



Newsletter No 10 May 2009

Hello Everybody

It is springtime and a beautiful time of year and very welcome after our long cold winter. This newsletter is slightly earlier than usual due to my not returning to South Africa this year. Because of that there will not be any photos in this issue. Usually the early newsletter is full of my trip with the corresponding photos but this issue will bring you up to date with what money has been raised and sent out to S. Africa and how One Life is progressing and as usual an update on Africa News but no photos for your interest.

One Life has been a registered charity for five years now, how the years fly by. We have 218 children in school thanks to your caring and generosity. Since the onset £86,848.94p has been sent out to South Africa for the children in need. We are getting nearer our £100,000 target and this should come about in November after the next year's school fees are sent out. This seems quite a substantial amount and a good achievement for a small charity and we have made a big difference in the lives of these children we are trying to help. Thank you all for the wonderful part you have all played in this.

So far this year £7,000 has been sent out to South Africa. Apart from the school fees sent in November the majority of money sent out goes towards shack repair, installation of electricity (especially for the child headed families), mattresses, blankets, transport, medicines, food, nappies and for any immediate emergencies which crop up regularly for eg the replacement of broken down beyond repair fridges, hot water urns needing replacement and the need of a lawn mower. These last three needs are for the centres where the children either spend the day or come for food before and after school.

Since the last newsletter issued in December we have been blessed with donations most of which were quite unexpected and all gratefully received. St Anne's Parish Church continues to support One Life and this connection has brought many new and wonderful people into my life.

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## **FUND RAISING EVENTS AND DONATED MONIES**

- On December 14<sup>th</sup> an unexpected donation of £100 was received from Anna Barnard.
- After giving a talk to St Anne's Women's Evening Fellowship Group on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, £65 was donated to One Life.
- January 27<sup>th</sup> brought £334.25p to the charity, the result of David Williams and John Selby both of Wales taking part in the La Rochelle Marathon in France.
- On January 30<sup>th</sup> a cheque arrived for £100 from an Ms E V Vechanges – donated in memory of her sister.
- February 10<sup>th</sup> bought a wonderful and totally unexpected donation of £5,000, a half which went out to help with immediate needs, electricity, shack repair etc and a half with the blessing of the donor is being held to put another young person in college next year. This donor wishes to remain anonymous.
- A £200 donation was received on February 11<sup>th</sup> from Downham Parochial Church Council.
- 19<sup>th</sup> February brought the Gift Aid Tax Return. This came to £3,439.75p and soon after was sent out to South Africa.
- Penny and David Rolfe once again organised a Charity Auction/ Ploughman's Supper. This was held on March 21<sup>st</sup> and raised a magnificent £1,569.
- In April BA Williams donated £34. This was part of money raised by her and colleagues for charities and was the result of not sending Christmas Cards last year, (a wonderful gesture).
- FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS.
- To be arranged at a later date, the sale of handmade greeting cards and African beaded jewellery etc.
- This year the annual sponsored walk will be held in London on Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> at our usual venue – St James's Park near Trafalgar Square.

## **KHANYA'S VISIT TO ENGLAND**

Some of you already know that Khanya (Nancy's daughter) is coming to England for a visit this year in September. For those of you who don't know, Nancy is the project manager of the Thandukuphila Centre from where we sponsor the children and to who we send all raised monies for the welfare of the children. It is her daughter Khanya aged 24 who I am bringing over to England in September for two weeks. She arrives on September the 16<sup>th</sup> and returns to S Africa on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

She is very excited and happy to be spending time here and meeting some of you. She now has a job and goes round to schools counselling young people about AIDS and the HIV Virus. She also helps me by taking photos of the children and sending them via the computer with their background information. She scans in and sends the receipts I need and any paper work I need including some letters and drawings from the children and she keeps me up to date with what is going on with the children etc.

For over a year now I have felt I would like to bring her over here and give her an experience she would otherwise be unlikely to ever have. This I am funding out of my own money, no

money at all for this trip or for any expenses that will arise taking Khanya around London etc will be taken from the charity. It is something personal I feel I would like to do. At the same time I know it will benefit the charity by having someone here who is directly connected with the running of the Thandukuphila Centre in South Africa.

Khanya wishes to join us on the sponsored walk on Sept 26<sup>th</sup> and I am hoping to have many more people walking and supporting us this year. If you are able to join us on the walk please contact me for the appropriate sponsor forms, and if that is not possible would you like to sponsor Khanya? Any donation at all would be wonderful and do much to enhance the lives of the children. Thank you.

## **AFRICA NEWS**

It is now autumn in South Africa with some warm days still but equally some very cold and stormy days. I just heard via the email that the township of Nseleni, where the Thandukuphila Centre and the new Satellite Feeding Centre are based, was hit by a terrible hailstorm with hailstones the size of small stones. Nancy's house was damaged with the windows being smashed and considerable damage to the roof also many other people have suffered severe damage to their shacks. Problems like these are ongoing and that is why I need to raise as much money as possible to help deal with these situations when they arise. Please continue supporting One Life in any way you can.

Sister Emmanuel has just enjoyed her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is much frailer now and falls over at times and is no longer able to raise money or give Nancy the help she used to in the past. I spoke to Nancy on the phone a short while ago and she said that without the help from Sister Emmanuel the support we give her is invaluable and she truly feels that without our help she would be unable to continue with the work she does. This brought home to me just how important it is that funds are sent out regularly so If you know of a way and have the time and could help raise money for Africa, please do so. It would be such a wonderful thing to do and make such a difference to the children and would also reduce Nancy's stress levels.

I received a quarterly report from Nancy a short while ago. It states that 1,749 children are cared for by the two centres some of who come before and after school for food, others live so far away they only come fortnightly for a dried food parcel without which they and their carers would not survive. There are about 100 children who come daily to the crèches and some of these are HIV babies with and without family carers. Some of these babies are cared for by the crèche volunteers and taken home with them at night. Money of course is needed for formula, nappies, medication etc etc and transport to and from clinics.

Thandukuphila is also a drop in centre for anyone at all in need of help or counselling and it also provides occasional lunches for Nseleni's elderly citizens. The centre has an after school programme for the children who go to school where they can receive help with their homework and also because many children still live without electricity and doing homework by candlelight is difficult and also dangerous.

People living with HIV/AIDS meet every Thursday at the centre; they share their experiences together and learn craft work. The centre also sends out volunteers to churches and schools

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and into the community where they talk about having HIV/AIDS and how to prevent it and they teach people how to care for themselves.

Due to the Anti Retro Viral treatment children with HIV/AIDS are feeling so much better and are able to return to school and their schoolwork is showing a good improvement. Even so there is a constant stream of children going in and out of hospital due to the HIV/AIDs viruses, TB and related illnesses.

The local Community Health Centre who donated Thandukuphila to Nancy when it was just a broken down shell has during the last two years been trying to take it back from Nancy for their own uses. Nancy has had so much worry and many sleepless nights due to this. The local Inkosi (Zulu Chief) has donated a piece of land on which to build a new centre which no-one will be able to take away from Nancy and the children but of course this will take a lot of money and Nancy is busy contacting people and trying to raise funds so the building can be started as soon as possible. I would also like to be able to help with this new venture. It was through One Life that the New Satellite Feeding Centre was able to be opened. I think that part of the money raised from the sponsored walk will go into this building fund.

Our two young people in college are in their last year now and hopefully next year we can give this life changing opportunity to one or two other young people. Both have done really well despite personal sickness and deaths of family members.

Please continue to support One Life in any way you can and by doing so change the life of a child in South Africa who has lost one of both parents and possibly siblings to the Aids Virus or related illnesses.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in sponsoring a child it is still £50 per year or £5 monthly. Please find my contact details below.

I hope this coming summer is a happy and healthy one for you all.

Elena Utton