



Newsletter No 17

June 2013

Hello Everybody

Please forgive me for the long delay since the last newsletter. Due to my own ill health and I'm still not fully recovered, I was unable to put together the usual December issue and since then have decided to only do a yearly one and I hope that is acceptable to you all.

As I begin this newsletter the sun is shining and after a very long, cold winter it is wonderful to once again feel the sun's warmth. I hope you all get the opportunity to enjoy it.

Since last June there have been some changes to the charity, from this year we are no longer holding a sponsored walk. Penny, who with her husband David raised much money for One Life sadly passed away on July 24th last year. She is sadly missed by me as a dear friend as she is missed by many people. She was a remarkable lady and I feel blessed to have known her.

Since I have been unwell many people have donated quite large amounts of money which has removed this year's worries of insufficient funding for food, medication, basic shack repair for the children etc but sadly our children are still dying frequently and funding is being used for burials, the alternative being a paupers funeral in an unknown and unmarked mass grave.

Since I cannot, at the moment, even think about organising any fund raising events I have been truly blessed by Penny's daughter Sally and family, in September, running a sponsored half marathon in London for the charity. Also Barbara Durham the daughter of Lily Burnett, Lily having passed away several weeks ago, is also running a half marathon for One Life and Julie Chipperfield, her husband and a friend of theirs, all of Birmingham, are doing a sponsored walk for us later in the year. In the Autumn some of St Anne's parishioners are planning an Auction/Supper with half the proceeds going to the church and half to my charity. I feel like a big weight has been lifted from me as these functions will replace any extra money which may be sent to Africa for all the unexpected needs and occurrences which occur frequently.. My grateful thanks go to all involved.

I am praying that this year I will not have to send out an appeal for funding, you were all so supportive and generous last year, and I do not want to keep asking for extra money from you in such a way but if anyone would like to sponsor the marathon runners or the people doing the sponsored walk that would be very helpful and also very encouraging for those taking part in those events.

At the present moment we have 221 children being educationally sponsored. Brendon is in his second year of his IT course and working hard and doing well despite his own ill health.



For other news from Africa see (Africa News). I am still hoping that something occurs enabling us to put another young person into higher education. Higher education changes not only the life of the young person being given this opportunity but is the start of change of life for the whole family as has been proved in the past.

We are still receiving beautiful hand knitted jumpers, toys and other donated items from Eira and Jenny of St Anne's, Elaine Carter of Chingford, Joyce Canning and Christine Foster of Chingford, Connie Gray of Earls Heaton, West Yorkshire and many others. Not all of the parcels sent arrive and the postage is very expensive so now I am having to send just essential items like the jumpers, wind up torches, underwear etc in the hope that they arrive safely.

This year is really a year to be celebrated, in March it was ten years since the official onset of the charity. Much has happened in those ten years good and bad but the charity has survived and hopefully will continue for many years to come. If anyone would be interested in learning how the charity basically works I would be very grateful as none of us are indispensable and I am not asking anyone to do this with a view to taking over should anything happen to me unexpectedly but I do need someone to know enough to be able to explain to anyone who may take over just how it works. Please, if you have time and want to help in this way I would be very grateful.

This year so far £13,075 has been sent out to Nancy. I always have to hold a little back for food throughout the year and for other yearly essentials. Since the onset of the charity £215,953 has been sent out to South Africa. My next aim is to reach the quarter of a million which hopefully will be sometime next year.

MONIES RECEIVED INTO ONE LIFE SINCE JUNE 2012

August 2012	£ 100
September	£5,500
October	£ 485
November	£ 200
December	£4,700
January 2013	£3,800
February	£5,500
March	£ 200
April	£ 400
May	£2,240

FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS



As I mentioned earlier we have people running two sponsored half marathons and three people holding a sponsored walk at some future date this year. Also St Anne's is holding the Charity Auction/Supper in the Autumn.

The Birmingham Holistic Society continue to support One Life and Wendy Tomkins also of Birmingham continues to make and sell beautiful beaded bracelets for the charity and we now have two outlets in St Ives, Cornwall. One outlet being The Mustard Tree Guest house in Carbis Bay and the other being The Cornish Candy Shoppe, St Ives.

The school fees have to be sent out to Nancy at the beginning of October immediately after my receiving the September statement. I am struggling to be well and stay well and to be as stress free as is possible when running a charity for our AIDS orphans in Africa so I ask you that if you pay your child's school fees by cheque or cash and not by standing order please could you ensure that I receive it by the end of August, mid September being the deadline. This has always proved to be such a stressful time of year. Children whose school fees are not paid on time will be not be admitted to school the following year.

AFRICA NEWS

It has been a very sad year for Nancy, the children and the carers/families of the children. As you all read in the last newsletter seven children died when a wall collapsed on them, two days later Nancy's husband was killed in a bus crash, Thandeka, one of our girls froze to death and so it continued right through to now when today, 4th June, one young teenage boy was buried having died from an asthma attack. This last death makes 18 children in all having lost their young lives since last February. Two died a few weeks ago from a hit and run accident and the grandfather of the eight year old boy who died in that accident died three days later with a heart attack from the shock of losing his little grandson, the grandfather and his wife being the sole carers of a number of grandchildren. Very sadly three toddlers died in shack fires shortly before that. So much sadness and loss when their lives are full of sadness anyway, still living in abysmal conditions having lost parents, siblings and other family members and still having to live without even the basics of water, electricity, adequate food, bedding etc.

Once again Nancy and the whole area where she lives is without electricity, again it has been for many months hence my inability to have photos in this newsletter. I also would like to apologise to the four sponsors who are still waiting for photos and background information of the new children they are now sponsoring.

Khanya (Nancy's daughter) is once again in hospital having had an operation today on her stomach. I am waiting for news of how the operation has gone. When she has recovered and is home again she will try and sort out a way of getting to me all the receipts, letters, photos etc which I have long been waiting for.



Nancy is slowly becoming more mobile since the tumour was removed from her spine but she is still not very well having kidney problems due to poor diabetic medication. The nerve end damage in her feet and legs due to the diabetes means she is in a lot of pain and so has trouble sleeping. We need funding to help Nancy obtain the correct medication which has to be paid for privately and is not available at the free African hospital. Poor medication is causing liver, kidney and heart failure in many of our youngsters.

On the positive side with available funding we have helped once again with shack repair and the total rebuild with breeze blocks of the grandmother's shack which went up in flames and spread to three other shacks where unfortunately the three toddlers later died in hospital from burns and smoke inhalation.

Many of our children have now been supplied with sleeping bags which are definitely life saving. I have sent funding for 13 grandmothers to have their gas cylinders filled enabling them to cook indoors and also to have a little more warmth though unfortunately they are expensive to fill and only last about six weeks so can only be used in the very bad weather.

Last Christmas I was able to send enough funding for the children to have a small Christmas party which always causes much excitement and is enjoyed by all. We also managed to send a little money to Nancy as she has approx 14 living in her small house and also needs help with food and it was nice to give all a treat at Christmas time with special food and a small gift. These children never receive birthday or Christmas gifts so any treat for them is wonderful and means such a lot.

I hope that the next newsletter will be more positive and also have a few photos included. In the meantime I would like to wish you all a happy and warm summer and once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuous and wonderful support without which the charity would certainly not be able to keep going.

My very Best Wishes to you all.

Elena.

Elena Utton, 43, Alpha Road, Chingford, London E4 6TD

☎ 020 8926 2431

E-Mail:- elena@oneline-online.org.uk

www.oneline-online.org.uk



