



Newsletter

ISSUE 14 • WINTER 2018



A charity to relieve poverty and distress among children and young people in Ghana

A big thank you!

Thanks to our very loyal and generous supporters, the charity has had a busy and profitable year. Successful fundraising events have included a charity dinner, a summer garden party and a quiz night.

We also had five entrants in this year's Great North Run who between them raised a total of **£887.49**. We continue to take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme.

Our roof appeal

In October 2017 we launched an appeal to raise £10,000 to pay for a new roof at King Jesus Charity Home (KJCH) as the old one was leaking badly and making life very uncomfortable for the children using the affected rooms.

We reached our target at the end of July and we are particular grateful to the William Leech Charity for a grant of £5,000, to Bellway Homes for £500, and to a supporter who wishes to remain anonymous for his donation of £1,000.

Some preparatory work was needed on the walls at one end of the building which was to be paid for by a Ghanaian lawyer. Unfortunately a change in his personal circumstances made this impossible so

almost £3,000 of GCT money had to be used for this purpose. Work has started on the roof and we have re-launched the roof appeal to raise the extra money needed.



Photo: Jean Edusei

Orphanage News



Photo: Jean Edusei

The children at KJCH are doing well. Many of the older students have completed university and are now employed and living independently. One young man who trained as a carpenter has now established his very successful carpentry business in Ghana's Western Region and is employing two other former KJCH boys.

Currently 12 young people are studying at university, being funded by GCT. The younger children in Primary and Junior High School get free education and this year the Ghana government introduced free Senior High School education for the new starters. KJCH has 12 students in years 2 and 3 of Senior High School which GCT is paying for, but once they have completed their 3 years at SHS there will be no more school fees to be paid except for those at university. This will make a tremendous difference and allow more of the charity's money to be spent on food and improving the home environment for the children.

We are delighted that the Ghana government is to provide free vaccinations and free mosquito nets for everybody at the orphanage. GCT did provide mosquito nets a few years ago, donated by Cramlington Rotary Club, but they are ready for replacement now.

Ongoing donations

The orphanage continues to receive donations of food, soap, toilet rolls etc from local churches, schools and individuals but these tend to be mainly around Christmas and Easter. From August to Christmas stocks are low and the children's diet suffers as a result.

When our trustees visited in August it was clear that rice formed the major part of their diet with only very occasional fish, meat and eggs being added and hardly any vegetables or fruit. There are 2 mango trees in the orphanage's garden but they don't produce enough fruit for everyone. As they start to ripen, the children write their names on the fruit to claim it as their own!

Enjoying a new experience

Steph Edusei (daughter of two of our trustees) visited in August and introduced the children to ballet, which they had never heard of before. A hilarious ballet lesson ensued and some of the children showed real promise and interest. Sadly there will be no opportunity for them to develop this but they enjoyed the experience.



Photo: Steph Edusei

Congratulations

Congratulations to Esther (KJCH administrator) and her husband Moses on the birth of their twin daughters in August, beautiful sisters for 4 year old Kofi.

Baby clothes and blankets

GCT has made two shipments of clothing, shoes and toys to KJCH, as well as baby clothes and blankets to the Children's and Maternity Departments at Kumasi South Hospital where they were very gratefully received. **If anybody is making baby clothes or blankets for us, could you please use pastel colours?**

Trefoil at KJCH

Photo: Cath Dixon



Four members of Newcastle Trefoil (the senior adult branch of Girlguiding) visited Ghana in October and spent time at KJCH talking

to the children, playing games, reading and drawing. They were amazed at how clean and tidy the children were on returning from a day at school in the heat and dust – even their white socks were still white – but were saddened to see the damage in the dormitories caused by the leaking roof and the lack of food and home comforts.

Continued support

We are compiling a list of people willing to help out at our fundraising events so please get in touch if this applies to you. We also need more donors so please pass on the word to family and friends. If each person receiving this newsletter recruited just one more regular donor it would make a huge difference to what we can do to help the young people in Ghana. **Thank you.**

Finances

In the financial year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, we sent £12,575 to King Jesus Charity Home. We received Gift Aid of £1,561.36. At 31 March 2018, the total sent to Ghana since the charity was established in 2004 is £168,520.

Your generous support is appreciated and enables GCT to continue to improve the lives of the children at KJCH. All trustees and visitors to the orphanage pay their own expenses, not the charity.

For more information, please visit our website; www.ghanaianchildrenstrust.co.uk, follow us on Facebook or email us at childrenstrust@yahoo.com or phone 0191 2816493.

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