



Newsletter No 12

June 2010

Hello everybody

As I put this newsletter together we are between the end of spring and the beginning of summer and after an extremely cold and blustery winter this time of year is most welcome. People tend to smile more readily and life seems to be on a promise of better things to come. As, at the moment, I no longer feel safe to return to South Africa and also, due to lack of funding, once again this is a newsletter without photos. Khanya, Nancy's daughter, did post a disc of photos to me a couple of months ago but sadly once again they did not arrive so now she has to send the copy disc through DHL courier which is expensive but worth it as I know they will definitely arrive. Hopefully the next newsletter may have a few photos included.

We have now been a registered charity for just over six years. Due to your sponsorship of the children we have 225 in school, two in college i.e. Sakile in his third year, now on a scholarship and Thandi who began a two year college course in February this year and Gugu, who despite severe medical problems and an artificial heart, has successfully finished college last December. I wish we could give more of the young people a chance of higher education but unfortunately the funding is too much and despite my efforts and desires to start a college fund, this has proved an unrealistic dream as funding has and still is needed urgently for the day to day care of the children. We have, however, since the onset sent out to South Africa £113,258.94 which, I feel, for a small charity is an amazing achievement so thank you all.

The Parish Church of St Anne's continues, with the backing of the vicar The Rev Jude Bullock, to support One Life by sponsoring the children's educational needs and with fundraising events organised by Penny and David Rolfe. Penny and David are supported at these events by a regular team of helpers including John who alongside David run the auction so successfully. Other helpers include Steve, Penny and David's son, my neighbour and trustee Debbie Pipe and others. My grateful thanks go to them all. On May 15th the Supper/Charity Auction raised a magnificent £1,358.

Since December and the last newsletter we have once again been blessed with donations so badly needed right now. Two of the church members, Eira Endersbee and Jenny Harwood, have been very busy knitting beautiful woollen hats and some small jumpers for the children in Africa as winter has

started for them already and it can become very cold indeed. Some hats were also knitted for the adults and our first three parcels have just arrived and today I posted another two. The children are excited and delighted with the hats and what a difference they will make to them. I would imagine that many of the children will also sleep in their hats as winter nights in a broken down shack without electricity and adequate blankets is terrible for these children. It is hard to imagine that in the year 2010 so many thousands of children and adults live in such a way without even the basic essentials of life. So please everybody do continue to support what I am doing so we can enhance these children's lives and make life at least bearable for those who are so deprived.

SOME OF THE MONIES RAISED AND DONATED SINCE JANUARY

In January we received a donation of £20 from Rashna Walton.

We received our Gift Aid Tax Return also in January, this was for £3826.

In February Mr Fortune Iwuagwu (Consultant Plastic Surgeon) donated £120.

Christine Stead of Dewsbury, W. Yorkshire donated £25 in March.

A donation of £50 from Hazel Wagthorn was also received in March.

The 7th March brought a donation of £50 from Jenny Harwood as part of her birthday gift money.

An anonymous donation for £400 was gratefully received on April 14th.

In April £20 was donated by Lesley Worstencroft and £50 from her cousin Janice Collier.

May 7th brought another anonymous donation of £500, received with much gratitude.

The Supper/Charity Auction held on May 15th by Penny and David Rolfe made £1358.

On May 15th £100 was received anonymously.

And finally also on May 15th £100 was donated by Rosemary Faupel.

My grateful thanks go to all of these people who have so generously supported One Life and the children in need in South Africa.

FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Problems with my hands has now stopped me making anymore greeting cards and the final sale of handmade greetings cards/African Jewellery/Bric a Brac will be held in St Anne's church hall on Sunday morning after the 10 am service on June 20th.

This year the annual sponsored walk will be held in London on Saturday September 25th at our usual venue – St James's Park. Our meeting place will be "The coffee shop" in Trafalgar Square at 11am. You are more than welcome to join us and can contact me (see contact details at the end of this newsletter) for sponsor forms and more details. If you are unable to join us please do sponsor me as funding is desperately needed, see Africa News.

Khanya's visit to England has been rejected again despite the intervention of Mr Iain Duncan Smith M.P. and the M.P. for the Home Office so for the moment we have given up trying to bring her over here. I feel that no matter what I try to do, no matter how I fulfil all the criteria necessary the powers that be will always find a reason to refuse her a visa. Maybe sometime in the future things will change and both Nancy and Khanya will get their chance to visit here. I hope so.

SCHOOL FEES

The school fees for next year's schooling in South Africa have now to be paid a month early. I would like to ask those of you who pay the school fees by yearly standing order towards the end of the year if you would kindly change the standing order to be paid no later than mid August. This will be such a tremendous help to me. Also could anyone who pays yearly by cheque also to please get the cheques to me anytime between now and the end of August. If the fees are not paid on time this causes great difficulties in getting the children into school for the coming year. Thank you.

AFRICA NEWS

This year has continued to be a year of difficulties for Nancy and the children in her care. In January and February Nseleni, where the Thandukuphila Centre is based, was again hit by terrible hailstorms and gales and this in the height of summer. Many of the shacks were destroyed or badly damaged and also some of the schools so the children were unable to go to school because of this. Many of the schools run on the school fees we pay and therefore there was no available money for repairs so each child was told to bring R100 each to school (approx £10) to help with repairs and if they did not do this they would not be allowed back into school and no allowances were to be made for the orphans. Luckily I was holding enough emergency money in the charity to be able to cover this expense for each of our children who needed it but sadly that left us without funding to fix the shacks so badly in need of replacement or repair.

Sister Emmanuel has just celebrated her 86th birthday. I heard that she is very frail now and has trouble walking. Because of her frailty by the end of the year she will transfer to Pietermaritzburg to a beautiful place where aged nuns go to be cared for by some of the younger nuns.

Despite the court case re the Thandukuphila Centre, the men who had made Nancy leave the premises, remained there. They did not feed the children only themselves and their friends and also totally wrecked the centre with their corrupt activities. The judge ruled that Nancy should be allowed to go back and work there with the children but firstly the men would not let her in and secondly Nancy was frightened to return fearing for her life and the safety of the children. She thought about trying to open up in the rundown building donated by the Zulu Chief but because it is not alarmed it is also unsafe and she feared the men would find her and this would put her safety and that of the children in jeopardy. After a lot of thought she has now opened up in a large double garage next to her house and is helped by her husband and her daughter Khanya. I was able to send funding for kitchen equipment i.e. cooker, freezer, fridge, water heater, pots and pans etc, large and small tables and chairs, carpets and basic activities for the crèche children to do. I also heard that because of the corruption and damage to the building that the Thandukuphila Centre is now being closed down.

Being in the garage is not an adequate solution for Nancy and the children as there is not the space for many of the good works which were done at the centre e g women making some of the basic uniforms for the younger children or the counselling sessions for anyone in need of them or just a safe place for people to drop into but- - - it is somewhere where the crèche children can come to and where the school children can come for food before and after school. Khanya told me there is not enough room for everyone, they are so overcrowded and long term I don't know how this will work but at the moment it is all we have. What we desperately need is funding for a larger building which is fully alarmed with cameras so that Nancy and the children can function as safely and happily as they did in the past at the Thandukuphila Centre.

To make life even more difficult our computer was struck by lightning and has been taken by the insurance assessors with a view to them replacing it. This is taking a very long time to be sorted out and the phone lines in the area where Nancy lives are also not functioning so my only means of communication is either by texting where I get an occasional short reply or by phoning Khanya on her mobile which is very expensive but occasionally when my frustration at lack of communication gets to me I do.

The money I send out is safe as two years ago Nancy opened an account just for One Life donations and the men who took over the centre never knew of this. Also the money sent out for school fees is taken, as soon as it arrives, to the schools and paid in so the children's schooling is then guaranteed for another year.

Life continues to be very difficult for the children with sickness, bad housing, lack of basic facilities loss of parents and siblings so it is so important that my small charity thrives and continues to help. I feel blessed and privileged that at this most difficult time for Nancy and the children that we have been able to keep the children in school, supply funding for food and equipping the garage where, although overcrowded, the children are safe to come to before and after school for food and to receive support from Nancy and Khanya. I have realised more than I have ever realised before how important it is that we, i.e. you and I, continue to support and care for these children and to support the wonderful work which Nancy, despite the many difficulties and her own ill health, continues to do.

My best wishes to you all for a wonderful summer and I hope to have happier news re Africa in the next newsletter.

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