



Newsletter No 16

June 2012

Hello Everybody

It's almost summertime again, which I am sure we are all looking forward to, I know I am. Warmth and sunshine seems to make us all feel better and we all seem to smile more. It has been a very stressful time for the charity since February (see Africa News) and I hope that now we are approaching summer that the stresses of the past few months will fade away and be replaced by peace of mind and positivity.

This year we have lost a couple of sponsors due to illness and deaths but we still have 224 children being sponsored educationally. Thandisiwe has now finished her university course and I heard that she has done very well and is now employed and in a position to support her family and siblings. Brendon, sponsored by the AD Charitable Trust began his three year university course in IT in January. This opportunity means so much to him, I only wish we could help more young Africans into higher education. It certainly changes their lives, and the lives of any remaining family members and most importantly it gives hope rather than despair.

I am very sorry, but once again I have not been able to receive any photos from Africa. The electricity has now been restored and the computer repaired but because of sickness I am still unable to receive much communication by phone or email (see Africa News).

We are still sending out goods to Africa. Various wonderful people continue to knit for us or regularly donate goods e.g. bras, scarves, gloves, clothing, pens, pencils and other stationery and also wind up torches. Unfortunately the cost of postage is very high so many parcels are now sent by land and can take several months to arrive.

In February this year I received the terrible news that seven of our sponsored children had been killed in a tragic accident. This was followed by the death of Nancy's husband (see Africa News). With no money to bury the children and Nancy's husband I sent out an appeal and an unbelievable £7,725 was donated. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who responded so generously and caringly to this appeal.

So far this year £10,000 has been sent out to Nancy. I have to hold some money in the charity for any emergencies which may arise and also for food as Nancy and the children are solely dependent on One Life for this. Since the onset of the charity £177,128.94 has been sent out to Africa and I hope this rises to £200,000 by the end of the year.

Debbie Pipe, a fellow trustee of One Life with her friend Annette held a New Year's Eve

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dance the proceeds to be split between One Life and one other charity. This event raised £200 for Africa. Penny and David Rolfe held a Fund Raise evening in March the proceeds to be shared between St Anne's parish Church and £400 was raised for One Life.

MONIES RECEIVED INTO THE CHARITY SINCE JANUARY 2012

January	£ 480	Includes Fund Raise event donation by Debbie and Annette.
February	£5,793.75	Includes Gift Aid Return
March	£ 400	Fund Raise event – Penny and David Rolfe
April	£7,725	Africa Appeal

FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

I am hoping to continue with the Annual Sponsored Walk which will be held at a date to be arranged but possibly in September. I have got quite severe back problems but even if I cannot walk the four laps of St James Park I will be there to do as much as I can. We urgently need as many walkers as possible as this is our main fund raise event and the proceeds are needed primarily for food for Nancy and the children for the rest of the year and for any other needs which are always arising. Please do join us on the walk and get yourself sponsored if possible. It is a very enjoyable day out and if the sun shines we have a picnic lunch under the trees half way through the walk.

The photos and other documents I have been waiting for for such a long time have now started to arrive from Africa. I am hoping that all of you who are waiting for photos of a new child to sponsor will have received it before you receive this newsletter. Thank you all for being so patient.

The school fees have to be paid by Nancy at the beginning of October so it is most important that I receive any cheques or cash payments for the fees by mid to the end of August, early September being the deadline. This always a very stressful time for the charity as without the school fees being paid on time the children will not be admitted to school for the next school year.

AFRICA NEWS

As many of you have now heard, in February, apart from the tornado and terrible storms which damaged the shacks again and even washed away some homes, I received news of a most tragic accident. Several of our young children were practising Zulu dancing in a disused building in the squatters camp. One of the walls suddenly collapsed on top of them killing seven, the youngest being a little girl of seven years and the oldest a ten year

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old. The shock was terrible and then two days later in the very early morning I received a text from Fr Becki, the parish priest of Nancy and Khanya. He sent me the text to let me know that the previous evening Nancy's husband had been killed in a bus crash on his way to church. The shock sent me into a state of disbelief initially, I was stunned. A short while later I heard that there was no funding to bury four of the children or Nancy's husband and it was at that point of helpless desperation that I sent out the appeal which you responded to so whole heartedly and caringly and for which I, Nancy, Khanya and the families of the children are so grateful.

Shortly afterwards Khanya suffered very high blood pressure and a mini stroke and was hospitalised, this was followed by severe seizures throughout one night and a couple of months later she was discharged from hospital only to go for a check up a fortnight ago where she was readmitted and I have not received any news since then. This is why I have little contact and cannot get the photos etc which I so badly need.

Unbelievably about three weeks ago Nancy's son was also in a bus accident and he now wears a neck brace, his jaws have been broken and his only means of nourishment is to suck soup through a straw as he is unable to cope with solid food at the moment. He also has a broken leg.

Nancy went into a state of shock after her husband died and Fr Becki sent in a carer to stay in Nancy's house to help the older foster children look after the rest of the children. The whole family have been through so much and I am hoping to hear shortly that Khanya has been discharged from hospital and that her brother is well on the way to recovery and that Nancy is feeling emotionally stronger. I pray that then their lives can regain some kind of normality.

I hope that the next newsletter will be full of better news and some photographs. In the meantime, as always, I want to thank you for your continued wonderful support. Without your help, especially right now with the tragedy, I don't know what would have happened. As we received more money than needed for the cost of the burials we were able to give small amounts of money to the families of the seven children who died and also some to Nancy to help with all the children who live with her in her her house. We were also in a position to repair some more shacks in the hope of preventing other tragic accidents.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer with lots of sunshine.,
My Best Wishes to you all

Elena

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