

HORIZON CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME



Feed their minds...

Newsletter January 2007

NEUSO HIGH SCHOOL GET THEIR COMPUTERS

In August 2005, Neuso High School in rural Zimbabwe, appealed to us for computers to open up a Computer Centre at the school, in order to give the students an opportunity to have IT as part of their curriculum. A year and 3 months later that appeal became a reality. On November 29th 2006, Edline presented 23 computers and 4 printers to the Students. Before this donation there were more than 3 students sharing a computer per lesson but now the ratio will be 2 students to 1 computer if not 1 student per computer depending on the size of the class. This ratio now fits the criteria set by the Ministry of Education for the school to have IT studies as part of their curriculum.

This Centre is not only to benefit the students of Neuso High School but also those of the wider community as the students from surrounding areas come and make use of the Centre. We also managed to donate 4 computers and 1 printer to Sanyati Government School, 2 computers and 1 printer to St. Charles Secondary School and 1 computer and printer to Sanyati Primary School.

Mr Dube, the IT teacher, mentioned that with the computers we've donated, the students will be able to achieve basic computer skills. The students are also looking forward to be able to access the web which will improve their knowledge of world affairs, however, the school does not have this facility yet as they would need to have a direct telephone line to make this possible. In her vote of thanks, the head girl thanked Horizon Children's Programme and it's many supporters in England for the donations and stated that "the computers will go a long way in our learning".

CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME LAUNCHED



Shaleen (orphan)

Shaleen Nganwa is an 8 year old orphan who lives in Sanyati, a rural village in Zimbabwe. She lives with her unemployed uncle, his wife, their 2 year old son and a 16 year old nephew in a small hut. Shaleen only managed to attend the first term of grade 2 last year then had to sit out the rest of the year because her uncle could not afford her fees, yet as Edline discovered, as little as £10 could pay a year's school fees for a primary school child, due to the current economic climate in Zimbabwe.

As a result, Horizon Children's Programme has now launched a Child Sponsorship Programme where our Supporters could sponsor the education for children like Shaleen. Through Beacon of Hope & Joy Christian Orphanage we would identify potential candidates for the Programme. Fees would be paid directly to schools, progress & annual school reports would be made available to Sponsors.

Thanks to one of our Supporters, Shaleen returned to school this January, the start of the academic year in Zimbabwe. Her fees have been paid for the year. Her uniform and books bought all for less than £20.

We hope to replicate this Programme in other parts of Africa. To know more about the Programme please contact Edline On 07951474699. More information will be posted on the website in due course.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES



Christmas Shoe Boxes

During her trip to Zimbabwe, Edline also presented Christmas Shoe boxes full of toys, sweets, and stationery items to the orphans at Beacon of Hope & Joy Christian Orphanage. The orphanage cares for 30 children between the ages of 6 & 15 years, many of whom have lost their parents to HIV AIDS. Various items of clothing were also presented to the children. Bedding, towels and a computer were presented to the Proprietress of the home. My visit to the Orphanage was very emotional. The sight of very young children growing up without their parents was touching especially knowing that this is the reality for thousands of children across Zimbabwe. But these children were full of life and their eyes lit with joy when they received their shoe boxes & clothes.



Children with Shoe Boxes

MORE CHILDREN RECEIVE STATIONERY IN S. LEONE

Over 200 school children from poor and deprived backgrounds in Sierra Leone were presented with stationery items at their schools in May 2006 when Nafisa paid a short visit to Sierra Leone. The children were chosen by the head-teachers of the 4 primary schools she visited. The schools are based in poor communities in Freetown and the Peninsular. The Thomas Peters school in Freetown has over 500 school children and the head-teacher explained that 85% of her pupils come from very deprived backgrounds, and that many of the parents were taking advantage of the government's free tuition policy to educate their children, she said many of the children attend school without the basic learning material and that it's usually down to the school to improvise. However there is no mistaking the enthusiasm to learn amongst the children. Even when they are expected to do so in difficult conditions.

At the Triumphant school on the outskirts of Freetown the lack of space is a major issue; the school operates on a shift system in order to accommodate the amount of children it has on its books. Yet there were an average of 60-70 children to a classroom.

Nafisa also donated hymn books, reading and text books to the Schools. She urged the teachers to encourage their pupils to develop healthy reading habits and promised to help the schools by continuing to provide reading materials for the children. Nafisa also visited the Songo and Tongbo Community schools on the Freetown peninsular.

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

- ☐ THE NAME SIERRA LEONE DERIVES FROM A PORTUGUESE WORD "**SERRA LYOA**" MEANING "**LION MOUNTAINS**"
- ☐ **FREETOWN**, THE CAPITAL CITY WAS FOUNDED BY BRITISH PHILANTROPISTS WHO NAMED IT THE "**PROVINCE OF FREEDOM**" AND USED IT AS A BASE FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.
- ☐ IN **1808** SIERRA LEONE BECAME A **CROWN COLONY** DEDICATED TO DEMONSTRATING THE PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY, CIVILLISATION AND COMMERCE.
- ☐ BY 1855 OVER **50,000 FREED SLAVES** HAD BEEN SETTLED IN FREETOWN FOLLOWING THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE
- ☐ THIS GROUP OF **REPATRIATED SETTLERS** ARE TODAY KNOWN AS THE **KRIOS**.
- ☐ THE MOVIE **BLOOD DIAMOND** IS ABOUT THE 10 YEAR WAR IN SIERRA LEONE

Horizon Children's Programme was set up in September 2003 to help in advancing the education of children and young people affected by conflict, poverty and other emergencies in Africa. HCP aim to create an enabling environment where children enjoy learning and parents are encouraged to send their children to school.

The Book Sale

In August the Charity held a big book sale at Godalming United Church hall. It was well attended and a queue had formed before the doors were opened. £143 was raised on the day, far more than we expected. It was a successful day and we hope to do another sale this year.

Monthly Donations

As the charity expands its work to other African countries, it becomes urgent that we have steady flow of funds. Therefore we are appealing to you all to consider making monthly or regular donations of any amount that you can afford. This can be done by direct debit or through your payroll to the charity's account at Lloyds TSB. Acc. No. 3937089. Sort code 309374.

We Continue To Collect

Reading books, Exercise books ,Supplementary and Text books, Pens, Pencils, Crayons, Rulers, Chalk, Erasers, Blackboards, Computers, Etc.

Appreciation to the following Companies & Individuals

Kevin McPhillips Travel
Netscript Ltd
Confreight UK Limited

The Petit Charitable Trust

Jane O'leary—The Accountant

Ian Lipman- Web Manager
Tina Griffiths
Mr and Mrs RG Dixon

Sue and Peter Weighton

Denis Clarke

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CHILDREN FROM THE GODALMING COMMUNITY SHINE

Dear Supporters,

Thank you for your support last year. I want to particularly thank all those children who have contributed in one way or the other to the work or fundraising efforts of the charity. The Weysiders at Godalming United church who gave up their Sunday afternoon to do the 10km walk to raise funds for the charity. The school girls at Prior's Field School who donated their text books and carried the books to the vehicle during their break period. The school children at St. Hilary's who donated stationery items to the charity during harvest and the school boys at Aldro School who donated text books, Sports shirts and jumpers. A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL. I would like to say that I am proud to see that children from the Godalming community acknowledge the needs of disadvantaged children in other parts of the world.

This year the charity will continue fundraising to acquire the mobile library for rural schools in Sierra Leone. We are a long way off our target, so I urge you all to please help with fundraising, we are looking for new fundraising ideas. Do you know someone who can help?

Nafisa Koroma

ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK

This year we have compiled a register of volunteers who would like to take part in the annual 10km walk. Information can be obtained by calling Nafisa on 01483 417224 or Edline on 07951474699 you can also send an email to info@horizonchildren.org. There will be extra copies of sponsorship forms, so you can invite friends and family to participate, the more the merrier. Last year we raised a whopping £1,318 which doubles last year's amount. We are also yet to claim Gift Aid on this amount.

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU to all our participants and organizers (Sue, Peter, Jacky, Dave and Lenny). We look forward to seeing you this year.

We welcome ideas and suggestions on other sponsored events in the area. The Great South run has been mentioned before. Would you or anyone you know like to take up the challenge, please let us know.

PICTURE GALLERY



Neuso students at Computer presentation



Football, volleyball, Netball teams in donated kit



Some students using donated computers



Neuso School Development Committee



Triumphant pupils in overcrowded classroom



Another overcrowded classroom in Freetown



Edline at Beacon of Hope Orphanage



Shoe boxes & clothes donated to Orphanage