

Mpika Relief Fund

Working for the relief of hunger and suffering in the heart of Africa
Registered charity No: 1106841

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Winter 2011-12



June's Message.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am hoping this newsletter reaches you before Christmas, and would like you all to have a happy, healthy Christmas and New Year from all our team in England and Africa.

I am so grateful for our loyal helpers who have enabled this project to be such a success. Things are going well at both our shops and donated goods are plentiful. This is greatly helped by our pick-up service which takes us as far as York and Settle but 9 out of 10 trips prove well worthwhile.

The Keighley shop looks much nicer since the alterations and has been further improved by sizing garments and improving stock. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers as the demands grow within the charity, so if there is anyone out there with some spare time to spare any regular help would be appreciated (there are lots of diverse jobs so see the advert later in the newsletter!).

Our next major project is to prepare and send the container which is due to be going at the end of March/beginning of April. We already have a huge amount of things ready to send but there are still things on the Wish List that would be extremely helpful – this list is overleaf so please look and see if you can help. Help will also be needed to load the container on the day so please get in touch.

We are making progress with plans for the building of the High School. We are hoping to get some funding from Comic Relief which will mean we will be able to provide a lot of orphans with a good quality education. Hopefully by the time of our AGM we will be able to unveil our plans.

May God bless you all for your continued help and support.

Best Wishes,

June



Home News

AGM – it's not boring, honest!

Please come along to the MPIKA AGM and learn about our future plans – especially our ideas for the new High School. **Subject to confirmation it will be at:**

6:30 to 8:30pm

Friday 10th February 2012

Denholme Shared Church

Keighley Road

Denholme

Bradford BD13 4JT



Fill it up!

A container is planned to go to MPIKA next spring. It will leave sometime at the end of March or beginning of April 2012. We need some specialist items to go in it so please look at Jenny's wish list over the page and see if you can help with these. We also will need your help loading it so watch out for the time and date when this will happen and come along and help.

We are also offering private space in the container. See the back page for details.

Flog It!

Not only do we need help with what goes in the container but also need help financing it so we are planning an auction sale in the New Year, possibly to coincide with the AGM. If you have anything of particular value – jewellery, china, curios or similar then please let June know. Also can you provide or even finance an experience day we can auction – a spa day, helicopter ride, makeover etc? Can you put a day of your own skills up for sale – gardening, cleaning or even a few hours ironing, baby-sitting or give a facial, manicure or hair do?

If you have anything you can give or volunteer for or you would like to be informed of the date and time of the Auction please let June know as soon as possible.



News from Jenny

Dear Friends and supporters in England,

I send my greetings to all in England. I cannot express in words my gratitude for all that you have done.

We have a new government with a new President. He seems to be good; he is trying to fight corruption which is hindering development. The previous government discouraged donor countries from helping because they did not account for the funds they were receiving. Instead they 'enriched themselves' – does this sound familiar?

The running of orphanages is now being encouraged and the new government is also encouraging able Zambians to adopt children so they can grow up in a small family unit and leave space for others to be taken care of in the Orphanages. All adoptive families are vetted and monitored by Social Services in Zambia. In our case Duncan and Hazel have been adopted into good families. The other children miss them very much, especially Mariana and Beauty.

We have two new children, Christopher (1 year old) and Chibesa (11 months) – both boys. The rest of the children are still with us. The sad news is for baby Monica. I took her to hospital and they confirmed that she is 100% blind. She was born like that and as a result she cannot crawl, she just sits. I do not know what to do next.

I have received the money for Gideon's grandma (sent by a kind sponsor). I took some of the money to her and bought her some groceries with the rest. She has really appreciated the help so much.

The other thing is that the harvest was very good last farming season. We have enough beans, maize and peanuts for our local needs. However the sad thing is that the Land Rover has broken down and transport is going to cost me all this farming season. We are hoping you can manage to help us buy a 2 to 3 ton lorry that will also help with the construction at the new school if you can help me.

(We have already sent £1,500 towards this vehicle. Jenny is trying to raise the rest but if are able to help more then we will).

May God bless you all for what we have managed to achieve together.

Jenny

Jenny's Wish List

The list looks long and daunting but you may be able to provide some of the smaller items or club together for the bigger ones or if you cannot do that then you might know someone who can! Let's get as much of this stuff ready to send in the container next spring and make Jenny very, very happy!!

- Good specification laptop for Jenny herself
- Photo-copying machine (robust type)
- Computer Printers
- Laptops
- Video camera
- Laminating machine and laminating sheets
- Blackboards & chalks
- School chairs and tables
- Wall charts for all school grades – but particularly for pre-school to grade 7
- Reading material for all school grades – but particularly for pre-school to grade 7
- School materials, books, pens, paper etc
- Musical instruments (any and a lot of them) - especially a piano
- Games and other activity materials including Skipping Ropes
- Water colour paint and other art materials
- Football kit and boots (all sizes) and balls
- Netball kit and sports shoes (all sizes) and balls
- Volleyball kit and sports shoes (all sizes) and balls
- Paint to repaint school and school hall
- Wireless microphones and PA system
- Baby milk with long date
- Baby bottles and teats
- Nappies
- Baby clothes
- Knitting wool
- Needles for knitting machines
- Material for making clothes and school uniforms
- Sewing cotton (large spools)
- Popcorn maker
- Electric saucepans
- Electrical kitchen water boilers and urns
- Carpets
- Lounge furniture
- Microwave oven and any other electrical appliances
- Vacuum cleaner
- Large camping tents
- Beds and bedding
- Any building material - door locks; mortise locks; hinges; handles; electrical supplies (cable etc); plaster; screws; nails; hooks; wall plugs; nuts; bolts;... - you get the idea!
- New or "Gold Seal reconditioned" engine for Series III Land Rover



Let's fill it as full as the last one!



Sponsorship News

Hi everybody, just a quick update on the Sponsorship situation.



We now have 19 Sponsors and 25 children sponsored, both for Living or Education, and in some cases both, which is amazing. We have one sponsor, who, I am sure, would prefer to remain 'anonymous', who has not only sponsored 2 children and made a substantial donation to be sent to the grandmother of one of them, but also recruited 2 new sponsors - to her, a very big **THANKYOU**.

We still need more sponsors as there are currently 30 children living in the Orphanage, with ages ranging from small babies right through to teenagers. Two children have recently been reunited with their birth families, which is very good. If this should, in the future, happen with a sponsored child, then we will contact the sponsor

and offer them another child.

We were hoping to have letters, from the children old enough to write, in time for Christmas - we are not too sure whether we have been successful in this quest, but we are assured that there are school reports and up-to-date photos in the post as we write - so, hopefully.....



Late in October parcels were sent to the Orphanage, containing a present and a Christmas card for each child. In the case of sponsors handing in presents to us in time, these were included in the parcels and were despatched in time to reach Mpika for Christmas. Fairly early in the New Year we are hoping to get together a shoe-box parcel for each child which will be prepared to be put on the next container to go to Mpika early in the Spring - watch this space for actual dates, but if you did want to send anything a

bit more substantial to your sponsored child, then this is a good opportunity as, obviously, there will be no postage to be considered.

Please, do try to spread the word for more sponsors, as it would be lovely to have each child accounted for - even if it isn't possible to commit the full amount (£8/month for education or £15/month for living), then any little amount helps and it is so good for each child to know that there is someone 'out there' who cares about them.

Thank you again for your support, have a Happy Christmas and a Wonderful New Year from the Team.

Noelle Thornton



Nikki's BIG Jump

Well she did it and you can see the video on www.mpika.org

She jumped – she flew – she landed and raised a whopping

£1,500

for the Children of Mpika



Well done Nikki

Space For Sale

Do you have friends or relatives in Zambia?
Would you like to send them something special?
Then for £20 you can send a banana box sized carton of goods to them via our container leaving the UK next spring.

Contact June for details.

Christmas Fayre Report

Although not as many people attended as last year, the Christmas Fayre 2011 still raised, from the many and varied stalls £300 in profit from visitors and stall holders purchases. The hot, freshly cooked food proved to be very popular with the crowd and helpers. There was an opportunity for those who were unable to see Nicky do her 'sky dive' on the day to capture the excitement and tension of those who did make the journey with her. In the quiet room a lot of 'oohs' and 'aahs' were heard as Nicky took flight and braved the skies to raise money for this courageous event. Nicky raised £1, 500, which can still be added to on the website by going to www.mpika.org. Our grateful thanks go to her for this gallant effort to keep a roof over the children's heads and food in their bellies.

Three new child sponsors were also signed up on the day of the Fayre who pledged to donate monthly to the care of one of our children. All prizes from the numerous donations to the raffle were claimed and June's Mum, Joyce Cave, won a wonderful cake by guessing its weight and shared it with those present at the end of the day. Roll on Christmas 2012 to be able to re-enact this event, but hopefully you will spread the word for your friend and neighbours to attend as well. Please also remember that there will be a sponsored walk for you to be able to help out or join in next year, if you would like to take part or help with organising please e-mail or telephone (contact details at head of newsletter)

Tina Watkin

Our Shops

2 Commercial Street, Denholme, Bradford BD13 4AD
Open Tuesday to Saturday 9am — 5pm
(Holiday closure Thursday 22nd Dec - to Jan 3rd)

And

45-49, Lawkholme Lane, (off Cavendish Street), Keighley BD21 3EA
Open Monday to Saturday 10am — 4-15pm
(Holiday closure Thursday 22nd Dec - to Jan 2nd)



We have a vacancy for an important job in the office based at the Denholme shop. Among our donations we find objects that may be worth just that bit extra, enough to warrant them being offered for sale on eBay. So we need a reliable person for two or three days a week to run our eBay account. They will be responsible for:

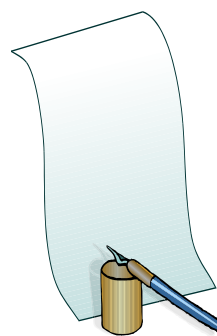
- ✓ Cataloguing the items.
- ✓ Calculating the P&P cost.
- ✓ Listing and describing then accurately and legally on eBay at a fair price.
- ✓ Monitoring the auction.
- ✓ If unsold resubmitting them if agreed by June.
- ✓ Packaging and despatch of sold items
- ✓ Administration of eBay account – e.g. feedback, customer queries etc.

Contact June – telephone numbers and address on front page.

Join the TEAM

Would you remember us in your Will?

Please might you consider making a legacy to help the children in our orphanage in Mpika? Just a few lines in a Will lets Mpika Relief Fund build on everything we have achieved over the past years. You will make a big difference to the children who crucially need our support. So:



- If you have already mentioned Mpika in your Will; or
- If you intend to leave a gift so that we can thank you properly; or
- If you need more information; then

June Martin would be delighted to hear from you on 01274 416226.

All inquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence

Andrew Mcveigh of Pearson & Associates is offering a professional Will writing service. Contact Andrew McVeigh on 01756 793300.

Don't forget to look at our Website - www.mpika.org – there's a lot more there than you think!