommodation, work-related travel expenses and basic living expenses are provided.

Hannah Blumhardt is a new recruit to the UK team and says of her experience, *“Since joining ATD Fourth World to support the Policy, Participation and Training team, I have been involved in a wide range of activities, learned new skills and come to understand a truly participatory way of working to combat poverty.*

“A normal working day can include anything from running a workshop or drafting documents to interviewing family members. I’ve had the opportunity to

engage with academics, social workers, representatives from local community organisations and politicians but, most importantly, I’ve had the chance to work alongside individuals living in poverty, to learn from them and support them to express their views on social justice and what it really means to contribute to society.

“Above all, I value the way in which ATD Fourth World considers as integral the direct involvement of those with experience of poverty in all its work and truly recognises the importance of working with them rather than on their behalf.”

For more information on ATD Fourth World volunteering opportunities, visit our website at www.atd-uk.org.

volunteering opportunities

How can I get involved?

Our **Friends and Supporters' Network** is a way for everyone to get involved in the fight against poverty.

Friends and supporters help us in many ways from the running of our projects, housekeeping, gardening and fundraising to maintenance, special events, administration, family support and a whole lot more.

Whether you like to work alone or in a group, in an office or outdoors, on the front line or in a support role, we can always use the help and we are very flexible according to your available time and skills.

It is also a great way to meet a lot of new and interesting people!

Call us to find out more or visit our website at www.atd-uk.org.

ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps members make a long-term commitment to working alongside families living in extreme poverty and are involved in projects here and overseas.

Members of the Volunteer Corps agree to live on the same basic wage and make themselves available to go where their expertise and skills are most needed.

Families, couples and individuals of all ages, from a variety of backgrounds and with an assortment of practical skills and qualifications, make up this diverse group of dedicated, full-time workers.

There are a number of steps to joining the Volunteer Corps, the first being involvement in ATD Fourth World projects here in the UK.



Summary of accounts

	January 2013 - December 2013	July 2011 - December 2012
INCOME		
Grants	£277,000	£373,000
Donations and legacies	£52,000	£73,000
Publications, contributions and interest	£24,000	£25,000
	<u>£353,000</u>	<u>£471,000</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Family Support	£143,000	£255,000
Policy, Participation and Training	£186,000	£183,000
Publications	£7,000	£7,000
Administration, fundraising and depreciation	£11,000	£15,000
	<u>£347,000</u>	<u>£460,000</u>

Board of Directors Rev. Nicholas Edwards (chair), Caroline Davies, Paul Paroissien, Isabelle Pypaert-Perrin, Veronique Reboul-Salze, Ajanta Sinha, Mark Smith and Greygory Vass

Company Secretary Daniel Kenningham

With thanks to the following for their support over the past year: BBC Children in Need, Big Lottery Fund, Lloyds TSB Foundation, Peter Minet Trust, Southwark Council, Trust for London and Wakefield and Tetley Trust



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