

Dear



Situation worsens for Crispin....

In our last newsletter we talked about Crispin who is in Grade 7 class, and the very difficult home situation he is living in. Sadly his grandfather left the home a few months ago and is not returning, leaving the elderly grandmother on her own to care for Crispin.

When I first went to Crispin's home in January, I was quite shocked to see the bad state it was in, and the lack of food they had. Now it seems to be a desperately sad situation.

I met his grandmother Eunice a week ago and was struck by her beautiful smile. Yet I knew that behind that smile, she and Crispin were struggling to survive. I saw her pain. They had not eaten for some time and even then, only a very little mealy meal and some leaves from wild plants as relish. It brought tears to my eyes, it was heart breaking. We are trying to help by periodically giving them some mealy meal and charcoal.

Matthews, Binwell and Yvonne, Grade 12 pupils

Binwell, Yvonne and Matthews have been with Hands of Compassion since we started eleven years ago and will be our first Grade 12 pupils to take the GCE examinations in October this year. We pray they will work hard and achieve good passes in their subjects.



Development at Hands of Compassion...

During the school holidays we took the opportunity of adapting the foyer of one of our buildings, to turn it into an additional classroom. Work started by creating external doors to the three existing classrooms and then putting in two extra windows and clear plastic roof sheeting to bring in further light to the new classroom. Thanks to a donation by Rotary International District Grant, we were able to undertake this project.

We also knocked down a few further panels of the old perimeter wall which has made access to our additional land easier and enhanced security as one can now see clearly across the grounds.

Whilst we are trying to raise funds to build the additional classrooms, pupils have planted chinese cabbage, carrots, pumpkin, and spinach.



Appeal for Additional Classrooms

We are earnestly raising funds to start building two additional classrooms and a resource room to accommodate Grade Eight and Nine pupils. Building plans have now been drawn up with Bill of Quantities and three contractors have submitted their tenders for consideration, in readiness once we have sufficient funds to start. We have managed to raise £15,000 to date, which pays for the sub structure, leaving an approximate £30,000 to complete.

Plans are in hand to build two staff toilets, as we only have two at present, one of which needs replacing.

Good Friday

Staff came on Good Friday and we gathered together under the Jacaranda trees to have our own service of prayers, bible reading, reflection and songs. I taught them "There is a green hill far away" which they learnt very quickly! Afterwards we enjoyed hot cross buns and boiled eggs.

Pupils

Our Grade seven pupils (41 in number) have been having extra lessons during the Easter holidays. They will be commencing revision next term, in readiness to take their Government examinations in November.

Youth Club continues to do well. A generous donation of books from Sovereign World Trust was recently given to each member.



Athletics

Our pupils took part in an Athletics match between nine other Community Schools, and were so proud that Hands of Compassion came first.

Graeme made it to the top!

Graeme King, Chairman of our Board of Trustees took on the challenge of climbing Mt Kilimanjaro, to raise sponsorship money for Hands of Compassion.

"We reached the top soon after dawn on the morning of Saturday 19 March. The previous day we had arrived at the highest campsite on the mountain in a blizzard and then climbed for six hours through the night to the crater rim through intermittent sleet showers.



Yet when we reached the top, it was a fine sunny morning and we were blessed to enjoy such spectacular views of the huge crater and surrounding glaciers!

I was part of 19 people accompanied by local guides and porters who carried our tents, food etc. The climb through the night was conducted at such a pace as to minimize our succumbing to altitude sickness. Thank you very much for all your support!

Our congratulations to Graeme for such a fantastic achievement and raising over £5117!

Craft Fair – Saturday 2 July

A Craft Fair will be held on Saturday 2 July, 10.30am to 3pm at Shorne Village Hall to raise money for Hands of Compassion. There will be many stalls selling a variety of different crafts, such as wood turning, pottery, jewellery, hand made cards, animal towel characters, local made honey and beeswax candles, cakes, local fruit and vegetables, preserves, garden plants, 2nd hand books, African crafts, face painting for children and more!

Do please come and support us.

Charity Dinner – Saturday 5 November 2011

Forth coming event – we are planning to hold a Charity Dinner on Saturday 5 November at Shorne Village Hall. More details to follow, but in the meantime, please put this date in your diary.

Thank you ! – many of you have been busy raising funds for us....

Some held coffee mornings recently and raised money. Thank you for your help and support. If you have not been able to organize such an event yet, do please try and help us to raise much needed funds.

Our thanks to pupils at Huish Episcopi Science College, Langport for holding a non uniform day and selling cakes. A magnificent £1328.02 was raised as a result. Also our thanks to pupils at Bishop Henderson C of E School and Shorne C of E School who both raised money from various similar events.

And our thanks to many of you who have given so generously. We are very grateful.

Do you shop online?

Do you shop on line at stores such as John Lewis, House of Fraser, Marks & Spencer, Argos, Amazon, W H Smith, Waterstones, etc Did you know that there are over 2000 Brand Name retailers who will donate a % of your purchase to a chosen charity if you shop on line via www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

When you buy online the cost to the retailer is much lower, i.e. no shop, salesperson, etc. so retailers are happy to help good causes such as Hands of Compassion when online customers are introduced via www.easyfundraising.org.uk. For every purchase you make, depending on which retailer you select, ranging from 0.5% to 15% will be paid to us. You will still deal directly with each retailer, not Hands of Compassion. Simply go on line at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoc , follow instructions to register and make your purchase with your chosen retailer, and then choose Hands of Compassion as your selected charity to benefit. There is no extra cost to pay, and it will help raise funds for us.

Helping our pupils...



Christine is one of our pupils at Hands of Compassion now being sponsored at Government School in Grade 10. She came first in her Grade 9 examinations out of all the schools in Chipulukusu. What a wonderful achievement!

Without our help Christine would not have been able to go to school. She lives with her grandparents, her father and mother having died when she was still only a baby. She has to clean their house, fetch water before setting out to walk to school by 7 am – a journey of over an hour.

There are many other pupils living in similar situations, whom we help. They struggle to survive from day to day. I see the sadness in Crispin's face, it is heartbreaking. What has he to look forward to? Will there be any food for him when he gets home from school, or will he have to go to sleep still hungry?



Jesus tells us “My command is this: love each other as I have loved you” John 15:12.

How can we show love to children like Christine and Crispin? Give them hope, a smile, some happiness and a better quality of life by sending a donation now.

Thank You

Wendy Ely
Director

Making a difference ...

From: Full Name:.....
Address:
Post Code Tel No.
Email:

Here is my gift of £ Cheques payable to: **Hands of Compassion**

Please tick this box if you would like to make a donation on a regular basis by Standing Order and a form will be sent to you.

I would like my donation to go towards offering further education to Grades Eight and Nine pupils.

Gift Aid declaration

To ensure this form is valid, please complete for one person only and ensure that your correct address is given in this section. Please notify us of any change in name or address

I am a UK taxpayer and want Hands of Compassion to claim tax on any donations that I have made and all donations I make in the future. I will tell Hands of Compassion if I am no longer a taxpayer.

- You must pay an amount of UK income tax and/or capital gains tax for this tax year at least equal to the tax we will claim from H M Revenue & Customs on your Gift Aid donation
- If we have Gift Aid declarations from two married people we will share all donations equally between them for tax purposes unless you tell us otherwise. However, any donation made by cheque on a sole account will be applied to that person alone for tax purposes.
- The charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give.

Name

Signature

Date

Please send to: Hands of Compassion. PO Box 386, Gravesend Kent DA12 9FE
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