

Who helps Hope and Homes for Children deliver a strategic IT vision enabling staff to focus on their charitable goals



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Returning from war torn Sarajevo fifteen years ago, retired UN commander Mark Cook and his wife Caroline became determined to do something about the terrible conditions they had witnessed in a bombed-out orphanage. The charity's first project was to see to the children's immediate needs and rebuild the orphanage but they soon realised that the best place for a child to grow up is within a family.

From this vision and energy sprang a charity that now works across Central and Eastern Europe and Africa. They move children out of institutions and into caring families while supporting families at risk of breakdown due to the pressures of poverty, disease and conflict.

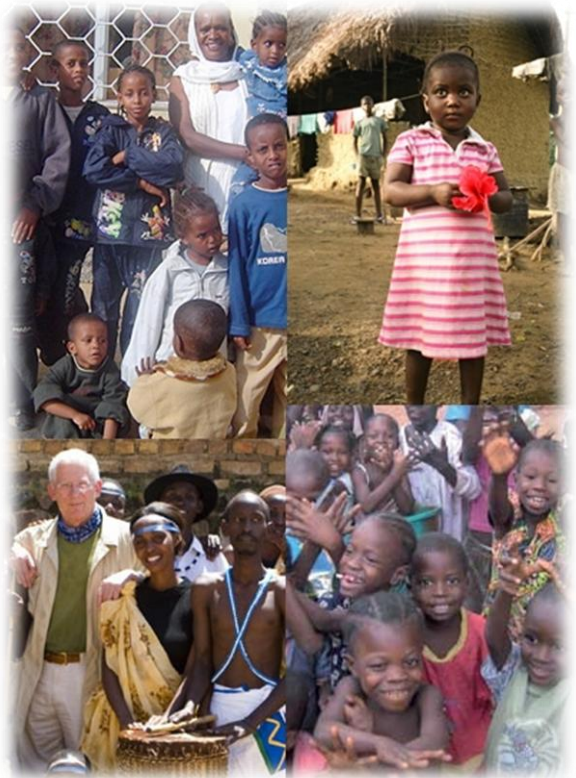
"Things moved very quickly," explains Jo Mundy at the charity, Hope and Homes for Children. **"We now raise approx £5million per year, and employ around 150 local people overseas."** Fast growth brings its own challenges, and the charity knew it had to keep on top of things internally if its work was not to suffer.

Hope and Homes for Children's aging IT infrastructure has been totally invigorated and transformed into a real business asset, having been replaced with a modern virtualised solution combined with effective ongoing management by Deverill support staff. Hope and Homes for Children now benefit from Remote Access, greater storage capacity, improved network response and Disaster Recovery capability unthought-of previously.

Deverill has enabled Hope and Homes for Children to make far greater progress against its development plan that was initially envisaged at the beginning of this year. With an enhanced infrastructure, it is already saving money on maintenance and equipment replacement costs. **"IT underpins all of our office work,"** comments Jo. **"If staff are hampered by inefficient IT then that makes no sense at all."**

"Staff will be able log on wherever they are and access everything on our server," says Jo. **"Our home-workers can now connect up to the network – it will make a huge difference to them. It will allow us to be a much more flexible employer. We're based in South Wiltshire, but often recruit people who live a long way away. Being able to work at home with full network access is a big advantage."**

"Deverill provided invaluable assistance by helping us develop a three-year strategic IT plan," Jo says. **"Lots of our equipment is getting old, and our IT was putting the charity at risk. Deverill played an important role in the plan."**



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Hope & Homes for Children

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