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Newsletter: October, 2007

GOOD NEWSWE NOW HAVE THE WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING.

It looks beautiful and will be a constant source of information on all that is happening at Tumaini Children's Home as well as the UK in supporting the Home. **A BIG THANK YOU TO PATRICK OF MEDIAWORKX who designed the web and also thanks to Bronwyn and Michael who will be managing it.**

Our July Newsletter has been sent out to hundreds of people, which is still an ideal information sheet as it gives new supporters a good overview of what we are doing here and how to donate, etc. All future newsletters will be accessed via the web and those without computers will be sent newsletters via the postal system.

An Update on the Home

I have just received a letter from Joan and below are some extracts from her letter. "The children are fine and growing fast.....The children still go to the beach once a fortnight and now have a 12' x 3' swimming pool at the Home to splash about in which was kindly donated by one of our generous supporters. The Home also boasts of having 3 wheelchairs. Another supporter paid for a trip to the Elephant Sanctuary. (the first time they and the staff had seen an elephant). They have also visited the crocodile farm and the water park near Mombasa. They also had a trip to the South of Mombasa on the Ferry, which again was a first and which they really enjoyed very much. I always remind myself that if it wasn't for the Home these children would all be dead. We are still working hard to get the CD4 Counter (costing about £12,000): B1 Chemical Analyzer and Coulter Counter. Once we have these for the Lab we can test our children as well as the local community. Along side this we shall be offering counselling to those who are affected (or infected) by this disease as there is still a very big stigma among the general population.

We still have 21 children: Elizabeth has her hearing aids now and is interacting with the other children a lot more than she used to. It is amazing to see her speech developing now that she can hear. Again many thanks to the supporters who raised funds for her hearing aids. Hope is looking much better and can walk a little with some help; she also has loads more hair! Stephen and Joanne are now walking and give Mishak a run for his money. There is a new set of twins, Lydia and Abdullah, along with another, older boy,

so we are growing fast now. The children make regular visits to the dentist. (*In fact, we need to be monitoring the amount of sweets we give the children, as they will just eat what we give them, with no thought about their teeth!*)

The school is growing fast thanks to the generosity of Captain Roberto and his crew from Italian Airlines. The crew also fly in humanitarian aid by way of food and medicines. Currently we have 6 classrooms but once the second storey is built there will be 15 rooms. The contractors will be pouring the concrete for the roof on the first part of the building on Friday (mid-Oct). Once again a very very big thank you to all the tourists and friends who come to see us. Without your help we wouldn't be able to carry on with this work and give these children a normal life - who, through no fault of their own, are placed in this position.

As I don't have email I have had a lot of help from a friend of mine, Crispin, who relays any emails to me via his email address which is: crispintambwe@yahoo.com. Crispin has also made many copies of the Jeremy Kyle show which are sold to tourists, who then, hopefully, get in touch with UK on their return. Oh and another thing, if anyone feels like donating some paint and rollers, plus some manpower to paint walls, then you will be made VERY welcome! **God Bless you all from all the children, staff and myself. We love and miss you all."**

Acknowledgement of thanks to all supporters and fundraisers

One of the joys of opening the mail is to read the wonderful letters that we receive, alongside cheques and standing orders. Across the country people are sending money: taking valuable gifts to the Home and/or getting involved with fund-raising in their own locality. The efforts made by all our supporters, notwithstanding the people who have donated precious money have not gone un-noticed by Joan and her team. They wish to say a **VERY BIG THANKYOU** to everyone. Several people have asked me for some fundraising ideas so we are listing some of the interesting and challenging fund-raising events people have put on. Joan and her team are grateful to everyone. We are working on a Certificate of Appreciation which we want to give to those who have put on public events. Forgive me if I have left anyone out - it was not intentional.

Ann Currie (and her team): St. Patrick's Day Charity Disco, and packed with different entertainers: Quiz Night: Parachute Jumps!

Samantha Bird and her mum Iris Crane: Called in all work contacts who have all donated very generously. Plus Sam's Parachute jump!

Ian Orbell: donations from all his workmates on the oil rig off the coast of Scotland!

Kenzie: black tie balls in Blackpool area

Jason and Katherine Lang: Making a unique 'grandfather clock' plus donating wheelchairs. (getting them over there was no mean feat either!)

Sarah Rutherford and Patricia: Quiz night (has offered to send her quiz questions to anyone else who may be considering putting on a quiz night) We can forward your request on to Sarah. Also a **Halloween Party** coming up.

Norma Clarke and daughter Debbie: 22 mile sponsored swim: Plus a Hot pot supper with brass band entertainment. Debbie has made lots of greeting cards with all proceeds towards the Home. Norma's slogan on her sponsor sheets was: "**Their lives will be the fruit of your generosity**".

Paul and Natalie from Preston: Charity event with live music and charity auction with gifts from local businesses, plus a signed Preston North End FC football shirt and an autographed photo of a Liverpool FC player.

Perry Crimmins: who ran the London Marathon in April this year. He has written a very amusing report of his experiences, which he would be happy to share with you.

Claire Muge: The Great North Run. Done in 2 hours, 19 minutes (record time). Hoping to do the **Manchester Run** in May 08.

Joy Burrett: Community Fair. The Home was picked as one of the fundraising events organised annually by her local church in Plymouth.

Mrs June Collins: Coffee mornings through October at her local church.

Lynda Johnson: Sponsored SLIM!

Lewis West: Raising funds at his school, with a view to flying out to Mombasa to do a sporting activity week for the children and also donating sport equipment to the Home.

Pym and Ann McLean: Writing to Celtic Football Club and other large corporate companies to raise awareness of the Home and asking

Jo Day: Teddy Bear's Picnic Raffle: This was on my doorstep (Folkestone) so I was asked to give Teddy a cuddle and got us in the local press!

Toby Gorniak and Jo Holden: They run their own business in Plymouth getting youths off the street and teaching them break dancing, singing and drama. Now busy fundraising (with the help of the youths they are working with) and will spend a week at the Home teaching the children break-dancing. The local radio is also heavily involved, giving them giving good coverage.

Michaela Mitchell and Caz: (Bradford). An fundraising evening at their pub, including famous medium Colin Fry, as well as some outlandish and highly entertaining artistes!

Ruth Smith: "Lunch in the Garden", organised by the bell ringers at Melbourne Parish Church, Derbyshire.

John Cantrill: A fundraising event in Swadlincote, Derbyshire.

Danny and Tracey Fitzgerald and son Callum: Show/Concert at their local in Thornbury. Also collect ink cartridges to sell to be refilled. Callum saved money all year by cutting back on his school dinner money! They made many friends on their visits to Kenya and subsequently formed their own group called "Friends of Kenya" who, collectively, raise funds for the Home. Very willing to help people with ideas: posters: etc. Let us know if you need to contact them.

Springfield School, Drayton: Non-uniform day.

Alma Oakley: Companion Dog Show - with an authentic African band.

Doreen Wells: Raffle at local hairdresser's and coffee mornings.

Mrs Smith and her bellringers at Melbourne Parish church.

Rachel and the Beavers putting on a cake stall.

Cake Stalls: Special anniversaries: Birthdays: Weddings (where, instead of presents, friends have donated to the Home instead): Elderly people putting spare pennies in a jar and sending us their collection. Matched funding from a high profile building society: Legacies from wills: An elderly Kenyan, with a pension still in Kenya, going directly into the Mombasa account!

I am inspired by all the creative ideas that people have used in order to raise funds for the Home and again, apologies, if I have left some out. I shall be reporting this all to Joan when I visit her in January. If someone is putting on an event and needs some formal identification, then we can post them a 'permission to fundraise', letter with our logo, etc. and signed by one of the trustees.

Case Histories

We are often asked about the lives of these children, prior to them arriving at the Home. Although many of them are still very young, some will always carry the scars of their previous life. Below are a couple of stories:

Child A: Arrived at the gates of the Home in the arms of a woman who claimed to be her aunt, who wished to leave the little girl at the Home. When it was explained that the Home could not take in the girl unless all the appropriate documentation was completed the aunt grew hysterical. She was ranting and raving at the gate causing a large disturbance: she then threatened to throw the girl off a very high nearby bridge. With the little girl obviously in grave danger the aunt was invited into the Home and the police

were called to deal with her. The little girl was taken into the care of the Home on a temporary basis (which has now been amended to a permanent basis). She was very ill and subsequent testing confirmed that she was HIV positive. However the happy, healthy, caring environment of the Home has made all the difference to her and over the year that she has been with us her weight has more than doubled: she now engages with other children and adults and has the most priceless smile. She has a long way to go physically, to catch up with her peers. However, without the intervention of the Tumaini, she may never have had that chance.

Other examples:

* there are two sisters who were begging on the streets before arriving at the Home, (their mother had died of AIDS, no known father, and the local village ostracised the children). The 4 year old was looking after the 2 year old on the streets, eating nothing more than a packet of crisps per day. When they arrived they were very wary of adults and only slowly is this changing; however they are so protective of each other and the little one always goes to her big sister if she needs anything. Over time, the youngest one, who was really traumatised when we saw her, now smiles and acts independently. She and her older sister are a testament to the love and care offered freely to these children.

* a little boy who was being looked after by his grandparents after his parents died (of AIDS), spent his days out herding goats. He was just 5 years old, when his grandparents died and he arrived at the Home, having had very little contact with anyone other than his grandparents before then. He is boisterous, very clever, with an engaging smile and will grow up to be an educated and well-balanced young man.

FLYERS Thanks to Steve from the Plus Group, a printing company in Stoke on Trent, we have another 5000 flyers. We are truly grateful for his generous contribution to the Home in designing and printing these flyers - they are so beautiful and are highly effective when people are putting on fund-raising events. If anyone wants a bundle, please email us (michaeltumaini@googlemail.com). **THANK YOU SO MUCH STEVE.**

Documentation via the web:

We now have the facility to download some documents, i.e. standing order/donation form; giftaid form. Joan is keen for supporters to pledge a certain amount (£2.00) is enough, each month via standing order. We hope that your friends and colleagues will help in this way.

Gift Aid

If you have donated in the past and have not received one of our giftaid forms, please let us know and we can forward you one. It will make a tremendous difference to the coffers, i.e. 28p back from tax man for every pound donated.

FINALLY

Joan has redesigned her own flyer in Kenya and she has asked me to include this poem which the children know off by heart and is part of their repertoire, along with the powerful song, "*We are the World*" (USA for Africa, 1985). The children also learn and sing all the favourite nursery rhymes, African and English! The children's poem:

*Tumaini is our home,
Where we are free to play and roam.
We greet each day with hope, not fear,
And give thanks to God that we are here.
For at our home, we know love and care,
With food to eat, and clothes to wear.
We can hope for a future happy and bright,
Blue skies above, giving sunshine and light,
So, on this day, we the children join hands,
To send love, thanks and greeting to all our friends.*

Now that we have the web we should be able to share our news and views, with frequent updates on the Home from visitors returning from their holidays or voluntary work. For me it already feels like a large family who have made a commitment to help these children live a happy and constructive life. There will be many more arriving once the second storey is completed - and still so many who will not have this advantage..... Although some of the children may still carry some memories of their abandonment, slowly these memories will fade and be replaced with joy and laughter, as they are now so protected by the love and devotion given to them by all of us. It is a privilege to be a part of it.

Mary Leadbetter: Michael O'Leary: Bronwyn May: Susan Filby - Trustees, UK