



Mpika Relief Fund

Registered Charity number: 1106841

Sec: Mrs Sheila Kendal, Chair: Mrs June Martin.
Trustees: Mrs Tina Watkin: Mrs Shirley Burge, Rev Marguerite Mower, Mr Robert Ford
Tel: 07737731077 e-mail mpikarelieff@yahoo.co.uk web-site www.mpika.org



Jenny feeding baby Emanuel who sadly passed away

March 08

Dear Friends/Supporters,

We have lots of exciting news in this issue both from Africa and England. There are also some events coming up that I hope you are able to support.

In this issue I have added a direct debit/gift aid form for anyone who feels they are able and would like to support us in this way. Any regular donation no matter how small, is a great way to support us as it is stable, reliable income that we can depend on every month.

In Africa there was great excitement at the arrival of baby Emanuel. He was born on 20th December 2007, but unfortunately his mother died in childbirth with a retained placenta. He was brought from 120 kilometers away by a missionary and was three months old when he arrived, malnourished, as no one can afford baby milk. Sadly since drafting this newsletter, despite lots of TLC and baby milk, little Emanuel lost his fight for life, poor Jenny went to give him his 2am feed and found that he had passed away. All the staff and children were very sad.



Left: Baby Marian at six months old she is now doing well after a difficult start. Right: New arrival baby Hazel at 2 weeks

Our other babies however are thriving. Natasha is now running around and into everything. Baby Marian who we told you about in the last newsletter is now healthy and a good weight, she still has some stiffness in her limbs, the ladies are doing exercise and baby massage with her. She has the most beautiful eyes. Our other new arrival is baby Hazel, Mum also died in childbirth and Dad couldn't cope having five other children to provide for and no real income, Hazel is now 4months old and doing well

Times have been difficult with extremely heavy rainfall this year, floods in some areas of Zambia (but fortunately not Mpika). Jenny anticipates that there will be big food shortages this year as many crops have been ruined.

C.A.R.T. kindly allowed us some space on a container going to Zambia at the end of November. We packed our van full, clothing, bedding, nappies, pushchairs, sewing and knitting machines and much more. The container arrived safely just before Easter. There was much relief at the arrival of all the clothing and nappies and also great excitement at the inclusion of a bouncy castle and big tin of chocolates!

Both our shops are looking much improved thanks to the help of all our wonderful volunteers old and new. Denholme is now much more spacious and there are a lot more clothes on display. Our Keighley shop now has a flourishing furniture store which has really boosted the takings. Furniture donations always welcome and can be collected (contact June)



Left Natasha now aged 1 year 6 months and into everything !

Right: Pricilla and June packing drums to send, we managed to send a van full of much needed bedding, clothing, babies bottle, pushchairs books, pens etc. we even sent a bouncy castle!

I would now like to include an account of Bob Fords trip to the orphanage, as you will read, it is a lovely place to visit. Anyone interested in visiting the orphanage, please get in touch and we will be pleased to assist you with advice and practical help. You would love it I am sure.

Bob Ford – My Journey To The Orphanage

The orphanage, to which all our efforts are directed, on a good day is doing very well indeed. It's operating efficiently, sensitively and always with the best interests of its children and their carers and mentors at heart. Like any other institution it will have its bad days, too, but if any occurred whilst I was there, then I wasn't aware of it. It is little short of miraculous what can, and is, done with a small amount of money. For the £1,500 or so currently being forwarded monthly, fifteen kids are being cared for, fed, clothed and taught how to live in an organized and social way with each other and their elders. The school which they attend on the site – and which is separately funded – has been skillfully and seamlessly grafted on to the main establishment. Indeed, it looks as if it has always been there, rather than having been opened less than one year ago.

The Village of Hope campus is steadily being improved and beautified, thanks to the organizational thinking of Jenny, and the hard work being put in by the workers involved. It all takes time, and of course money, but it is a privilege to be able to see it, as I did for several days, taking shape. 'Privilege' because coming from a country where most things are available on tap, where what would be seen as luxuries in Mpika are here regarded as necessities, it's humbling to be warmly accepted into this loving community which somehow thrives on doing without all but the bare essentials. And it's a warmer feeling still to be able, for example, as I was on returning, to replace the crude exercise books used in the school with nicely produced ones from England (probably made in China) so that the children can derive even more satisfaction from their efforts to learn in the schoolroom.

What's going on at the Mpika orphanage is – literally – of vital importance so let's continue to widen the base of support here. As our brothers and sisters on the planet, those kids and their carers deserve no less. Go and visit, and you'll be made welcome. Go and you'll want to go back, again and again.

Bob was so impressed, we have now welcomed him 'on board' as a trustee.



EVENTS



Right: Children in Africa doing sponsored walk June 07
Left: Denholme sponsored walk June 07

Friday 11th April 7pm for 7-30

Information evening with a slide show and light refreshments is to be held in the hall of The Church of Jesus Christ (Mormon church) on the A629 Halifax Rd, Keighley. (just before you get to cross roads from Keighley opposite Bocking garage). All are welcome, and there will be opportunity to ask questions. This will be of particular interest to sponsors, those thinking of sponsoring and staff who have not had chance to see all our photographs.

Saturday 10th May

Annual sponsored walk starting off from Denholme at 10.00 - 10.30am we will be walking 10miles through some beautiful countryside. We have had great weather the past two years, which made it extra enjoyable. The walk is in three phases so for those less able you can do a part walk. Please join in if you can, it is good fun and a great fund raiser. Ring June for a sponsorship pack on 07737731077.

Thursday 19th June 7pm for 7.30pm,

Dinner /Dance and & Auction of Amazing Experiences' at Ramada Jarvis, Bingley. We hope you can come along and support us at this event, which we hope will be lots of fun. Four Course Set Menu (Chicken or Vegetarian option) please state choice required. Tickets will be £20 available from either shop, or write enclosing cheque made payable to Mpika Relief Fund to...2, Longlands Avenue, Denholme BD13 4AP. We hope to raise a years education funding for as many children as possible.

If anyone can offer an experience to add to the auction list please ring Shirley on 01274 834667

Thanks, Shirley.



Shop opening times:

Denholme: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5
Saturday 10-5
Lawkholme Lane, Keighley
Monday – Saturday 10-00-4.15

Volunteering Tel Alison Smithies 01274-833949
To pick up furniture/donations : June 07737731077
Gift certificates Tel Shirley Burge: 01274834667

Useful items to donate:

Saleable Furniture pots and pans
Bedding footwear
Clothing books
Bric- a brac videos and DVD's
Jewelry tools
Knitting wool CD's tapes and records
Toys rags (for which we get money)
We also collect Aluminum cans for another project

Come on join in, with more help we can do wonders!

Everyone can help!

We are all volunteers