



Joan with one of the babies

WEDNESDAY, 29th November, 2006 - AN UPDATE NEWSLETTER - PROGRESS SO FAR

To all the friends and fundraisers of Tumaini Children's Home

Dear Everyone,

A very **BIG THANK-YOU** to all those people who have supported us so far! We have many more subscribers now and people are writing to me asking for directions to the Home so that they can visit and spend time with the children as well as taking them precious gifts of medicines, stationery, sweets and games. Quite a few pictures I have received show them with a huge lollipop in their mouths! (Probably due to the fact that I plied them with sweets on my last visit!) I only hope their teeth can stand up to it!!

We have not been idle since the last newsletter. **We now have a website.** It is called: www.tumainihomeofhope.com

There are still adjustments to be made, but basically it is complete. If you have any comments, criticisms or can suggest changes, please do tell us as we are rather new to this. (Jamie our expert is only 16).

We have also now received the artwork for a "Tumaini Home of Hope" advertising flyer. It is lovely. Soon we shall have a quantity printed and if you would like some to support a fundraising event you are putting on, then please contact me and I'll forward you some on.

I have now completed the arduous task of applying to the Charity Commission. They are now satisfied with all the documentation I have sent them so I am hoping that they will now grant us UK Charity status. This will be a big bonus when we come to targeting companies as it will be helpful to them for tax purposes.

We now have 15 children in the Home. Sadly a small baby called Abdul passed away from measles in the summer - their first death. The whole of Mombasa was stricken with the illness, so the other children did remarkably well not to contract it. Nevertheless it was a sad occasion for those involved with the Home.

We have printed a 'before' and 'after' picture below. This little baby was brought in earlier in the summer in a very sad state. After 10 days of tender loving care, medication and good food, she made rapid progress, as you can see by her lovely face.



Meisha

THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!



This is the site of the new school

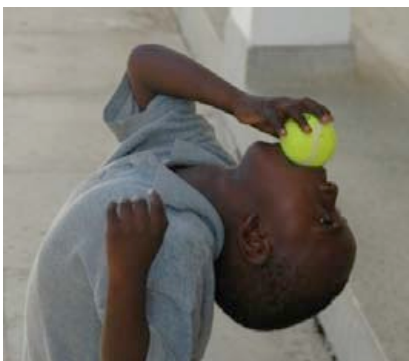
Plans have been passed for the building of a school on the plot just opposite the Home. All the children from the home will be able to access this school for their education and for all other children in the local community. Construction will be funded by LAUDA AIR who have always taken a keen interest in the Home and admire Joan for her tenacity and sheer grit. This is fantastic news.

On a sadder note, I received an email a couple of weeks ago regarding a lady who took her son and two daughters to Mombasa for a holiday earlier this year. Since her return she had heard about Tumaini - Home of Hope and sent me this email. This is her story:

“I have been given your details as contact for the Tumaini orphanage within Mombasa. My three children and I visited Mombasa in April of this year. My daughter, Kelly was very moved by the deprivation that she saw and had said that she would like to do some fund raising for the local orphanage and school, to try and make a positive difference for the children. Kelly was only 17 at the time, yet always thoughtful and such a caring young lady. Tragically, my beautiful daughter was killed in a car accident on the 17th August. She was on her way home and we were going to collect her A level results.One thing that I have focused on is carrying out Kelly's wish and a memorial fund account has been set up so that we can do fund raising to go to the just cause that Kelly was so passionate about.....”

So far Kelly's mother, Vanessa, has raised over £2000, with more coming in. I have sent all this information on to Joan and have asked her to suggest a suitable way of commemorating the gift that Kelly wanted for the orphans. I have also thanked Vanessa for choosing Tumaini - Home of Hope to be the beneficiary. Believe me the money will be spent very wisely. There is still so much to do at the Home, not least, to stock the Laboratory and to furnish the small hospice area. I am in touch with Vanessa so that she can have an input into how the money is spent. Vanessa said that, in due time, she would like to journey back to Mombasa and meet up with Joan and visit the Home to see just what can be done with hard work, dedication and, of course, CASH!

Talking of which - CASH - is still urgently needed to maintain the Home. Just to remind you it takes about £10 per day per child to keep them fed, housed, educated and medicated. Soon the Home will receive its certificate from Social Services - the Home has met all criteria, so it won't be long now before many more children will be arriving - some having been abandoned on the roadside or the beach. What Joan would like is for people to send a small amount (or larger) every month by way of a Standing Order so that the money arrives on a regular basis. It is up to each individual as to how much they can afford to put by each month. We have enclosed a Standing Order template on the website, or email me and I'll forward you an appropriate form.



Recently we received an email from a young couple, Laura & Peter, who had visited the Home while on holiday. It is attached in its entirety as it exemplifies what all the visitors to the Home feel once they've seen the building: and been touched by the joy and laughter coming from the Home - both by the children and the members of staff!! Thank you.

Incidentally we are including a special "visitors" page on the website that will enable people to write a message for others to read - or photos for them to see.

Tumaini Home Directions

Many people have emailed asking for directions to the Home and a contact number. I give them Joan's mobile number which is +254733736956.

We hope to have an accurate map for the website and the next newsletter.

The Home is situated in Bamburi which is north of Mombasa town (about half an hour's car drive from the airport). Look for signs for the Bamburi Cement Works. It is a turning off the main road - Malindi Road. Drive for a couple of miles. On the way there are two roundabouts and you will pass the Bamburi Cement Works on your left.. Then look for TUMAINI CHILDREN'S HOME sign post. There is a narrow lane. Enter it and a few yards on the left is the entrance for TCH.

I spoke with Joan a couple of weeks ago - apart from the odd infection she is remarkably well and still as energetic as ever. Dedicated and determined we are lucky that Tumaini - Home of Hope will be run on the lines directed by this courageous and visionary woman. These children are the lucky ones - despite their condition. Let us keep up the support that Joan so desperately needs from us. Joan would also join me in thanking all the trustees and management committee members, as well as the staff for their commitment, time and effort.

WORLD AIDS DAY - Friday, the 1st December.

Let us mark it by a donation to the children affected by this insidious disease.



THANK-YOU - ALL OF YOU for your efforts and compassion so far. Mary.

PHOTOGRAPHS

We currently have 120+ photographs – including many from Laura and other visitors – from the start of the building through to the setting up of the kitchen, classroom and dormitories plus visitors with the children. There are even pictures of a beach outing with a camel and a party.

Although these photographs have now been added to the website - we have transferred these to a CD and if anyone wished to have a copy – a donation for postage and packaging would be welcome – please reply to the newsletter address or - michael@tumainihomeofhope.com - with your name and full postal address and postcode.

If you are visiting or have visited recently and have photographs to share plus comments or a story to add - please let Michael have them.

Laura & Peter personal account of Visit to “Tumaini – Home of Hope”



On 10 October 2006 Peter and I decided to visit the Tumaini Orphanage. We were on holiday in Mombassa for two weeks and had heard about the wonderful work being carried out at the home. Armed with medical supplies, stationary and balls we decided to pay a visit.

Joan introduced us to the resident "Mother" who lives on site, and various volunteer. We were then shown around the facilities and told of the future development plans. We were shown the medical facilities they hope to create - to serve the children and the local community. We saw the happy bright bedrooms, decorated with pictures drawn by the children - each bed with its own teddies and dolls tucked in. And the huge kitchen.

Joan told us of the troubles she's had over time, getting development work done, obtaining permits etc, reliable staff, and it really hit us what a huge project this was for her to take on. I believe she is 75? Wow, she's a real Angel - more drive than anyone I know, of any age.

The children themselves were fantastic - happy, cheeky and full of energy. The tennis balls we took seemed to go down very well - balls all over the show! - and the boys took a real shine to Pete's sunglasses. The children speak some English - telling us their names and ages. And I know one little boy understood more English than he was letting on, after he asked for "sweetie" and I said only when he had finished his first ones...He soon gobbled them down and was asking again, hand out stretched.

Following our visit we feel so moved by what we saw. The drive of Joan, the amazing work in progress which will benefit the lives of not only the children but those of the local community too.

It really made us realize how the world must be educated about HIV - these children were dealt a very rough deal. It is so unfair.

All in all a visit to the orphanage was a happy experience. I expected to cry afterwards, but didn't - the work being carried out is so positive. It was inspirational: the work and drive by Joan; and the courage of the children. You can see in some of their eyes that they are more troubled than the average child, there's a certain maturity to them, a sense they've experienced far too much in their few years. But seconds later the look will vanish and they were playing ball.

"Here, here" for the Tumaini Children's home!

Laura Nixon



Further

Can I just make a suggestion: At the home there is a treatment room. Some children go in and come out again, others unfortunately won't make it out of that room again. Now, in contrast to the bedrooms this room didn't feel nice. The walls were bare and the window was small. I'd suggest to make a plea to children to draw pictures - happy jolly and colourful - which could be posted to the home and put up in the room? If a child is to spend its last few days there we should make it as happy as possible.

If the room has not since been decorated I would happily make a contribution purely for this room to be painted a cheery colour, and for perhaps some bright curtains and some pretty mobiles to be hung up. Perhaps you could find out if this would be possible and I would make the donation as my Christmas gift to the home. It is a room I would really like to see brightened up.

Laura.



I thought this was especially lovely, and could work in the home's favour and pull a few heart strings (wallets).

SPECIAL REQUEST

Laura has now purchased some mobiles for the treatment room and wondered whether anyone will be going out there within the next couple of months; had some spare space, and could take them out to the Home. She would post them to you. Let us know if you can help in this way.

If anyone is going out to Mombasa with spare room in their luggage – we usually have someone who wishes to transport clothes, sweets or small toys,

We are now thinking in advance and a Christmas tree has been purchased by Mary and Saga Tours have arranged for it to be transported on the Saga Ruby to Mombasa early in the New Year. Next Christmas should be very special for the children and the staff.

We offer the season's greetings to you all and may all your wishes for 2007 come true!

www.tumainihomeofhope.com



KELLY



It was myself (Vanessa) and my children that visited Mombasa - Kelly, Max and Naomi.

The monies we have so far is in excess of £2000 (I am still waiting for sponsor forms to come in) All of this has been raised by a kind gentleman by the name of Clint Varndall.

Clint knew Kelly from her working within a local store in the town in which we live.

With the fund raising that has taken place so far, it was a joint decision between Mr. Varndall and me to have these particular funds to go to this orphanage.

“Tumaini Home of Hope”

He raised these funds by a 50-mile bike ride and a ten-mile walk that took place a few weeks ago. I have attached a copy of this sponsored walk for you to see the length he went to raise this money for Kelly's memory and the just cause she was so passionate about.

My only part in all of this is my sending emails and preparing sponsor forms for the many people who helped raise money. I have also been giving details to Clint on where the monies will be going, the name of the orphanage and details that you have given to me. So my part in raising all of the monies so far has been minimal.

photo to an independent Worcester store
ther like ours is a bit of a coup.”

Kelly's fund set up for orphans

THE dream of an 18-year-old girl who died in a car crash as she went to get her A-level results is being transformed into reality.

A fund has been set up in memory of Kelly Rice, of the Woodlands, Ryall, near Upton-upon-Severn, to help 18 orphans living with Aids in the capital of Kenya, Mombasa. She visited the orphanage, called Tumaini, which means 'hope', while on a two-week family holiday in April.

She died in a collision with a van on the A38 just south of Kempsey four months later.

Clint Varndall, of William Tennant Way, has since taken on the mantle after meeting Kelly's mum, Vanessa.

“She explained it was Kelly's wish,” he said. “She brought back with her the will to help the orphans and improve their way of life and education. Kelly was a very charitable young lady.”

Mr Varndall, a dedicated fund-raiser for three years, said he got to know Kelly as a regular customer of the Co-op store in Old Street, Upton, where she worked.

The 45-year-old said: “She



Kelly Rice pictured relaxing on her holiday in Kenya

had a very warm personality. Everybody liked her. She was a smart, bright, intelligent person who was prepared to help others.”

Mr Varndall set up the fund after raising £626.12 doing a 50-mile bike ride around Upton-upon-Severn after the accident in August. He is now seeking sponsorship for a 10-mile Big Freeze walk around the town wearing only a pair of shorts at 6pm at the Talbot Head Hotel, High Street, on Friday, November 10. Anyone who wants to sponsor him or make a donation can call 07906 236064.