



Newsletter

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

2020!

What a year 2020 has turned out to be for GCT, both here in the UK and in Ghana!

Who could have foreseen the problems Covid-19 would raise for us and the innovative ways we've found of solving them that could have a positive impact on the charity in the long term.



But first things first. Our amazing student volunteer, Alfie's time with us was cut short in March due to lockdown, but not before he had organised a very successful Ghana Independence Day Party that raised **£430.64**.

Music, dancing and amazing Ghanaian food made it a night to remember.

Alfie had also organised a street collection that unfortunately had to be cancelled as most of the collectors were students who were all sent home from university that day. Alfie completed his degree at Newcastle University and provided the Trust with a card reader so we can now take payments by card as well as cash.

Thank you Alfie and good luck for your future career.

General news

Other events that were cancelled due to the pandemic were a choir concert, our garden party and our annual dinner. With help from our supporter Steph, we were able to set up fundraising events on Facebook with an Easter Raffle raising £527 and a Virtual Garden Party in July raising well over **£1,000**.

We've also managed to sell a few items on Facebook and Ebay, and on 30 October storyteller Dave Silk told "Ghostly Tales" virtually and raised **£443**. This was shared between GCT and St Oswald's Hospice in Newcastle. We receive our core funding throughout the year from our wonderful supporters who donate regularly, most by standing order, and have been exceedingly generous this year. As a result, we have been able to continue our support for the children in Ghana as usual throughout the year

We shipped a consignment of clothing, shoes and books to King Jesus Charity Home in September, as well as baby clothing and blankets to the Maternity Department at Kumasi South Hospital. Many thanks to everybody who has sewn, knitted, crocheted and donated items.

Our education project

The start of the education project was delayed slightly by the pandemic but in June everything got underway with the purchase of 24 laptops, 3 music keyboards, maths sets, calculators, pen drives and dictionaries. The training shoes will be bought later when the children return to school.

An educational supervisor, Nora, has attended regularly to help the children with their studies, vitally important as they have been studying from home while the schools are closed.

Nora says "The initiative by the Ghanaian Children's Trust will pave the way for the children to materialise their dreams. They are eager to use the laptops and have realised that all the barriers to learning that they had before are now a thing of the past."



Off to University

This year, 3 students successfully completed their studies at University, bringing the total number of graduates from KJCH since GCT became involved to 30. This is an amazing achievement.



Sophia graduated BSc in Environmental Science.



Agnes graduated in BSc Disability and Rehabilitation Studies.



Elima studied Nutrition at University.



Virtual Christmas

To round off this incredible year, we'll be holding a Virtual Christmas Fair on 21-22 November. Check out the Ghanaian Children's Trust Facebook page for details.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1066670690472766>

We are also setting up a 100 club: 100 people pay £2 per month to win a prize of £25.

To register please follow the link: <https://mailchi.mp/283f089b082e/100-club>

Finances

In the financial year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, we sent £12,910 to KJCH for food, school fees etc and £8,000 towards the Education Project. We received £1,378.25 in Gift Aid

The total sent to Ghana since the charity was established in 2004 is £216,503.17.

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.

Special thanks

We would like to offer special thanks to the following organisations for their support for our education project. Without them it would not have been possible: The Allan & Nester Ferguson Trust £5,000, The Leech Charities £4,000, The Rothley Trust £1,500 and Bellway plc £500. To date, the Leech Charities have supported five of our special projects, donating a total of £17,500 since 2002, and the Rothley Trust has supported three projects totalling £3,600.

The money our charity raises day by day is needed for food and school fees for the children at King Jesus Charity Home. Without the generosity of these grant-making organisations we would not have been able to carry out our special projects, which have included extensive building work including tiling throughout the building, installation of showers, toilets and washbasins and upgrading of the kitchen and cooking facilities. This also included renovation of old classrooms to make a sick bay, dining hall and staff accommodation, and two years ago, a new roof for the main building.

Other projects have been the installation of a bore hole and purchase of equipment for bagging water to sell, Hepatitis B vaccination for all the children and staff, and our current education project.



Support needed

We are seeking five companies that would be willing to make a one-off donation of £250 to buy tools for one of the five young men at KJCH who will soon complete their apprenticeships, one welder, one carpenter and three electricians.

If you or someone you know can help, please get in touch. We will ensure that any company doing so will get full recognition on our website and social media.

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. Write to: Ghanaian Children's Trust, 6 Kirkstone Gardens, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7AN